

An aerial photograph of a busy city intersection. The scene shows multiple crosswalks with white stripes, a black car in the upper left, and several pedestrians crossing the street. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the foreground activity. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title text.

Step It Up: The Intersection of Public Health and Transportation in Utah

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Key Points for Utah's Efforts

1. Building/maintaining multi-sector partnerships
2. Connecting health data and transportation data
3. Bridging the urban/rural divide

How Did We Get Here?

Diverse objectives that encouraged contact but not collaboration.

Task forces of the “usual suspects.”

Utah Department of Health

Utah Department of Transportation

Safe Routes to School

Highway Safety Office

Local Health Departments

All very Injury Prevention based



Planning Levels

State Legislation

- Laws
- Visioning Statements

County Ordinances

- Written Ordinances
- RPOs & MPOs

City Ordinances

- Planning Commission
- Economic Development Groups
- Ordinances



Current Efforts and Support

MPO based:

Active Transportation Committee

Complete Streets Coalition

Transportation based:

UDOT connections

Public Health Based:

Utah Leaders for Health

LHD Connections



Previous Successes (and Failures)

SUCCESSSES

Previous guides (2) promoting bicycle & pedestrian features

Bicycle Coordinator at UDOT

State chapter of American Planning Association has held sessions on active transportation at meetings

FAILURES

The guides were internal documents or were not adequately disseminated

Conflict between UDOT and bicycle advocacy groups

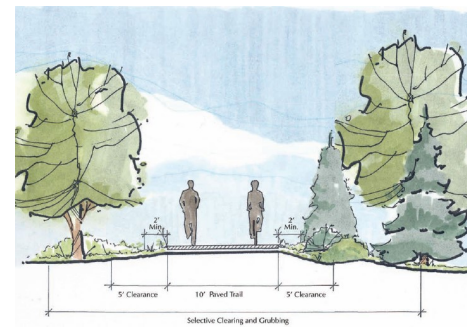
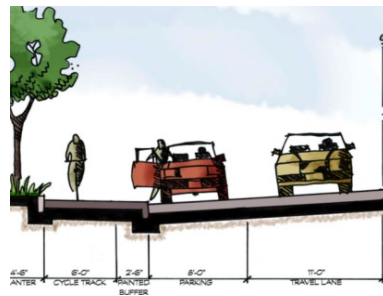
Lack of communication between agencies

A lot of talking, not a lot of action

The Guide

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Design Guide is focused on:

- Providing local municipalities with the background, support, and local examples of bicycle and pedestrian regulations, infrastructures, and systems
- **Not** mandated, but supported and encouraged
- Targets the planning department and elected officials
- A “How-To” guide to creating a walkable/bikeable environment at the community level



What Do We Know

Utah VMT has had a steady increase, but decrease relative to population increase

Utah physical activity rates are among the best in the nation, but rates are relatively flat over the past 30 years

Utah obesity rates are leveling off, but still high

Based on Envision Utah studies, Utahns want a design that emphasizes active transport, less sprawl, more connected neighborhoods...for other people.

Evolving the Process

Realizing we were all at the same goal, but with different purposes

Coordination, collaboration, integration

Learning to speak each other's languages

- LOS for planners, health professionals, and parks & rec coordinators quite different

Meeting halfway to go further

Talk in big groups, work in small ones

- But keep a consistent message

Planning for the Future of Health

Training for use of Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Design Guide

Guide is discussed with each city each year

Presented at Utah APA meetings

How to Conduct Walkability Assessments training

Health Impact Assessments

This is the intersection of public health and planning

Training on Complete “Systems”

Active Transportation Committee

- Potential for Regional Bicycle Authority
- Potential for statewide legislation
 - If it is going to happen at the state level, there must be a local example

But, They Aren't "Us..."

Urban versus Rural challenges

- 86% of population live in a small area -Wasatch Front
- Policies existed in urban areas, but not in rural/frontier areas



Outreach and engagement

- Partnering with other Public Health agencies for funding



Rural examples

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