



Incorporating active transport into the regional planning process to support first and last mile travel (#CM2-31)

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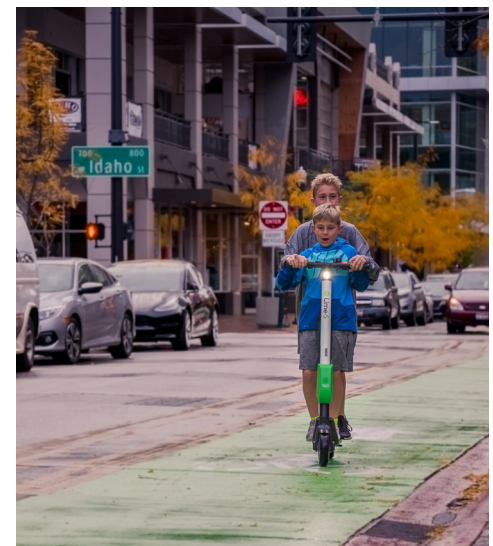
Project Information Form:
<http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-2-Michael-Walton-Incorporating-active.pdf>

FIRST & LAST MILE CONNECTIONS ACTIVE TRANSPORT & REGIONAL PLANNING

There is a gap between research on long-distance transit services, such as high speed rail, and research on bikeability and walkability at the final destination. High-quality bicycle and pedestrian facilities have the potential to support the first and last mile movements in long-distance trips, but most active transport research focuses on attracting riders for short-distance trips. Meanwhile, ensuring adequate connectivity for high speed rail and other intercity transit modes remains a key issue in megaregion mobility. Including active transport in multimodal planning has become an issue of national interest. In a 2010 policy statement, the United States Department of Transportation encouraged transportation agencies to “implement improvements to their walking and bicycling networks, including linkages to transit.” (USDOT 2017)

This project will examine current efforts to incorporate active transport in planning decisions, and it will attempt to quantify some of the impacts that active transport infrastructure can have on long-distance travel behavior. This will be useful to expand the scope of bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning from considering only short-distance trips to being an essential part of a larger multimodal framework. Key themes are interoperability, traveler comfort, and the role of new technologies and operational strategies.

This project will combine publicly available data from multiple MPO's located in megaregions, as well as information on active transport infrastructure and bike share programs. The project will build a logistic regression to test the significance of bicycle infrastructure in causing non-local users to bike rather than drive (either by taking their car on a long-distance trip, renting at the destination city, or using taxis or TNC's).



New technologies such as e-scooters can help make first & last mile connections