



ITSBerkeley

INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES
109 McLAUGHLIN HALL, MC 1720
BERKELEY, CA 94720-1720
Phone: (510) 642-3585 Fax: (510) 643-3955

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Contact: Alyssa Sherman
510-665-6736 or alyssa@berkeley.edu
Marketing and Communications Supervisor
Technology Transfer Program

Popular UC Berkeley Program Sends Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Experts to California Communities

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) recently renewed funding for the Pedestrian Safety Assessment and Traffic Safety Evaluation programs, two popular roadway safety audit services administered by the Technology Transfer Program (Tech Transfer) at the University of California, Berkeley. Eight slots for Traffic Safety Evaluations and 14 slots for Pedestrian Safety Assessments are available to California communities through September 30, 2010.

Both services help local agencies identify and implement solutions that will lead to improved safety for all users of California's roads. These services provide communities in California with a reliable, respected, and credible source of information that fosters collaboration between engineering, public works, and police departments to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries on local roadways.

The Pedestrian Safety Assessment program aims to reduce the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities due to collisions on California's local streets and highways. As part of the assessment, Tech Transfer assigns two expert evaluators to review conditions in a community and prepare a report with recommendations. Tech Transfer developed an in-depth guide for conducting Pedestrian Safety Assessments, which evaluators use to evaluate safety conditions. Since the program's launch in February of 2008, evaluators have conducted 21 Pedestrian Safety Assessments across the state. Also, several transportation industry associations have issued awards to recognize the program for excellence, including the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the California Chapter and Northern California Section of the American Planning Association.

The Traffic Safety Evaluation program sends engineering and enforcement evaluators to visit California cities and counties to evaluate conditions such as traffic control, operations, and enforcement, and make recommendations on how to improve traffic safety and incorporate best practices. Since the OTS-funded Traffic Safety Evaluation program was introduced in 1999, evaluators have prepared more than 175 reports for cities and counties across the state.

The Technology Transfer Program, a division of the UC Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies, provides professional training, workshops, conferences, technical assistance, and information resources in the transportation-related areas of planning and policy, traffic engineering, project development, infrastructure design and maintenance, safety and the environment.

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