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UC Berkeley Safety Experts Impact 24 California Communities with Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Assessments

UC Berkeley's Technology Transfer Program (Tech Transfer) is helping create safer California communities through funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). The partnership has created four popular roadway-safety services that assess safety and recommend suggestions for urban/suburban, rural, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

With a longstanding partnership with OTS since 1999, Tech Transfer's Traffic Safety Assessment (TSA) program has sent engineering and enforcement evaluators to visit 215 California cities and counties to evaluate traffic control, operations, signage, collision patterns and enforcement, and make suggestions for improving traffic safety and incorporating best practices. In 2015, safety experts will visit an additional six communities.

Increasing the range of communities they can serve, Tech Transfer will also send traffic engineering experts to four small or rural communities to conduct Rural Safety Assessments (RSA). The program, in its second year, was implemented to complement the urban/suburban focus of the TSA program and is a scaled version, especially designed for rural or small communities with populations under 25,000.

Launched in February of 2008, the Pedestrian Safety Assessment (PSA) program has served as a companion program focused on making communities more walkable – focusing on safety and economic benefits of communities with more pedestrians. This award-winning program and its technical guide have been recognized as best practices at the local, regional and national levels, including by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the American Planning Association. The program has served 92 California communities to date, and will serve an additional seven in 2015.

Now entering its third year as a Tech Transfer service, the Bicycle Safety Assessment (BSA) program will serve seven local agencies in 2015. A service for communities who have or are seeking increased bicyclists, the service improves bicycle safety, accessibility and infrastructure.

Tech Transfer, 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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