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UC Berkeley Expands Popular Traffic Safety Programs to include Bicycling in Urban Areas and Roadway Safety in Rural Areas in 2014

Tech Transfer, a division of UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies, has received funding to assess traffic safety in rural communities in 2014, as well as expand a pilot bicycle safety assessment program that launched in 2013. The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has renewed funding for several other popular roadway-safety services offered by Tech Transfer as well. Collectively, these services help communities identify and understand traffic, pedestrian, and bicycling safety issues and measures that can be taken to improve safety.

Since 1999, Tech Transfer's Traffic Safety Assessment (TSA) program has sent engineering and enforcement evaluators to visit 207 California cities and counties to evaluate traffic control, operations and enforcement, and to make suggestions for improving traffic safety and incorporating best practices. Safety experts will visit an additional eight communities in 2014.

Tech Transfer will also send traffic engineering experts to four small or rural communities for the first time to conduct Rural Safety Assessments (RSA) in order to complement the urban and suburban focus of the TSA program.

The Pedestrian Safety Assessment (PSA) program was launched in February of 2008 as a companion program focused on making communities more walkable. This award-winning program and its technical guide (updated in 2013) have been recognized as best practices at the local, regional and national levels, by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the American Planning Association. The program has served 82 California communities to date, and will serve an additional 10 in 2014.

Tech Transfer will also conduct Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) abridged training workshops in conjunction with two PSA site visits in 2014. Tech Transfer has completed three PSA/PSAP integrated studies since 2012. Developed by the Federal Highway Administration, PSAP-facilitated workshops are part of a national technical assistance program to address the integration of pedestrian safety planning into regional transportation and local land use planning activities.

Tech Transfer launched its new Bicycle Safety Assessment (BSA) program last year, including development of a new guidebook and completing one pilot BSA. Tech Transfer will assess bicycling safety issues in four communities in 2014.

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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