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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:
Eduardo C. Serafin, PE, AICP
510-643-8674
eduardo.serafin@berkeley.edu

UC Berkeley's Tech Transfer Sends Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety Experts to California Communities

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has renewed funding for two popular roadway-safety services administered by UC Berkeley's Technology Transfer Program (Tech Transfer). In addition, OTS has provided new funding to launch similar services aimed at improving bicycle safety.

Since 1999, Tech Transfer's Traffic Safety Evaluation program has sent engineering and enforcement evaluators to visit 199 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 2013.

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 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 70 California communities to date, and will serve an additional 12 in 2013.

New this year, Tech Transfer will conduct Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) abridged training workshops in conjunction with a couple of PSA site visits. 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.

Based on the success of the first two programs, OTS has provided funding for Tech Transfer to launch a bicycle safety component in 2013. The proposed Pedestrian & Bicycling Safety Assessment services for local agencies may include the following: (1) benchmarking analyses of local policies and practices related to bicycling safety; (2) local agency staff and stakeholder training workshops on bicycling safety; (3) one-day field site visits of key areas of concern for bicycling safety, including a bike tour; and (4) technical reports based on findings from benchmarking analyses and field site visits/bike tours and suggestions for bicycling safety improvement.

"Our goal is to make roadways safer for all users, including bicyclists," said Laura Melendy, director of Tech Transfer. "We are grateful to OTS for encouraging us to extend our services to the growing bicycling public. This funding also allows us to continue targeting communities who most need our help."

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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