

STC Research Project Description

Project Title: Developing a Methodology to Evaluate the Safety of Multi-use Paths

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Project Start Date: 09/01/00

End Date: 08/30/01

Other Milestones, Dates:

Project Objective: The main objective in this study will be to develop a methodology to complement police and emergency room accident database analysis to gather pertinent information for assessing the safety of multi-use paths.

Project Abstract: This proposed research involves design and validation of a survey instrument to collect comprehensive self-reported path crash and injury events as well as estimate travel exposure by path type and disaggregate user groups. The primary requirement of the methodology will be that it allows for the development of defensible estimates of the crash/fall/injury rates for travel on multi-use paths. Both the safety of the cyclists as well as the pedestrians or roller bladers using the paths is of interest. The instrument will be validated on a single path which exhibits a variety of conditions along its length. Even the results from this test case will be of interest to path planners and safety researchers as comprehensive crash data for paths is very limited.

Task Description: Questionnaire design, test path selection, coordination with interested groups, map design, survey validation, data entry, safety rate analysis, instrument evaluation, final report preparation.

Total Budget: \$18,316

Student Involvement (Thesis, Assistantships, Paid Employment): This will be the Master's project for a graduate student research assistant.

Relationship to Other Projects: This research relates to on-going activities at UK in evaluating bicycle safety.

Technology Transfer Activities: Journal article submission, conference presentation.

Potential Benefits of Project: There is an urgent need to study the safety of multi-use paths. Existing databases provide very little information on the safety-related events such as crashes, falls and near-misses that occur on these facilities, furthermore very little information exists regarding the amount of travel on these paths making estimation of crash rates difficult. This objective of this research is to identify the safety-related data that must be collected in order to assess path safety and to develop incident rates. During the study a survey instrument will be designed and tested to collect the needed data. Analysis of the data collected during the test survey will provide preliminary insight into the safety issues on these paths.

TRB Keywords: bicycle, pedestrian, shared-use path