

Program Progress Performance Report for University Transportation Centers

Submitted To: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Grant Number: 69A3551747122

Project Title: Tier 1 University Transportation Center
Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM)

Program Director: David Kack
Email: dkack@montana.edu
Phone: 406-994-7526

Submission Date: April 30, 2018

DUNS Number: 6254479820000

EIN Number: 81-6010045

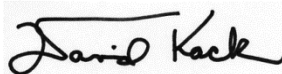
Recipient Organization: Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

Project Grant Period: November 30, 2016 – September 30, 2022

Reporting Period End Date: March 31, 2018

Report Term: PPPR #2

Signature:



1. Accomplishments

What are the major goals and objectives of the program?

The mission of the Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM) is to conduct research and provide leadership, education, workforce development and technology transfer in all transportation-related aspects of mobility for people and goods, focusing specifically on small urban, rural and tribal areas. Montana State University (MSU) is the lead institution, with consortium members including Eastern Washington University (EWU) and North Dakota State University (NDSU).

What was accomplished under these goals?

During the period June 2017 – March 2018:

- The Director (David Kack) and Deputy Director (Jill Hough) of SURTCOM attended the CUTC/UTC summer meeting in Buffalo, NY (June 19-21).
- The Director (David Kack), Deputy Director (Jill Hough), and then Associate Director (Rowena Yeahquo) hosted Dawn Tucker Thomas, Caesar Singh and Amy Sterns from USDOT/OST-R in Bozeman for a site visit (July 26).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU and consultant Jeff Ferguson provided a Tribal Traffic Safety - Spokane Tribal Youth Multimedia Workshop in Wellpinit, Washington (August 21-22, and 28-29).
- Associate Director, Margo Hill, attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI). Drug & Alcohol Prevention Workshop & Committee, Spokane, WA (September 17-18, 2017).
- Three SURTCOM staff from WTI/MSU met with representatives from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to discuss leveraging SPR dollars with SURTCOM (UTC) funding (October 19).
- The SURTCOM Director traveled to Spokane, WA to meet with the Tribal Traffic Safety Advisory Board and Eastern Washington University's Planning Advisory Committee (October 26 & 27).
- WTI/MSU began a small exploratory research project in conjunction with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) regarding freight/transportation issues for manufacturers in small urban, rural and tribal areas.
- A WTI/MSU researcher began two small projects entitled *Using WIFI to Determine Transit Ridership* and *Autonomous Paratransit in Rural Areas*. The first project looks at using devices searching for WIFI signals as a potential low-cost way to count riders on transit vehicles, while the second project is a preliminary review (cost/benefit analysis) of using an autonomous paratransit vehicle in a rural setting.
- A WTI/MSU researcher began a project entitled *Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure in Small Towns*. This project will explore the current state of bike/ped infrastructure in

small towns (population under 10,000 people) and low-cost solutions to improve that infrastructure.

- EWU staff began a project entitled *The Status and Issues for American Indian Transit in the West*. Beginning with a 2012 report, the EWU team has sought to update the information as a “state of tribal transit” update, including the identification of critical issues, and an assessment of western tribes in relation to transit.
- EWU staff began work on a project entitled *The Impact of the Automobile on American Indian Reservations*. This report will assess the culture, use, and impact of the automobile on the land use and reservation design, as well as begin to address unmet need as a result.
- EWU staff also began work on the project entitled *Mobility & Access on American Indian Reservations in the Western United States: Phase I*. This initial study has documented distance and access types of issues and is establishing a framework for more detailed mobility analysis in relation to understanding the needs and addressing transportation systems and resources to serve American Indian reservations. Preliminary findings from this report were presented at the TRB Annual Meeting (January 2018) in the Native American Transportation Issues Committee (ABE 80) and will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Planning Association (April 2018).
- EWU staff began work on the *Mobility on American Indian Reservations: A Tribal Context for Transportation* project. This project will provide a perspective on mobility, including historic change from successful tribal specific cultures pre-contact to contemporary mobility related to American Indian reservations to contemporary transportation and key issues. An important component of this is to understand the dynamics of mobility, particularly within tribal and community cultures, access, needs, and issues.
- The project *A Model for Tribal Traffic Safety Planning and Implementation for American Indian Reservations*, initiated by EWU has successfully conducted a number of tribal transportation safety research efforts to support tribes to develop a culture of safety on each reservation. This research will present an overview of those models and their applications. A presentation on this tribal safety research effort was made to the Native American Transportation Issues Committee (ABE 80) at the TRB Annual Meeting (January 2018).
- EWU staff began work on *Best Cases for Tribal Transportation Safety: Media, Planning and Action*. These research projects (small projects) are under way to support tribes on how to safely provide mobility and raise the awareness of the importance of mobility.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the program provided?

- One staff member from WTI/MSU and one staff member from SURTC/NDSU traveled to participate in and present at the 3rd National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference (Omaha, NE, October 29- November 1).
- Four staff members and one student from MSU, ten staff members and three students from NDSU, and three staff members and one student from EWU attended the TRB

meeting, with six staff and one student attending the UTC/CUTC meeting on Sunday, January 7.

- One member from NDSU (Jill Hough) led the John Maxwell Mastermind on “Intentional Living” to faculty, staff, and graduate students at NDSU (June through October 2017).
- Rebecca Gleason (MSU Staff) and Dani Hess (MSU Student) attended New Partners for Smart Growth conference in San Francisco, CA. (February 1-3, 2018).

How have the results been disseminated? If so, in what ways?

- No projects have been completed yet.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

- Additional projects will begin, based on the SURTCOM UTC proposal.
- SURTCOM staff from EWU will attend the Yakama Nation Spring Jam to conduct a pedestrian, bike and mobility survey for the Yakama Nation. White Swan, WA (April).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU will present two posters, one titled *Tribal Mobility and Health Access* and the second on *Implementation processes to develop a Culture of traffic safety on Tribal Reservations*, at the poster session at the American Planning Association Conference (April).
- Margo Hill from EWU will participate in the *Collaborative Approaches to Improve Tribal and Traffic Safety panel* at the Traffic Safety Conference, Kennewick, WA (April 25).
- Staff from MSU and NDSU (and possibly EWU) will be attending the CUTC/UTC summer meeting in Minneapolis, MN (June 4-6).
- Several SURTCOM Staff submitted abstract for National Tribal Transportation conference in Duluth, MN (September 17-20).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU submitted an abstract titled *Tribal Mobility: Creating an Agenda for Research and Practice*, to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). The conference is scheduled for October 25-28.
- It is anticipated that EWU staff will begin a project entitled *Mobility Research on American Indian Reservations (Phase II)*. This report will utilize learning and responses from western tribes related to mobility, access, and transportation needs identified in Phase I of the project and will create a more detailed and individualized analysis of mobility by American Indian reservation residents.

2. Products

Publications, conference papers and presentations

- SURTCOM staff from EWU and consultant Jeff Ferguson provided a Tribal Traffic Safety - Spokane Tribal Youth Multimedia Workshop in Toppenish, Washington (June 5-9, 2017).
- Jill Hough and Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented 8 hours of training on the topic of Ethics at the CTAA Annual Expo in Detroit, MI on June 13, 2017.
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented 1.5 hours of training on Ethics and 1.5 hours of training on Working with Local Government for the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers in Scottsbluff, NE (June 21, 2017).
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented 8 hours of training on Strategic Planning, Environmental Justice and Public Participation, and 8 hours of training on Financial Management for the South Dakota DOT in Pierre, SD (July 13, 2017).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU and consultant Jeff Ferguson provided a Tribal Traffic Safety - Spokane Tribal Youth Multimedia Workshop in Colville Tribal Youth Multimedia workshop, Inchelium, Washington (July 18 and 25, 2017)
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented 1.75 hours of training on Performance Management and 1.0 hours of training on FTA 101 for the Idaho DOT in Boise, ID (July 26, 2017).
- Margo Hill (EWU) and Megan Nicodemus (WSDOT), presented *Federal Indian Law and Tribal Consultation – Best Practices* at the Local Government Collaboration Workshop in Idaho Department of Transportation, Boise, Idaho. (August 3, 2017).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU held a workshop on *Building a Culture of Safety, Tribal Traffic Data Collection & Analysis* for Tribal Law Enforcement officers, Planners, and EMS. Spokane, Washington (August 8, 2017).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU and consultant Jeff Ferguson provided a Tribal Traffic Safety - Spokane Tribal Youth Multimedia Workshop in Wellpinit, Washington (August 21-22 and August 28-29, 2017).
- David Kack (MSU) presented *Opportunities and Challenges of Rural Transit* to over 250 people attending the 2017 Rural LISC Seminar (August 30, 2017). LISC, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, is a US non-profit community development financial institution that supports community development corporations in 30 urban areas and dozens of rural areas in the United States.
- Margo Hill presented *Creating a Tribal Culture of Traffic Safety* at the 23rd International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment. September 5-7, 2017, University of Rome, Italy (September 5, 2017).
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) was scheduled to present 3 hours of training on organizational leadership for the 21st Annual Tribal Leaders Summit and Trade Show in Bismarck, ND on September 6, 2017 but due to low attendance, the presentation was cancelled.

- Margo Hill & Richard Rolland presented *Tribal Target Zero Traffic Safety Committees to develop an enduring culture of traffic Safety*. National Tribal Transportation Conference, Tucson, Arizona (September 26, 2017).
- Rob Lynch (NDSU) presented 1.75 hours of training on Strategic Planning, presented 1.5 hours of training on Transit Coordination, presented 1.5 hours of training on Performance Measures, and presented 2 hours of training on Customer Service during the MDT Fall Transit Workshop in Helena, MT (September 27, 2017).
- Jeremy Mattson (NDSU) presented on Rural Transit Planning, Demand Estimation, and Cost Benefit Analysis at the NTTC in Tucson, AZ (September 27, 2017).
- David Kack (MSU) presented *Results from the Wyoming Intercity Bus Service Study and The Park County, Wyoming Transit Feasibility Study* at the 3rd National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference (October 29- November 1, 2017).
- Taylor Lonsdale (MSU) is participating in an ongoing Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Mentorship Program (January 2018).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU presented and met with the Native American Transportation issues Committee and others at Transportation Research Board Annual Conference. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Washington, D.C. (January 7-11, 2018).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU introduced SURTCOM future projects at the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization quarterly meeting in Auburn, WA (January 18, 2018).
- EWU and the EWU Washington Tribal Traffic Safety team hosted a webinar on *How to Develop Tribal Target Zero Traffic Safety Committees to develop an Enduring Culture of Traffic Safety*. The 72 Tribes in the SURTCOM States were invited to participate. (January 30, 2018).
- EWU and the EWU Washington Tribal Traffic Safety team hosted a webinar on SECTOR, Data Collection & Analysis. The 72 Tribes in the SURTCOM States were invited to participate. (February 27, 2018).
- Taylor Lonsdale (MSU) presented “Building a Coalition for Safe Streets” at the Bike Walk Montana Summit in Bozeman, MT. Rebecca Gleason (MSU) presented “What Can We Learn for the Most Bike/Pedestrian Friendly Countries.” Gleason also served on the planning committee for the three-day event. (March 21, 2018).
- Jason Scully (EWU), presented *Tribal Mobility* at the NW Tribal Transportation Symposium in Airway Heights, WA (March 27-28) SURTCOM staff from EWU assisted with the coordination of the NW Tribal Transportation Symposium in Airway Heights, WA (March 27-28, 2018).
- SURTCOM staff from EWU attended the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization quarterly meeting in Airway Heights, WA (March 27, 2018).

Website(s) or other Internet site(s)

- SURTCOM Website initiated (www.surtcom.org)
- EWU added information on its website about being part of SURTCOM (See <https://www.ewu.edu/cbpa/programs/urban-regional-planning/surtcom>)

Technologies or techniques

Nothing to Report

Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses

Nothing to Report

Other products, such as data or databases, physical collections, audio or video products

Nothing to Report

3. Participants & Collaborating Organizations

What organizations have been involved as partners?

- As noted, Eastern Washington University and North Dakota State University are partners/collaborators in SURTCOM.
- The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center is partnering on some exploratory research concerning freight issues in small urban, rural and tribal areas.
- Once the Center is fully initiated, additional partners will be added.
- The Washington State DOT (WSDOT) has worked with EWU for several years and continues that collaboration.

Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?

Not to this point, although it is anticipated that additional collaborators and contacts will be involved once the Center begins full implementation.

4. Impact

The development of the principal discipline(s) of the project

The main goal of SURTCOM is to enhance mobility of both people and goods in small urban, rural and tribal areas. Through our research and other activities, we hope to:

- Increase access to opportunities that promote equity and economic development through mobility;
- Implement innovative multi-modal solutions in these areas;
- Implement smart cities innovations in small urban, rural, and tribal communities;
- Increase active transportation modes, especially walking and cycling; and,
- Address mobility issues on Federal lands.

Other disciplines

Nothing to Report

The development of human resources

Nothing to Report

Physical, institutional, and information resources at the university and/or other partner institution

Nothing to Report

Technology transfer (include transfer of results to entities in government or industry, adoption of new practices, or instances where research has led to the initiation of a startup company)

Nothing to Report

Society beyond science and technology

Nothing to Report

5. Changes/Problems

Changes in approach and reasons for change

Nothing to Report

Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them

Nothing to Report

Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures

Nothing to Report

Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or biohazards

Nothing to Report

Change of primary performance site location from that originally proposed

Nothing to Report

6. Special Reporting Requirements

Not Applicable