



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH CENTER

# DIRECTIONS

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## The progression of bicycling and walking in the United States

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted an extensive study highlighting the conditions of bicycling and walking in the United States. The study implemented 24 case studies to analyze the state of walking and bicycling across the country with two primary objectives outlined — to determine the current levels of bicycling and walking and to identify reasons why they are not more often used as a means of transportation.

## North Carolina celebrates first injury and violence prevention state plan

## Register your agency for the Accessible Pedestrian Signals workshop

## HSRC News Briefs


**2010 Waller Lecture**

**Connect with PBIC on Facebook**

**HSRC Staff Changes**

**HSRC Bids Farewell to Peggy James**

**HSRC in the News**

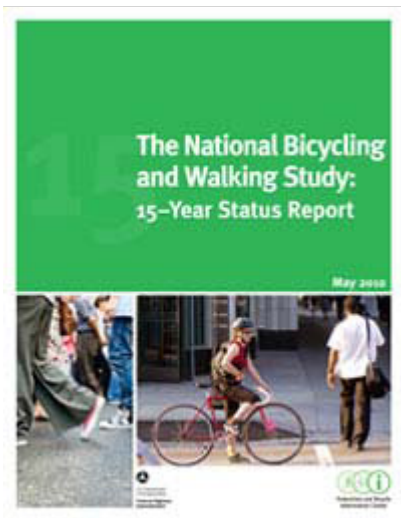
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## The progression of bicycling and walking in the United States



In 1994, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted an extensive study highlighting the conditions of bicycling and walking in the United States. The study implemented 24 case studies to analyze the state of walking and bicycling across the country with two primary objectives outlined — to determine the current levels of bicycling and walking and to identify reasons why they are not more often used as a means of transportation.

Once the initial study was finalized, the U.S. DOT established two overall goals: To double the percentage of total trips made by bicycling and walking in the United States from 7.9 percent to 15.8 percent of all travel trips, and to simultaneously reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed or injured in traffic crashes by 10 percent. So where does the state of bicycling and walking in the nation stand?

Since the first study, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) — the national pedestrian and bicycle clearinghouse housed within the UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) — has released three status reports detailing the conditions of walking and bicycling in the U.S. Each of these reports has examined the levels of walking and bicycling. The recently released 15-year status report goes one step further than the past 5-year and

10-year reports and looks at the present efforts to impact the rate of walking and bicycling. The 15-year status report reveals the new progress made toward the goals of the 1994 National Bicycling and Walking Study. Taking a look at the 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), walking trips accounted for 10.9 percent of all trips and one percent of all trips reported were taken by bike; together accounting for 11.9 percent of all trips. Bicycling and walking combined attributed to approximately a 25 percent increase for both modes of transportation since the 2001 NHTS. The number of trips taken by bicycling and walking has more than doubled since 1990.

In regards to safety, the nation has witnessed a 12 percent decrease in pedestrian fatalities and a 22.3 percent decrease in fatalities among bicyclists between 1993 and 2008 (the last year data was available). NHTSA data indicates that there was a 17.8 percent and a 14.7 percent decrease in pedestrian and bicyclist injuries, respectively, between 1995 and 2008.

"While the goal of doubling the percentage of total bicycling and walking trips has not been met, an increase has occurred and the safety goal outlined in the 1994 study has been exceeded," says Laura Sandt, PBIC associate director. "We are really excited about the progress outlined in the report, but fully recognize the need for continued support of walking and bicycling."

In his blog "[The Fast Lane](#)" U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood featured the 15-year report released by the PBIC. Secretary LaHood discussed the bicycling and walking gains outlined in the report and stressed the want and need of Americans to have alternative transportation methods to driving.

"That's why we recently announced a policy change that encourages transportation agencies to go beyond minimum standards and provide safe and convenient facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists," stated Secretary LaHood in his blog entry; addressing the new U.S. DOT policy for pedestrian and bicyclists accommodations. The 15-year status report also examines a range of efforts, including programs at the federal, state and local level, to increase bicycling and walking in the United States. Programs such as Safe Routes to School and pedestrian safety training courses for professionals emphasize the health, transportation and quality of life benefits of bicycling and walking. To access the full report, please visit [http://www.walkinginfo.org/15\\_year\\_report/](http://www.walkinginfo.org/15_year_report/)

## North Carolina celebrates first injury and violence prevention state plan



Herb Garrison, MD, medical director for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

Injury and violence is an issue that strikes all communities. Attracting attention to injury and violence prevention in North Carolina, the [first statewide injury and violence prevention plan](#) was established to counteract this public health concern that affects thousands statewide. Bill Hall, manager of the Occupant Protection Program at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC), served on the advisory council and helped develop and review guidelines for the plan.

In recognition of the newly formed plan, the advisory council celebrated Injury and Violence Prevention Day on April 28. The event was hosted at the NC General Assembly on Jones Street in Raleigh, NC. Drawing attention to an often overlooked topic in public health, Injury and Violence Prevention Day supported the efforts of advocates to gain a better understanding of injury and violence prevention issues, meet other injury and violence prevention advocates and learn how injuries can be prevented. Each attendee of the Injury and Violence Prevention Day also received a copy of the statewide plan.

The day commenced with a welcome address from Dr. Carol Runyan, director of the Injury Prevention Research Center at UNC Chapel Hill. The day continued with a number of speakers including Herb Garrison, MD, medical director for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The presenters helped bring light to the magnitude of injury and violence in North Carolina. According to the N.C. Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, more than 5,400 adults and children die from injuries and violence in North Carolina each year; with motor vehicle crash injuries contributing to one of the five major causes of death. HSRC Research Associate Bevan Kirley attended the event, noting "It was wonderful to see people from many different professional backgrounds come together with the goal of reducing injuries."

For more information regarding the new injury and violence plan, please contact Bill Hall at [bill\\_hall@unc.edu](mailto:bill_hall@unc.edu).

## Register your agency for the Accessible Pedestrian Signals workshop



The UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) is continuing its work in developing guidance on accessible pedestrian signals (APS) to optimize safe and independent crossing at signalized intersections by pedestrians who are blind or have low vision. Having completed the research, HSRC is now conducting workshops in various venues around the nation to disseminate the guidance on APS design and installation.

The APS Workshop is designed for traffic engineers and administrators, signal technicians and orientation and mobility professionals. The one-day workshop is comprised of seven modules that address the needs of the audience.

These modules include:

- Module A: Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and Accessible Public Rights-of-Way
- Module B: Travel Needs of Blind or Low Vision Pedestrians/Understanding Traffic Signals and Modern Intersection Design
- Module C: APS Features
- Module D: When to Install APS
- Module E: Designing Installations
- Module F: Installation, Operation and Maintenance
- Module G: Public Education on APS

The workshop consists of six hours of instructions in which participants may be eligible for six professional development hours (PDH). The APS Workshop is designed to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools to understand the purpose of APS installations and how blind and low-vision pedestrians travel. Workshop attendees will also learn to plan, design, install and maintain APS systems. "This was one of the best workshops I have attended over the last 15 years. Presenters were very knowledgeable of the material presented," said one past attendee.

The APS workshop was developed under the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 3-62 (*Guidelines for Accessible Pedestrian Signals*). This research study used extensive field testing to determine which APS features and locations are most beneficial for blind and visually impaired pedestrians. Under this research study, the Accessible Pedestrian Signals: [A Guide to Best Practices](#) reference book was developed and will be provided to all attendees of the workshop. NCHRP supplies the cost of all materials and the instructor's time and transportation. Interested agencies are asked to provide a room, multimedia projector and screen for the workshop, as well help with logistics.

For more information regarding the workshop or to schedule your agency, please contact Daniel Carter at 919-962-8720 or [daniel\\_carter@unc.edu](mailto:daniel_carter@unc.edu).

## HSRC News Briefs

### 2010 Waller Lecture



On April 14, Andrea C. Gielen, Sc.D., director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health delivered this year's Patricia F. Waller Lecture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each year the Waller lecture is held to commemorate Patricia F. Waller, Ph.D., a professor who founded the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center and was a pioneer in injury control. Waller worked for nearly two decades as a researcher at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, where she developed the concept for graduated licensing, which has been adopted nationwide.

Gielen's presentation, "Pediatric Injury Prevention: From the Trenches to the Ivory Tower and Back Again," spotlighted the development and dissemination of effective interventions to prevent pediatric injuries, drawing on her own work in health departments and intervention

research over the last decade. Her research focuses on community and clinic-based programs that address health behavior problems affecting women and children, primarily among low-income families in urban areas.

To see the archived video of Gielen's presentation, please visit [www.hsrc.unc.edu/news\\_room/events\\_waller-lecture.cfm](http://www.hsrc.unc.edu/news_room/events_waller-lecture.cfm)

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### Connect with PBIC on Facebook

There's a new way to get the latest news and resources from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC), the federal pedestrian and bicycle clearinghouse housed within HSRC. You can now become a fan of PBIC on Facebook. Regular wall updates will feature news from PBIC and the pedestrian and bicycle community, links to newly developed resources and tools, the latest research, training opportunities, and invitations to upcoming events.

Become a fan of PBIC today! [www.facebook.com/pedbike](http://www.facebook.com/pedbike)

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### HSRC Staff Changes

*Below are staff changes at the Highway Safety Research Center:*

Dan Gelinne assumed his current role as project coordinator in February 2010, where he is responsible for coordinating a number of programs and research activities related to bicycling and walking. Dan is also the program manager for the PBIC. He holds a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Geography and Environmental Studies.

Blake Allen joined HSRC in December 2009 as human resources manager. She is responsible for all departmental HR functions and acts as a liaison between HSRC and the UNC Office of Human Resources. She also serves as executive assistant to the director. Previously, Blake worked in a similar role at the Gene Therapy Center in the UNC School of Medicine. She holds a B.A. in Journalism & Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Bevan Kirley joined HSRC in February 2010 as a research associate with the Occupant Protection Program where she conducts research on occupant protection issues and coordinates child passenger safety activities in North Carolina. Previously she worked as a researcher for Thomson Reuters and for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Bevan holds a B.S. from the University of Delaware and a M.S. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Dan Levitt joined HSRC in April 2010 as a research assistant with a wide-ranging array of responsibilities in the research data management realm. He is responsible for vehicle hardware installation, data retrieval and analysis file preparation for naturalistic driving studies. He devises and manages data collection systems for anything from coding video clips to geocoding crashes for localized studies using SAS, Google Earth and ArcGIS. He has a B.S. in Business Administration from UNC Charlotte.

Davien Anderson joined HSRC in May 2010 as communication coordinator and is responsible for a number of marketing and outreach initiatives for the Center. Prior to joining HSRC, Davien worked with several public relations and marketing agencies including Gibbs & Soell Public Relations and Howard, Merrell and Partners Advertising. He holds a B.A. from North Carolina State University in Communication and Public Relations.

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## HSRC Bids Farewell to Peggy James



With 25 years at the Center, Peggy James said her goodbyes to the UNC Highway Safety Research Center with her retirement in December 2009.

Peggy began her journey with HSRC in 1974 as a Typist III. During her tenure with the Center, Peggy held several positions including administrative assistant and university program specialist. Upon her retirement Peggy held the title of business officer, lending her knowledge to the entire staff at HSRC. HSRC would like to wish Peggy congratulations and say thank you for her 25 years of service with the Center.

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## HSRC in the News

The following is a highlight of recent media stories that include information and research from the Center. Web links to the following news stories are time sensitive, so some stories might not be accessible after the initial publication date without required registration. To access more archived news media, please visit [www.hsrc.unc.edu/news\\_room/archived\\_news.cfm](http://www.hsrc.unc.edu/news_room/archived_news.cfm).

### [Senate pushes for phone-free driving](#)

News & Observer  
June 22, 2010

### [Fewer 16-year-olds with licenses = more 16-year-olds alive](#)

Chicago Tribune  
June 22, 2010

### [Congress Targets Teen Driving, Mulls Federal Driver's License Standards](#)

ABC News  
June 6, 2010

### [UNC researchers: Ban cell phones while driving](#)

WRAL-TV  
May 10, 2010

### [Ride Smart: How to avoid the 5 most common bike-car collisions](#)

Bicycling Magazine  
May 01, 2010

### [Study shows teens favor texting over talking](#)

Wichita Eagle  
Apr 26, 2010

### [Ann Arbor bicyclist's dilemma: Ride on the street or the sidewalk?](#)

AnnArbor.com  
Apr 08, 2010

### [Before you hand over the car keys](#)

Carolina Parent  
Apr 01, 2010

### [Trooper didn't see her - he was busy texting](#)

News & Observer  
Mar 30, 2010

### [Walking, biking safety a concern](#)

San Angelo Standard-Times  
Mar 20, 2010

### [Boulder transportation official: Cyclists should have to dismount at crosswalks](#)

Boulder Daily Camera  
Mar 16, 2010

### [Point Person: Our Q&A with Lauren Marchetti](#)

Dallas Morning News  
Mar 05, 2010

[More teens waiting longer to get driver's license](#)

Knoxville News Sentinel

Mar 02, 2010

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