



RESEARCH PROJECT CAPSULE [21-2SS]

February 2021

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM

Evaluate the Impacts of Complete Streets Policy in Louisiana

JUST THE FACTS:

Start Date:

January 01, 2021

Duration:

24 months

End Date:

December 31, 2022

Funding:

SPR: TT-Fed/TT-Reg - 6

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POINTS OF INTEREST:

Problem Addressed / Objective of
Research / Methodology Used /
Implementation Potential

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PROBLEM

The purpose of a Complete Streets policy is to provide safe, convenient, and comfortable access for all users of a transportation system. Louisiana DOTD adopted its policy in 2010 and updated it in 2016. According to the updated version, "the intent of this policy is to...balance access, mobility, and safety needs" of all users (including pedestrians and cyclists). State transportation agencies often struggle to meaningfully track and quantify implementation indicators, which makes it difficult to assess whether significant progress is being made toward the adopted policy goals or to evaluate return-on-investment.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this research project is to evaluate the impacts of the Complete Streets policy in Louisiana, including an assessment of changes made by DOTD to advance the implementation of the policy and a comprehensive review of impacts to project scoping, delivery, and outcomes to-date.

METHODOLOGY

The research team will first screen projects that were funded by DOTD since adoption of its Complete Streets policy in order to develop a desired pool of projects for evaluation. Relevant documents will be reviewed to assess whether the policy is being uniformly considered during the scoping process. An understanding of the policy's impact on project scoping and identification of any persistent barriers to policy implementation are expected. A review of current practices will lead to a synthesis of how the Complete Streets policy has been implemented in Louisiana. A similar review of practices in other states will be performed to assess whether there are things that Louisiana should consider for its use. Implementation indicators reflecting access, mobility, and safety will be identified, along with available datasets that can provide inputs for evaluating implementation progress. The design, quality, and resultant level-of-service for roadway features intended to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists vary widely. This research will help to understand how the adoption of minimum design guidelines has impacted active transportation outputs and outcomes as well as identify additional actions or adjustments needed to advance consistent, high-quality, context-sensitive design and operation of state-funded projects.

IMPLEMENTATION POTENTIAL

This research project will deliver a suite of recommendations for ongoing data collection and evaluation pertaining to the state's Complete Streets policy.



Soon to be completed Baton Rouge
Government Street Project with bicycle
and pedestrian elements
(Photo credit: Ruijie Bian)