

2026 Active Transportation Summit

Schedule

Harrisburg

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

5:30 to 7pm	Active Transportation Infrastructure Walking Tour (start at Front & State)	Leave Hilton Lobby at 5:15 to walk to start
7:30 to 9:30pm	Coalition for Active Mobility Reception at Millworks Brewpub	340 Verbeke Street

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 -- 212 Locust Street

SAFE/STREETS ARE FOR EVERYONE -- SUMMIT SCHEDULE					
7 to 8am	Self-guided Rise-and-Shine Walk or Ride				
8 to 8:30am	Registration and coffee/snacks				
8:30 to 9:30am	Keynote -- Barkha Patel -- Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Safety One Intersection at a Time				
9:30 to 9:45am	Break				
9:45 to 10:45am	Coalition for Active Mobility in Pennsylvania -- Introductory Panel				
10:45 to 11am	Break				
11 to 12pm	Harrisburg Area Active Transportation Planning -- MPO/Multi-County=>City=>Township=>Borough				
12 to 12:45pm	Networking Lunch -- Remembering Ross Willard				
	Room	Room	Room	Room	Mobile Tour
12:45 to 1:30pm	The Sidewalk Ballet Revisited: How Everyday Walks Build Walkable Communities	From Capitol Hill to Your Crosswalk: How Federal Policy and PennDOT Planning Decisions Shape Streets for Everyone and How You Can Influence Both	Turning Transportation Policy into Local Action: Lessons from Planning Practice in York County	Harrisburg Bicycle Infrastructure Pre-Tour Presentation (12:45 to 1:10)	
1:30 to 1:45pm	Break				Harrisburg Bicycle Infrastructure Tour (1:10 to 2:30)
1:45 to 2:30pm	Safe Sidewalks, Strong Communities: Using Walk Audits to Turn Lived Experience into Data Driven Change	From Zip to Zoom: Defining Micromobility Devices	From Idea to Reality: A Tool for Codifying Active Transportation	Train-the-Trainer: VRU Safety Education Initiative for 2nd and 3rd Grade Students	
2:30 to 3pm	Snack Break				
3 to 4pm	Rural-Urban Solidarity: Organizing for Transit in All Communities in PA	Advancing Complete Streets and Trail Projects Through Regional Coordination	The Revolution Will Not Only Have 501(c)(3) Status: How Young Adults Are Shaping the Future of Active Transportation in Lancaster	Train-the-Trainer: VRU Safety Education Initiative for 9th and 10th Grade Students (45 minutes)	How a Non-Profit Bike Shop Promotes Community, Enables Financially Disadvantaged People to Move Forward and Creates More Demand for Bicycle Infrastructure
4 to 4:30pm	Closing Discussion				
4:30 to 6pm	Optional Post-Event Tours: Susquecycle Guided Riverfront Ride (max 8 riders; 1 hr) or Downtown Harrisburg and Capital Area Greenbelt E-Bike Ride (max 10 riders; 90 minutes)				

2026 Statewide Active Transportation Summit Session Descriptions

8:30 to 9:30am Keynote Presentation – Optimizing Public Infrastructure for Safety One Intersection at a Time – Barkha Patel, Former Infrastructure Director, Jersey City, NJ

Safe mobility is a human right. While many of our towns and cities recognize this right in policy, they struggle uphold it through physical infrastructure. The keynote presentation will explore how a growing city addressed its transportation safety problem, one intersection at a time. Under the leadership of former Infrastructure Director Barkha Patel, Jersey City, New Jersey transformed its transportation network within the last ten years to prioritize walking, biking, transit, and public space. As the projects grew in scale from an intersection to a block to entire corridors, consistent investment in active transportation resulted in historic street safety improvements for Jersey City - including a year with zero traffic deaths on municipal streets. Beyond Vision Zero, these projects have helped the community see that streets can, and should, do much more than move vehicles. In Jersey City, streets serve as public spaces, support local economy, provide resiliency, and build stronger communities. This presentation will examine how towns and cities can optimize their existing public infrastructure to better meet community needs, with examples of recent transportation, public space, and sustainability projects.

9:45 to 10:45am Panel Discussion – Introducing the Coalition for Active Mobility in Pennsylvania

Hear from representatives of the founding organizations involved in bringing the Coalition for Active Mobility in Pennsylvania to life with a mission of championing state-level policies in support of active mobility with a focus on promoting healthy, safe, affordable, and environmentally sound transportation choices for people across PA. There are numerous groups in the Commonwealth that are either focused on their specific region, municipality, trail, or agenda, yet share common statewide goals. CAMP aims to be a unified group pushing for legislative and policy priorities at the state level focused on these biking, walking, and allied mobility categories. BikePGH, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, 10000 Friends of Pennsylvania, Mobilify of Southwest PA, and the PA Downtown Center discuss their shared vision and starting priorities. Learn more at <https://activemobilitypa.org/>.

11am to 12pm – Active Transportation Planning in the Capitol Region

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Capitol Region recently completed a regional Active Transportation Plan. They will highlight the accessible and innovative plan, introducing the storymap on their website and introduce several municipal partners working in tandem to pursue Active Transportation Planning and Complete Streets goals. City of Harrisburg, Susquehanna Township, and Carlisle Borough will all share briefly about their planning efforts and road safety initiatives.

The HATS Regional Active Transportation utilized an extensive outreach and research process designed to gather input and existing documents from as many groups and municipalities as possible. With the results, the ATP identified the most important connections between communities and highlighted the high-impact projects that MPOs are uniquely positioned to champion by establishing a Regional Backbone. Implementation of the ATP will focus on integrating recommendations into HATS other transportation planning processes, coordinating with our regional partners and stakeholders, and supporting our local municipalities' priorities, projects, and planning efforts.

LUNCH – from noon to 12:45 – Remembrance of Ross Willard

Breakouts from 12:45 to 1:30

The Sidewalk Ballet Revisited: How Everyday Walks Build Walkable Communities – Jane Murray, @_JaneWalksArdmore_

Urbanist Jane Jacobs described the “sidewalk ballet” as the everyday street life of neighbors, shopkeepers, and passersby. Jacobs wrote about cities, but similar choreography unfolds in suburbs and small towns. This session explores what happens when we slow down to look, listen, and linger- as Jane Jacobs advised. We’ll explore how everyday walks and hyperlocal social media can make pedestrian life visible. Using the Instagram account JaneWalksArdmore as a case study, participants will learn how documenting small details—from inviting storefronts to missing crosswalks—can encourage walking, support local businesses, combat loneliness, and build a stronger culture of walkability and advocacy.

From Capitol Hill to Your Crosswalk: How Federal Policy and PennDOT Planning Decisions Shape Streets for Everyone and How You Can Influence Both – Marisa Jones, Safe Routes Partnership

Major transportation policy decisions being made right now in Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, will directly shape mobility and safety for people walking, biking, and rolling for years to come. First, we’ll break down the state of federal surface transportation reauthorization in the United States Congress: where the process stands, key threats and opportunities for active transportation, and how advocates can engage effectively at this moment.

Second, we’ll discuss Pennsylvania’s role in shaping active transportation safety. PennDOT is updating its Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment right now; it’s a powerful, underutilized opportunity for advocates to influence priorities, funding decisions, and safety strategies.

Turning Transportation Policy into Local Action: Lessons from Planning Practice in York County – Ehsan Ershadsarabi, York County Planning Commission

Many communities support transportation policies such as Complete Streets and ADA accessibility, but translating these ideas into real local action can be challenging. This session shares lessons from planning practice in York County, focusing on how collaborative planning processes helped move policy into implementation. The presentation will highlight experiences from developing local Complete Streets initiatives and ADA planning efforts while working closely with municipalities and community stakeholders. Participants will learn practical strategies for building local support, guiding policy development, and advancing implementation at the municipal level. The session aims to provide insights for improving transportation accessibility, safety, in their communities.

Harrisburg Bicycle Infrastructure Pre-Tour Presentation (12:45 to 1:10) -- Jim Buckheit, Bicycle South Central PA

While Harrisburg has several good features, it also has disjointed and disconnected biking infrastructure and numerous places where good infrastructure ends without safe transition. Prior to taking an easy group bike

ride that highlights the good, bad and ugly bicycle infrastructure located in midtown and downtown Harrisburg, a brief presentation will orient participants to what they will be seeing – how easy it is to go north-south and how challenging to connect to those north-south routes by moving east-west. The tour will be a flat, under 5-mile ride, featuring dedicated bike lanes, 2-way cycle track lane, shared “sharrow” streets, shared use pathways, and counterflow bike lane. The tour route is available on Ride with GPS: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/54070280>

Breakouts from 1:45 to 2:30

Safe Sidewalks, Strong Communities: Using Walk Audits to Turn Lived Experience into Data Driven Change – Seth Bush, BikePGH, and Geoff Leonard, Safe Sidewalks Crew

Walk audits are a powerful, human-centered tool for improving community walkability and accessibility. This session will explain what walk audits are and how they capture both lived experiences and data to help prioritize pedestrian infrastructure. Participants will learn how storytelling and on-the-ground observations combine with measurable evidence to drive change. The presentation will show how communities can document and share findings, highlighting Pittsburgh’s “Safe Sidewalks Crew.” This innovative new program is mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to crowd-source sidewalk quality data using a GIS survey, offering a model for municipalities to collaborate with residents to shape safer, more inclusive streets.

From Zip to Zoom: Defining Micromobility Devices – Ngani Ndimbie, Mobilify of Southwest PA, and Samantha Pearson, PA Downtown Center

Join us for a session to discuss the ever-growing array of micromobility devices found on Pennsylvania's streets. From kick scooters and e-scooters to e-bikes and electric unicycles, we'll take a spin through the existing definitions and the available tools for understanding the devices including the Micromobility Information Sheet. Some devices are defined and recognized legally, like Segways, while electric skateboards and hoverboards occupy a legal null zone. And the real elephants in the room are the seemingly micro mobility devices that may look like e-bikes to the untrained (or most any) eye, but are either too fast, too heavy, or too powerful to fit the definition. Finally, we'll leave ample time for questions and to discuss the existing gaps in definitions, in education tools, and in enforceability.

From Idea to Reality: A Tool for Codifying Active Transportation – Claire Warner and Chloe Mohr, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Many local governments are realizing that bicycling and walking are desired by their residents, and that active transportation modes support economic development, health and wellness, and environmental sustainability. Communities often focus their efforts on improving active transportation infrastructure with grant- or municipally-funded projects. These can have a significant impact for active transportation users! However, there are many ways that municipal codes can either encourage or hinder active transportation. This session will review strategies to support active transportation modes through zoning and other ordinances, as explained in the Pocket Guide to Active Transportation-Friendly Code, published by Montgomery County Planning Commission (2024).

Train-the-Trainer: VRU Safety Education Initiative for 2nd and 3rd Grade Students – Alex Peppers and Kate Rozen, Toole Design

Serious and fatal crashes involving vulnerable road users (VRUs) (people walking, rolling, or bicycling) have increased in recent years. In Pennsylvania, serious VRU crashes increased by 47% between 2015 and 2021, prompting PennDOT to develop a Safety Education Initiative.

This session highlights a train-the-trainer model for delivering pedestrian and bicycle safety education for 2nd and 3rd grade students. Participants will learn how the lesson combines classroom discussion, video, skills practice, and family resources to reinforce safe behaviors. The session also covers instructor preparation, logistics, and strategies for delivering age-appropriate and empowering safety messaging that Pennsylvania communities can replicate locally.

Snack Break from 2:30 to 3 – sponsored by Wilson Consulting Group

Breakouts from 3 to 4

Rural-Urban Solidarity: Organizing for Transit in All Communities in PA – Connor Descheemaker and Andi Ahrens, Transit for All PA

Transit For All PA Statewide Campaign Manager, Connor Descheemaker, will be joined by organizing fellows from Lancaster and the Lehigh Valley to discuss their work building a base of transit riders and workers in their local communities. The panel will take place immediately following one of the fellowship's major events, where the group will present to their legislators the local service and fare needs of riders and workers, informed by a rider survey and multiple in-person community events.

Advancing Complete Streets and Trail Projects Through Regional Coordination – Patrick Monahan, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, and Sarah Moran, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Learn about the DVRPC/PennDOT Connects Complete Streets Resurfacing Program, an effort to identify roads for potential investment to increase safety for all road users and include improvements as part of regularly scheduled PennDOT resurfacing projects. You'll hear from staff with the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, East Coast Greenway Alliance and DVRPC on the collaborative effort to identify roadways for complete streets improvements. They will dive into the evolution of the program and how coordination early in project development stages have led to the incorporation of multi-use trails to be constructed by PennDOT to advance its active transportation network.

The Revolution Will Not Only Have 501(c)(3) Status: How Young Adults Are Shaping the Future of Active Transportation in Lancaster – Laura Pauls-Thomas, Ride, Roll & Stroll Lancaster

Learn how young adult volunteers with Ride, Roll & Stroll Lancaster have accelerated the pace of progress and sparked a growing intergenerational grassroots movement for safer bicycling, walking, and transit in Lancaster, PA. With an eye for intergenerational collaboration, climate justice, social equity, and bridging urban and rural divides, young adult volunteers are taking bold action since 2022 to shape the future of

bicycling and mobility justice in Lancaster, PA. This workshop is for those who want to accelerate positive change and effectively utilize and support the energy and innovative ideas of local young adults.

Train-the-Trainer: VRU Safety Education Initiative for 9th and 10th Grade Students – Alex Peppers and Kate Rozen, Toole Design

Serious and fatal crashes involving vulnerable road users (VRUs) (people walking, rolling, or bicycling) are rising. In Pennsylvania, serious VRU crashes increased by 47% between 2015 and 2021, prompting PennDOT to develop a Safety Education Initiative focused on transportation safety behavior.

This session highlights a train-the-trainer model for delivering VRU safety education to 9th and 10th grade students as they transition to independent travel and driving. Participants will learn how the lesson combines emotional engagement, scenario-based learning, data, and practical skills to promote safe behaviors. The adaptable framework supports consistent, impactful messaging for this age group.

Off-Site Activities/Tours

Pre-Summit –

June 3, 5:30 to 7pm -- Active Transportation Infrastructure Walking Tour – Riverfront Overlook at State and Front -- Marvin Ta, PennDOT LTAP/Pennoni, Joel Seiders, City of Harrisburg, and Samantha Pearson, PA Downtown Center

Harrisburg features a number of examples of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure best practices, including bike lanes, protected bike lanes, a contra-flow bike lane, enhanced pedestrian signals, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, roundabouts, and a one-way to two-way reversion and road diet. It also features opportunities for future improvements, like multi-lane one-way roads, four-lane roads, and missing curb ramps and crosswalks. This walking tour will take us to see many of these elements in action in the course of a 90 minute tour.

Starting at the River Overlook below the Capitol, the tour will include discussion of pedestrian safety concepts, including low cost countermeasures per the FHWA STEP program, review of PennDOT's Active Transportation Plan safety concepts for pedestrians, and how to plan/study crosswalks appropriately. Further, the tour will include a discussion of pedestrian walkability considerations, ADA accessibility, and how to enhance the walking environment.

June 3, 7:30 to 9:30pm – Coalition for Active Mobility in Pennsylvania Reception – Millworks, 340 Verbeke Street

Join organizers and advocates devoted to a vision of a Pennsylvania where residents do not need to drive in order to thrive. According to the newly formed Coalition for Active Mobility in Pennsylvania, people should not be dependent on a motor vehicle to get to where they need to go. They should have multiple safe, accessible and convenient transportation options available to them. If you agree that trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks must be connected to each other and to transit in a convenient, safe and intuitive way so that Pennsylvanian's of all ages and abilities can independently get to their everyday destinations by walking, biking, or using a wheelchair or other micro-mobility device, you may be ready to join the effort, coordinating across the Commonwealth, rallying individuals, organizations and elected officials to improve walking, biking,

accessibility, and access to transit in PA. Come mix and mingle with the founding coalition and learn how you can get involved.

June 4, 7 to 8am – Optional Self-Guided Rise-and-Shine Walk or Ride

Choose from three options (beyond just taking it easy):

Historic Walking Tour -- The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has provided a walking tour itinerary with annotations.

Commemorative Walking Tour -- The PA Downtown Center offers the Capitol Complex WalkWorks Walking Route re-dedicated this year in honor of WalkWorks founder Justin R. Lehman (1984-2024). Maps and reference materials are here. (Note of caution: because the starting point of the tour is within the Capitol Complex where no signage is permitted, there is no starting sign, but there are way-point signs at the ¼-, ½-, ¾-, and 1-mile marks of the 1.25 mile route.)

Morning Ride -- Susquecycle bikeshare bikes are available for summit attendees to use free of charge on both June 3 and June 4. Download the Movatic app to sign up. Make reference to the tour route provided by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission or set your own course.

Tours During PM Breakouts on June 4

From 12:45 to 2:30 – Harrisburg Bicycle Infrastructure Tour (initial orientation/presentation in Summit venue from 12:45 to 1:10, then leave on bikes for 5-mile tour)

[Repeat from above] While Harrisburg has several good features, it also has disjointed and disconnected biking infrastructure and numerous places where good infrastructure ends without safe transition. Prior to taking an easy group bike ride that highlights the good, bad and ugly bicycle infrastructure located in midtown and downtown Harrisburg, a brief presentation will orient participants to what they will be seeing – how easy it is to go north-south and how challenging to connect to those north-south routes by moving east-west. The tour will be a flat, under 5-mile ride, featuring dedicated bike lanes, 2-way cycle track lane, shared “sharrow” streets, shared use pathways, and counterflow bike lane. The tour route is available on Ride with GPS: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/54070280>

From 2:45 to 4 -- How a Non-Profit Bike Shop Promotes Community, Enables Financially Disadvantaged People to Move Forward and Creates More Demand for Bicycle Infrastructure

Imagine how your city or town could benefit from a non profit bicycle shop. Learn about a grass roots free community bike shop that started out very frugally and has grown tremendously. Find out who is served, how it's done, how much it costs, and what the challenges have been. This functioning inner city bike shop serves the community and surrounding neighborhood -- and is also regional and helping other cities -- and still manages to send bikes overseas. There are mounds of bikes at all stages of refurbishment, over a dozen workstations for the community to use, and a warehouse of parts. What we do en masse could be duplicated on a small scale in any town.

Post-Summit on June 4 –

4:30 to 5:30pm – Susquecycle Guided Riverfront Ride (maximum of 8 riders; must have the bikeshare app preloaded before 4:30 start time)

Discover Harrisburg’s history—and its dynamic multimodal infrastructure— on two wheels! Join a guided 5-mile ride along the Capital Area Greenbelt with free use of a SusqueCycle bike (limited to 8 riders). Starting at Strawberry Square, you’ll unlock your bike via the Movatic app and cruise through Riverfront Park with stunning Susquehanna River views. Along the way, explore key transportation assets and landmarks, including the Market and Walnut Street Bridges, State Street Scenic Overlook, PennDOT Workers Memorial, Sunken Garden, and views of the Governor’s Residence and King’s Mansion. MUST download the Movatic app in advance to ride.

4:30 to 6pm – Downtown Harrisburg and Capital Area Greenbelt E-Bike Ride (maximum of 10 riders; 90 minutes, roughly 10 mile out-and-back ride on southern section of greenbelt)

This guided tour explores the southern portion of the Capital Area Greenbelt, from the Summit venue to the Riverfront and south, visiting several amenities along the route including the MLK Jr. Memorial, the Five Senses Garden, and a number of mountain bike “trails on trail.” The full 20-mile loop known as the “Emerald Necklace” encircles Harrisburg and surrounding communities, offering a range of opportunities for walking, biking, and mountain biking. The portion to be covered is mostly paved and flat. Discussion stops along the way cover challenges in creating a continuous, accessible route through historic and car-centric environments. E-Bikes and helmets will be provided. Participants can also bring their own bike and helmet if they prefer. Ride will average around 12 mph underway, in spite of the equipment’s potential for speediness.

Thanks to the sponsors who are making this 2026 Statewide Active Transportation Summit possible:

- Premiere/Golden Spike Sponsor: PA Department of Health, Public Health Improvement Grant
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