The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) is advancing research on the rapidly evolving field of micromobility. The Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty (HEP) is the lead convener on the topic, engaging offices across U.S. DOT to coordinate on the following projects and initiatives. These efforts are designed to further the state of the practice, and promote collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Internal U.S. DOT Micromobility Working Group

Within HEP, the Office of Human Environment (HEPH) leads a working group with participants from across U.S. DOT to coordinate on micromobility research, and to discuss this rapidly evolving area.

Integrating Emerging Mobility into Transportation Management

FHWA is offering State and regional agencies technical support to integrate shared mobility and mobility-on-demand (MOD) concepts into transportation planning, programming, systems operations, and management.

Micromobility Info Briefs

FHWA worked with the Pedestrian Bicycle Information Center to develop two micromobility info briefs. The first brief presents powered forms of micromobility and compares their characteristics with other traditional and emerging forms of transportation. The second brief documents best practices in mid-sized cities on device permitting and regulatory issues, safety concerns, and infrastructure design.

Micromobility Research and Coordination

HEPH, with support from the U.S. DOT Volpe Center, has compiled current available information to establish FHWA’s definition of micromobility, and consider Federal, State, and local roles in this emerging area. After evaluating information on safety, infrastructure, and equity, HEPH is now developing a prioritized research agenda for micromobility, in coordination with contacts across U.S. DOT. FHWA is also conducting original research about e-bikes, including use of e-bikes on Federal, State, and local public lands.

Curbside Management

FHWA, in coordination with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, is conducting research on curbside management that explores how communities can better assess, prioritize, and optimize curb space considerations for accessibility, delivery access, and micromobility.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Interactive Bikeshare and E-Scooter System Maps

BTS has released three interactive maps showing national bikeshare and e-scooter deployment locations and changes over time, as well as bikeshare ridership changes over time. These tools provide dynamic insights into the rapid growth and evolution of micromobility in communities across the country.
Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO)

MOD Special Studies – Opportunities and Challenges of Shared Micromobility Infrastructure

ITS JPO is studying shared micromobility as a MOD tool, specifically exploring safety risks and infrastructure challenges. The study will identify how infrastructure can adapt to better cater to shared micromobility and summarize strategies that can help to reduce risk and increase the potential for these modes with an eye towards infrastructure.

Multimodal and Accessible Travel Standards Assessment

ITS JPO is conducting an assessment of standardization needs to support multimodal and accessible travel options, assessing impacts on ITS and related standards that currently exist or are under development, and developing a roadmap for multimodal and accessible travel standardization work. The objective of this work is to develop a framework to inform the selection and prioritization of standardization work, funded by the JPO and others, needed to support the development, testing, and deployment of multimodal and accessible travel technologies, systems, and services.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Transit and Micromobility

FTA representatives are on the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) J-11/Task 37 Project Panel with research led by the Shared Use Mobility Center to examine the impacts of micromobility on transit usage, the forms of partnership, as well as the interplays these options have on the built environment and communities. The researchers propose a framework for building relationships between transit agencies and micromobility options through partnership.

Impact of Transformational Technologies on Underserved Populations

FTA and FHWA representatives are participating on the TCRP B-47 Project Panel to advance research led by the Texas Transportation Institute to examine how transformational transportation technologies — such as micromobility, mobility apps, and new vehicle technologies — affect inclusion and accessibility. This project will examine possible effects of new technologies on both traditionally and newly underserved populations.

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