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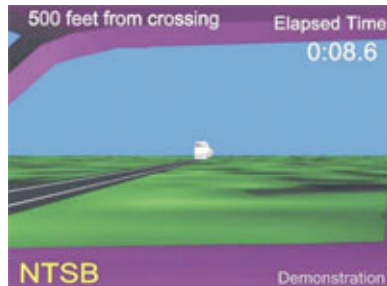
## News from TSC

March 24: TSC Director David Ragland on the Op-Ed page of the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "[Reducing bike deaths on Bay Area roads/Going green—and going safe.](#)"

March 19: "The Relationship between Vehicle Weight, Size and Safety (and Fuel Economy)," Presented by Tom Wenzel, Technology, Evaluation, Modeling and Assessment Group, Energy Analysis Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

TSC Research Seminar: March 7, "[The Struggle for Sustainable Transportation: What Can Public Health Contribute?](#)" presented by Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, Director of Occupational & Environmental Health for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and an assistant clinical professor of medicine at UCSF. (See [story this issue.](#))

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### The Safety Run-Around that Happens at Rail Crossings

TRB 2008 Presentation At-grade rail crossings are regularly the scenes of gambles by drivers that they are simply not physically capable of winning: they are wagering that they can correctly measure the speed of an approaching train and get across the tracks before it arrives. These drivers' behavior and how to protect

them from themselves are the subject of TSC researcher Doug Cooper's presentation at TRB.

### What Did Your Walk to School Today Do to (or for) You?

TRB 2008 Presentation With children traveling to school on foot less and less and by car more and more, there is tremendous interest in encouraging a return to walking, biking and busing for the school "commute." But there is also an obligation, noted TSC director David Ragland in his presentation to the School Transportation Research session at TRB: to make sure that efforts in this direction will, in fact, result in healthier children.

### Making the Way to School Safer: Safety Improvements under Safe Routes to School Appear to Pay Off

TRB 2008 Presentation Evaluations, including a recent one completed by Traffic Safety Center researchers, show that, overall, biking and walking trips rose, and safety was improved.

### TRB 2008 Posters

TRB 2008 Presentation At the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, the pre-eminent academic and professional gathering in the field, researchers from the Traffic Safety Center presented six posters. Photos from some of the sessions and links to the papers on which the posters are based and abstracts (on the TRB Annual Meeting site) are listed.



### How San Francisco's Public Health Department Found Its Voice in Land Use and Transportation Planning Efforts

A report on the presentation by Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, Director of Occupational and Environmental Health for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and an assistant clinical professor of medicine at UCSF on "The Struggle for Sustainable Transportation:

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What Can Public Health Contribute?" at the March 7 TSC Safety Seminar.

## **The Graduate Student Researchers at the TSC**

Seventeen students from a variety of disciplines are working on projects including better access to transit, industrial safety, pavement safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, collision clusters and HOV lanes.

## **Useful Outside Links Added This Quarter:**

**TRAFFIC SAFETY CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES**: RESEARCH UPDATE: The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has released a selection of findings from the first of several surveys of the American public about a wide variety of issues related to traffic safety.

**CRASHES VS. CONGESTION**: WHAT'S THE COST TO SOCIETY? The American Automobile Association (AAA) has released a report that examines the costs of roadway crashes to society. According to AAA, the study is designed to raise awareness of the importance of transportation investments, and to provide policy makers, departments of transportation, and the public with information on the magnitude of the safety problem.

**2006 LARGE TRUCK CRASH** OVERVIEW The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has released a report that provides an overview of large truck crash data by trends, vehicles, drivers, and crash environment for 2006.

**PEDESTRIAN FORUM - WINTER 2008** The latest edition of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Pedestrian Forum Newsletter highlights efforts by the FHWA and its partners to improve the safety of walking and bicycling as a mode of transportation.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS WEBSITE** The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, along with the Beverly Foundation and the Independent Living Partnership, have created a new website that focuses on supplemental transportation programs (STP). The site is designed to allow STP providers to discuss implementation of successful programs that provide transportation options to aging adults and those who can no longer drive.

**DEVELOPING SCHOOL-BASED CYCLE TRAINS IN NEW ZEALAND** Land Transport New Zealand has released a report that examines the characteristics of cycle trains and explores the process for setting up and operating them. A cycle train is similar in approach to the walking school bus - adult volunteers, or conductors, cycle along a set route to school, collecting children from designated 'train stops' along the way.

**EFFECTIVENESS OF "CHILDREN AT PLAY" WARNING SIGNS**: Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM SAFETEA-LU SECTION 1807** The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that explores the progress and initial results of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) and the four pilot communities' participation in the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) from its inception through May 2007.

**MOVING THE BUS BACK INTO TRAFFIC SAFELY SIGNAGE AND LIGHTING CONFIGURATION PHASE I**

**THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND SANCTIONS ON SAFETY BELT USE**

**STATISTICAL METHODS, SAFETY DATA, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION 2007** TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2019 includes 30 papers that explore modeling crash frequency by

severity, time series analysis of road risk, crash data analysis using bootstrapped maximum likelihood method, time series analysis of the effect of holidays on daily traffic counts, regression-to-mean effect in traffic safety evaluation, roundabouts, and the safety impact of improved signal visibility.

**[A GUIDE FOR REDUCING COLLISIONS INVOLVING YOUNG DRIVERS](#)**: TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 500, Vol. 19, Guidance for Implementation of the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan: A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Young Drivers provides strategies that can be employed to reduce collisions involving young drivers.

**[A BETTER WAY TO GO](#)** U.S. PIRG, the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), has released a report that explores the potential future role that rail, rapid buses, and other forms of public transit could play in America's future transportation system.

**[COMPILATION OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DEVICES IN USE AT GRADE](#)**

**[CROSSINGS](#)** The U.S. Federal Railroad Administration has released a report that explores the state of the practice of pedestrian accommodation at rail grade crossings, including pedestrian-only crossings.

**[Insurance Institute for Highway Safety STATUS REPORT: VOL. 43, NO. 1](#)** The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has released the latest issue of its Status Report magazine. The issue explores travel speeds on the nation's roadways and consequences of exceeding posted speed limits.

**[Insurance Institute for Highway Safety STATUS REPORT: VOL. 42, NO. 11](#)** The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has released the latest issue of its Status Report magazine. The issue explores vehicles passenger protection in front, side, and rear crashes based on IIHS tests. (January 2008).



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