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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In June I traveled to The Netherlands and Denmark to experience their amazing bicycling facilities and culture, and was inspired by the world wide interest in bicycle transportation at the Velo Cities Conference in Copenhagen. It is truly amazing to witness so much positive energy and enthusiasm for cycling and the progress made in all parts of the world.

Closer to home, IBPI continued to build partnerships and expand programs on several fronts this year. Faculty research on pedestrian and bicycle travel continues to grow and results from the cycle track and bike box evaluation projects are being disseminated. New workshops on site design and data collection enhanced learning opportunities for practitioners while visiting scholars brought national and international perspectives on active transportation, public health and innovative bicycle facilities. New scholarships increased support for students who are pursuing careers in bicycle and pedestrian transportation, and opportunities for student involvement in research continued.

We could not do this without the generous contributions of time, talent and resources from many individuals and organizations – we are grateful for your continued support as IBPI moves forward into a new year!

Lynn
EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Seminars Feature Visiting Scholars and Experts
IBPI hosted several special lectures by visiting experts and scholars, including Nils Jensen from the City of Copenhagen, Eric France, MD, physician Chief of Population & Prevention Services for Kaiser Permanente in Denver, Colorado, and Glen Koorey, PhD, Senior Lecturer with the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

New Professional Development Courses Expand Educational Opportunities
Two new courses were offered this year, expanding the range of topics available for practitioner education. In October, a course on site design for bicyclists and pedestrians examined ways to design commercial, civic, office, and light industrial sites to provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and bicyclists. In February, IBPI offered a one-day training on research and data collection for bicycle and pedestrian travel that focused on collecting and using data to obtain support for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning Lab In Third Year
The bicycle and pedestrian planning lab offers hands-on experience in bicycle and pedestrian planning and design. The course, now in its third year, was originally developed in 2008 with funding from OTREC. Students are challenged to create plans and designs to improve cycling and walking conditions at designated areas in the region. This year, the students will develop recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycling connections to transit at several regional transportation centers.

Student Participate in Research
IBPI’s projects continue to provide opportunities for graduate students to engage in research with faculty. Caroline Chapman, a first year student in the MURP (Master of Urban and Regional Planning) program conducted the evaluation of Portland’s Safer Routes to Schools program, while Elizabeth Decker, a second-year MURP student, worked with Dr. Lynn Weigand and Dr. Noreen McDonald at UNC on the OTREC-funded project to evaluate parental attitudes about children’s travel to and from school.

Students Win Rudin/APA Award
The student team of Nikki Wheeler, Lindsay Walker, Peter Pelzer and Josh Stein has won the Rudin Center/APA Graduate Student Award for their project, Designing Bicycle Boulevards in NW Portland, Oregon. The project was produced as part of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Lab in the fall of 2009. The award recognizes student projects with a substantial transportation design component that demonstrate relevance to and innovation in approaching a current challenge in transportation planning and a design challenge.

New Scholarship Opportunities Increase Student Support
Thanks to the generous support of DKS Associates, Stephen Gomez, and the Bike Gallery, three new scholarship opportunities are available to current and incoming students this fall who are focusing their studies and career path on bicycle and/or pedestrian transportation. These scholarships, together with the Rex Burkholder & Lydia Rich, and Alta Planning + Design scholarships, promote interest in the field of bicycle and pedestrian design and planning and help attract new talent to the profession.

Alta recipient: Nick Falbo
Nick holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Oregon. His interest in bicycle and pedestrian planning grew from his travels, where it became clear that the Portland bicycling experience was not unique to Portland, but was something that could work anywhere when given the right support and planning. Nick is learning ways to fuse his art background with his planning efforts, most recently through volunteer work with the North Portland Greenway project illustrating path proposals as part of a community focused design charrette. As an intern at Alta Planning + Design he is working on the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide to showcase engineering best-practices to make bicycling safe, more comfortable and more convenient.
Active Transportation for children

Study Focuses on Parental Attitudes on Children’s Travel Behavior

Dr. Lynn Weigand, IBPI Director, and Dr. Noreen McDonald are completing a study that examines parental attitudes about their children’s travel mode to and from school, with funding support from OTREC. They conducted focus groups with parents at four Portland-area schools and a web-based stated preference survey of parents with children at a school with a Safe Routes program. The results and report will be available in late fall on IBPI’s website.

Safer Routes to School – Year 2 Evaluation

Graduate Research Assistant Caroline Chapman conducted this year’s evaluation of Portland’s Safer Routes to School program through a mail survey to parents of students at 40 Portland-area schools participating in the program. Key findings that support the program’s ongoing success include:

- 50% of students living within a half mile of school are choosing to walk to school;
- More than one-third of all students are choosing an active mode to school daily, a substantial increase from fall 2006 and significantly higher than the national average of 13%; and
- 40% of parents responding said the Safe Routes program has increased the number of trips they take by walking and biking (and not just to and from school).

RESEARCH

Research Roundtable Fosters Collaboration

IBPI organized a research roundtable in December to bring together academics and practitioners to discuss priority areas of research and explore ways to collaborate. This event resulted in several new research proposals that were developed by faculty and funded by several sources this spring, including the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC) and Active Living Research grants.

IBPI Hosts Transatlantic Delegation

In December, IBPI and OTREC hosted a visiting delegation from Europe to share methods of research and data collection on bicycle and pedestrian travel. The delegation, representing Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium, was part of the Transatlantic Cities program sponsored by Metro and the German Marshall Fund. Participants had the opportunity to meet with the delegates to discuss how they use data to support policies and funding for their extensive bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Bike Boxes Improve Cycling Environment

Dr. Chris Monsere and Dr. Jennifer Dill recently published the Draft Final Report of their evaluation of Portland’s bike boxes. The study involved a pre- and post-evaluation of motorist and cyclist behaviors at both colored (green) and non-colored bike boxes at several intersections in the city, and surveys of motorists and cyclists. The analysis covered rates of conflict, rates of yielding by right-turning cars, and perceptions of safety. Overall, the findings were positive. In particular, 42% of motorists who are not cyclists felt driving through the intersections was safer with the bike boxes; and 77% of cyclists felt bicycling through the intersections was safer with the bike boxes. The draft report is available on IBPI’s website (http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/bikebox.php).