



Initiative for **Bicycle & Pedestrian** Innovation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009



## Mission

IBPI leads innovation in research, education, and knowledge that promotes change to help make our communities safe, convenient, and accessible places to walk and bicycle.

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Dr. Karen Dixon, *Oregon State University*  
Dr. Marc Schlossberg, *University of Oregon*

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## IBPI

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## From the Director

As we mark IBPI's second anniversary, it is exciting to see how much progress we've made in such a short amount of time. This year we launched two new courses focusing on bicycle and pedestrian design and planning here at Portland State, and we expanded our professional development opportunities. Our research agenda and funding have both grown, with a strong focus on program and facilities evaluation.

IBPI was an integral part of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance's team that hosted the National Safe Routes to School conference in August. More than 500 professionals and advocates from all over North America came to Portland for three days of learning and inspiration to promote active transportation among school children. We've also launched a new tour center on our web site to provide a wealth of information on bicycle and pedestrian planning in Portland, and have hosted several visiting delegations using the city as a "living laboratory."

We are seeing strong student interest in our programs, and enrollment in our bicycle and pedestrian planning courses is full. IBPI employed three graduate research assistants last year, working on Safe Routes to School, curriculum development, and on our new bicycle and pedestrian tour center. Additional research assistants worked with professors in urban studies and engineering to evaluate bicycle facilities.

IBPI continues to expand our network and create new partnerships with local, regional, and national organizations: we are working with Metro to host events as part of the Transatlantic Active Transportation Workshop this October; participating in the launch of the national Progressive Bicycle Cities Coalition along with the City of Portland Office of the Mayor and Bureau of Transportation; assisting the Community Cycling Center on a project to overcome barriers to cycling among minority and low-income populations; and continuing to work with OTREC to bring international experts to campus to share their expertise with faculty and the community.

We look forward to building on this success with new programs, increasing student involvement, and creating new alliances to support our work.



Lynn Weigand, Ph.D.

Cover photo by Roger Averbeck, *IBPI Summer Workshop, June 2009*

This page: *Mobile workshop at National Safe Routes to School Conference*

Page 3: *IBPI researcher, Steve White, rides through PSU's campus on Portland's new cycle track*

Page 3: *Visiting delegates from Nogoya, Japan, inspect Portland's bike parking*

Page 4: *Roger Geller (left) leads a bicycle facilities field tour during IBPI's 2009 Summer Workshop*



## RESEARCH

IBPI's research program is continuing to expand, while remaining focused on program and facilities evaluation.

### Safe Routes to School

Steve White, one of IBPI's Graduate Research Assistants, completed an evaluation of Portland's Safer Routes to School program in 25 schools this year. He analyzed three years of survey data along with urban form, socio-demographic, and program-specific data to identify those variables that most influenced active/passive mode choice and change in mode share. He found that distance was the primary determinant in a household's mode choice, and that changes in the schools' catchment areas explained much of the changes in their mode splits. The program itself also significantly impacted school mode splits, particularly at those schools with experienced and active volunteers. In many cases, the program effectively countered the effects of expanding catchment areas by increasing the rates of active commuters among those families living within one mile of their school. Additional variables impacting school mode splits include the presence of direct routes and complete sidewalks, slope, weather, parental attitudes about the safety and enjoyment of walking or biking, and household income levels.

A secondary focus of the evaluation has been to generate information to assess the program and establish more specific program goals for each of the schools. IBPI will be working with the city this year to modify the parent survey instrument and conduct an evaluation of the existing 25 schools and an additional 15 schools entering the program this year.

### Facilities Evaluation: Green Bike Boxes and Cycle Tracks

Professors Jennifer Dill and Chris Monsere, along with Graduate Research Assistant Nathan McNeil, have been working with the city's Bureau of Transportation to evaluate the use and effectiveness of the green bike boxes installed last year.

IBPI and Portland State faculty also are working with the city to evaluate the new cycle track that was installed along SW Broadway near the PSU campus in August. Video data were collected on the street in June to capture use of the pre-existing bicycle lane. Additional data will be collected this fall and analyzed to compare use and behavior by bicyclists and pedestrians.



## INFORMATION-SHARING

IBPI's web site continues to be a key resource for sharing information, disseminating research findings, and serving as a resource for bicycle and pedestrian travel.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Tour and Learning Center

IBPI launched the Tour and Learning Center on our website this spring. It features brief stories on the development of Portland's bicycle and pedestrian networks, self-guided tours and maps, and descriptions of key facilities. In addition, IBPI is working with First Stop Portland to offer lectures and tours on the development of Portland's active transportation facilities to visiting delegations from North America and abroad.



## EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

### New Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Planning Lab

With support from OTREC and Alta Planning + Design, IBPI expanded course offerings on bicycle and pedestrian travel with a new, two-credit course in fall 2008. The new course, taught by Mia Birk, provided students with practical experience in planning for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in an urban context.

### Trails Capstone Course Offered Spring Term

IBPI worked with Metro staff to design and offer a course on trail planning and research this past spring as part of the University's Senior Capstone program. Capstone courses connect students with community organizations to conduct a service learning project. With funding from OTREC, IBPI partnered with Metro to design a new course curriculum that introduced students to trail planning and design concepts and research on trail users. The students conducted trail counts and intercept surveys, and presented their findings to Metro staff and councilors in June.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Curriculum Development

Jennifer Dill and Lynn Weigand completed a national survey of bicycle and pedestrian curriculum offered in planning and engineering schools. The resulting report is available on IBPI's website, and findings are discussed in a paper submitted to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) this summer. In addition, Lynn Weigand is co-chairing a workshop on bicycle and pedestrian curriculum that will be held at the annual TRB meeting in January, 2010.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Professional Development Workshops

IBPI's professional development workshops continued to expand in scope and location this year. Two workshops were offered in Eugene during the fall and spring to make them more accessible to practitioners in the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon. A new course focusing on planning and design of bicycle boulevards, designed and taught by staff at Alta Planning+ Design, attracted professionals from Oregon, Washington, and California. The Bicycle Boulevard Design Guidebook debuted at this workshop and is now available to download via the IBPI website or hard copy purchase.

The week-long summer workshop was offered in June and is becoming an established annual tradition. Professionals and advocates from across the U.S. and Canada took part in this five-day intensive workshop taught by local experts from the City of Portland, Alta Planning + Design, and Kittelson and Associates.

We are developing new courses for the coming year, including a fall class on site design for bicyclists and pedestrians, research and data collection, and an expanded bicycle facilities course.

### Seminars

The Center for Transportation Studies seminar series continued to feature topics on bicycle and pedestrian travel, supplemented by lectures on Cycle Track development by visiting scholars Steve Cardno, London Cycle Network Project Manager, and Peter Furth from Northeastern University.



### Student Involvement

IBPI's new projects are providing new opportunities to engage students and provide them with research and work experience on bicycle and pedestrian projects. This year, three students worked on IBPI projects. Steve White, a second-year graduate student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program specializing in transportation, conducted the evaluation of Portland's Safer Routes to School Program. David Amiton assisted with the development of the Trails Capstone curriculum and worked with the students on research design and data analysis. David Ruelas developed new maps and supporting materials for IBPI's new Tour Center resource on the web.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

IBPI encourages students to pursue bicycle and pedestrian transportation and foster their knowledge and skill development. Generous funding for two IBPI scholarships are providing critical support to attract promising students who want to pursue careers related to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

**The Rex Burkholder and Lydia Rich Scholarship** was established in 2007 with a three-year commitment to support a graduate student who intends to be active in developing a future where bicyclists and pedestrians play a major role in the livability of urban areas.



**Nathan McNeil** is the 2009-2010 recipient of this award. A native of Washington State, Nathan holds a Bachelor of Arts in History. He has worked for a community economic development non-profit and in social policy research. More recently, he served as a performance auditor for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority Office of the Inspector General. Last year, Nathan worked with PSU faculty conducting an evaluation of Portland's "Bike Boxes." This year, he plans to research ways that land use and transportation decisions can encourage dense, multi-modal neighborhoods. In his spare time, Nathan likes to spend time exploring alpine meadows, old-growth forests, and new cities and neighborhoods

**The Alta Planning + Design Scholarship** and internship supports a graduate student who is highly motivated to focus their studies at Portland State University on bicycling and walking as mainstream forms of transportation.



**Drew Meisel** is the 2009-2010 recipient of this award. He holds an undergraduate degree in History with a minor in Sustainable Urban Development from Portland State University (PSU). Drew's interest in bicycle and pedestrian planning stems from his experiences as a bicycle commuter in Portland, Oregon, his volunteer work with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, and his professional work at PSU Transportation. As an intern at Alta Planning + Design he is working on a variety of projects focused on improving walking and bicycling conditions on both the regional and citywide level.