

<p>Research Project Name: Addressing Active Transportation Gaps in Low-Income Satellite Communities</p>
<p>Recipient/Grant (Contract) Number: Florida A&M University; University of Washington Tacoma</p>
<p>Center Name: Rural Safe Efficient Advanced Transportation (R-SEAT) Center</p>
<p>Research Priority: Improving Mobility of People and Goods</p>
<p>Principal Investigator(s): Angela Kitali, Thobias Sando, Emmanuel Kidando, Panick Kalambay, Ren Moses, Jeffrey Walters, and Heather Dillon</p>
<p>Project Partners: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)</p>
<p>Research Project Funding: \$98,258.19 (Federal request); \$49,130 (Non-Federal cost share)</p>
<p>Project Start and End Date: 9/1/2024 to 12/31/2025</p>
<p>Project Description: Many low-income populations reside in satellite communities just outside major population centers. These individuals often lack access to personal vehicles and must rely on walking, biking, or public transit to reach essential services and destinations. However, the active transportation infrastructure connecting these satellite communities to key service centers is frequently inadequate, posing significant challenges and safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. This project addresses these gaps in active transportation access for low-income satellite communities. The key objectives are to 1) develop a method for identifying the locations of low-income satellite communities that lack adequate active transportation infrastructure; 2) assess the specific active transportation needs and challenges faced by residents in these communities; and 3) create resources for implementing targeted interventions to improve connectivity and safety for active transportation means.</p> <p>The research approach will involve a comprehensive literature review, spatial data collection and analysis, integration of socioeconomic, built environment, and demographic data, and qualitative community assessments. The team will utilize geographic information system (GIS) mapping, accessibility metrics, and comparative analyses to quantify the gaps in active transportation infrastructure between low-income satellite communities and other neighborhoods. Surveys, interviews, and focus groups will provide deeper insights into the lived experiences and perceptions of residents. By addressing these gaps, the project seeks to improve access to essential services and support the overall well-being of underserved populations. The anticipated outcomes include enhanced connectivity and safety for pedestrians and cyclists, increased access to opportunities, reduced transportation costs, and the development of more sustainable transportation systems. The findings and recommendations will assist transportation agencies in facilitating active transportation and improving access in low-income satellite communities.</p>
<p>US DOT Priorities: Improving Mobility of People and Goods, focusing on rural transportation.</p>
<p>Outputs: This project will produce an approach for identifying underserved low-income satellite communities, a comprehensive needs assessment integrating spatial and community data, and targeted policy and design recommendations to enhance active transportation infrastructure. Additionally, it will provide data-driven tools and implementation resources for transportation agencies to improve mobility and safety in these communities.</p>

Outcomes/Impacts: The successful implementation of this project is expected to yield the following outcomes: (1) improved connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists in low-income satellite communities; (2) enhanced safety and reduced risk of collision for active transportation users; (3) increased access to essential services; (4) reduced transportation-related costs and improved economic opportunities for low-income residents; (5) promotion of more sustainable transportation systems within the region; and (6) increased dignity and sense of belonging for residents through the provision of safe, accessible active transportation infrastructure.

Final Research Report: In progress