

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	Taming and Tapping the Bike Share Explosion
University	University of Idaho
Principal Investigator	Mike Lowry
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	University of Washington PacTrans \$60,000 University of Idaho \$60,000
Total Project Cost	\$120,000
Agency ID or Contract Number	69A3551747110
Start and End Dates	September 1, 2018-August 31, 2020
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>The Pacific Northwest is experiencing an explosion of bike share systems (BSS). Every major city in the region has at least one BSS company operating and many cities are exploring how to effectively introduce or expand this new form of mobility.</p> <p>The goal of this project is to improve *system-wide efficiency for residents and visitors to our region by studying the legal framework and infrastructure needs for BSS. We will identify travel service gaps that BSS can alleviate. We will produce guidance and tools (legal and engineering) that cities, states, and other organizations can use to leverage BSS mobility. We will pursue this study from a “system-wide perspective” to identify how BSS can complement other modes of transportation, including public transportation and ride hailing services, to effectively improve multimodal connections.</p>
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)	The research team created a searchable database of laws governing e-bikes (bicycles equipped with electric motors to assist in propulsion), and e-scooters (stand-up kick scooters powered by an electric motor) in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.
Place Any Photos Here	

<p>Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, or anticipated)</p>	<p>The study uncovered many inconsistencies with micro-mobility laws across the country. Currently, many states lack clear definitions for these emerging forms of transportation, which don't otherwise fit neatly in the categories contemplated by existing law. Users, in turn, are left confused as to what the law is, and this may discourage them from riding. A number of states are attempting to remedy inconsistencies and legislative silence by passing and proposing laws that regulate the use of e-bikes and e-scooters, but even these efforts are unlikely to bring the consistency that is needed. Federal authorities should act to create uniform laws and work with states to adopt them, otherwise, the lack of a legal infrastructure may threaten to stifle the innovation and undermine the promised returns of shared micro-mobility systems.</p> <p>The searchable database that was crated can help cities, researchers, service providers, and the general public better understand and improve future laws that govern bicycle travel.</p>
<p>Web Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Project Website 	<p>David Pimentel, et al., Innovation in a Vacuum: The Uncertain Legal Landscape for Shared Micro-mobility, 2020 Journal of Law and Mobility. 17. https://doi.org/10.36635/jlm.2020.innovation</p> <p>Final Report: Pimentel, D. Koglin, T., and Lowry, M. Taming and Tapping the Bikeshare Explosion: Review of shared micro-mobility laws, PacTrans</p>