



What a Transportation Professional Needs to Know about the Post-COVID World

Joint Western/Mountain ITE Districts Annual Meeting

June 29, 2020

Session Panel

Moderator:

Abbas Mohaddes

Econolite President/COO

Panel:

Alyssa Rodriguez, City of Henderson

Beverly Kuhn, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Jeff Paniati, ITE Executive Director

Randy McCourt, ITE President

Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary of Transportation

ITE Response to COVID-19

Curated Resource Page

- [Transportation Resources, Transportation Impacts, Organizational Tools, Personal/Family Guidance](#)

Deeper Dives

- [Transportation Talks Podcast - Future of Transit](#)
- [Learning Hub Webinar - Open Streets for Walking and Biking](#)
- [Working Group - Traffic Counting Considerations](#)

New Engagement Opportunities

- [Virtual Drop-Ins – 30-minute, Unstructured Focus-Group Discussions Every Tuesday and Thursday](#)

Reimagined ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit

- [August 4-20](#)
- [Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00-5:30 EDT](#)
- [Plenary and Technical Sessions, Poster Presentations, Workshops](#)
- [Exhibitor Showcase](#)

Prospects for Infrastructure Funding

COVID-19 Stimulus

- Discussed at various points
- Unlikely as stand-alone legislation

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

**FAST Act: \$305 billion over 5 years; Expires
September 30**

- *Senate Bill (Highway only)*
 - \$287 billion over 5 years
 - Developed Pre-COVID
 - Follows traditional funding/program approach
- *House Bill (Surface Transportation)*
 - \$494 billion over 5 years
 - Developed during COVID
 - More progressive agenda
- *Administration Proposal (Surface Transportation)*
 - \$810 billion?
 - TBD

Lessons from COVID-19

No one is safe until everyone is safe – social equity and post-pandemic transportation

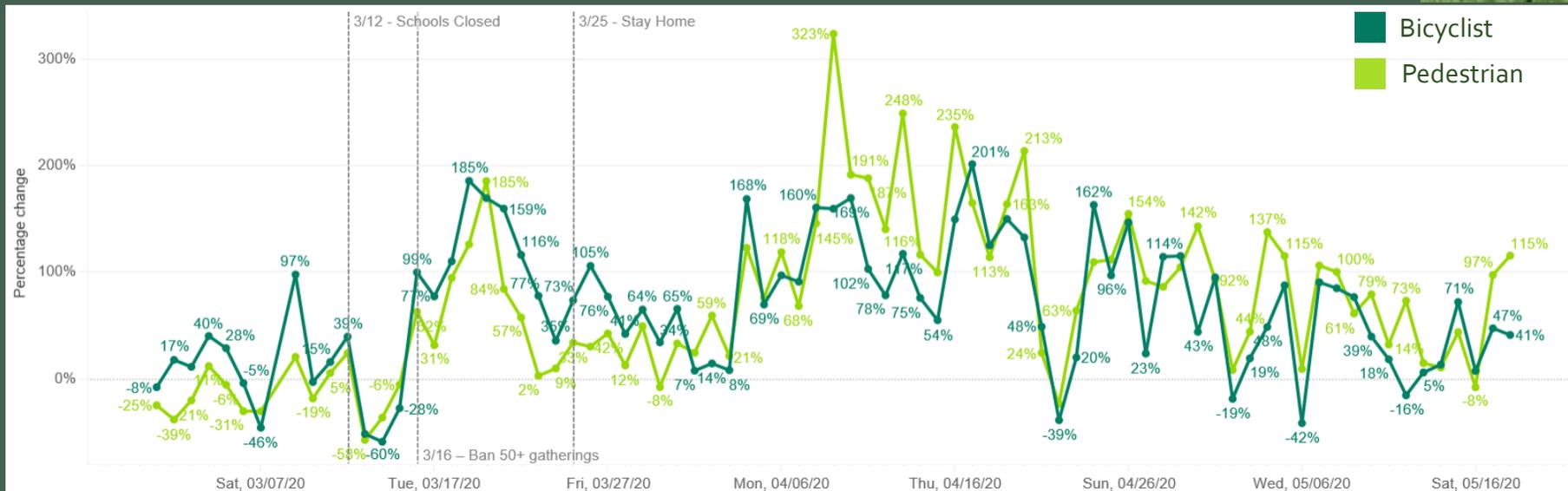


- The first 6 feet and last 6 feet are the critical distances for successful economic and social interaction
- Your car won't keep you safe, unless you stay in it – all modes need to be safe
- The pandemic showed that service workers key to a prosperous economy
- They often live furthest from employment centers
 - Few urban services
 - Longer commutes
 - Higher percentage of household income spent on housing and transportation (often more than 50 percent)
- Affordable transportation and housing options are an economic necessity, not a social service

Lessons from COVID-19

*I'm going for a walk:
the importance of complete neighborhoods*

- Stay Home, Stay Healthy – many see their neighborhoods in the daytime
- Mixed use neighborhoods provide food security, access to services
- Sidewalks and bikeways often don't exist, or too narrow for social distancing
- Need to do catch up on accessibility – for a person in a wheelchair, no curb cut means they aren't going anywhere
- People staying closer to home likely to influence/increase local active transportation investments
- Complete the state's active transportation system to complement/leverage affordable housing, transportation and telecommunity initiatives



Lessons from COVID-19



Freight mobility at your doorstep: package delivery goes big (and small)

- Freight industry literally delivered during pandemic
- Consumers shift to online shopping accelerated by COVID-19
- Much of the traffic in neighborhoods is package delivery
- Local businesses are jumping in – groceries, restaurants, retail stores, even car dealerships
- What is the public interest in freight door to door?
- What and where should public investment be?
- What role can e-cargo bike delivery play in the future?



Lessons from COVID-19

Traffic is down, crashes are not: a case for automated enforcement

- Traffic is down 45 percent on average
- Crash rates have gone up
 - A significant number of drivers exceeding speed limits, some at speeds approaching 200 mph
 - Endangering themselves and others
 - Fatality rates jumped 14% nationwide in March*
- We have the technology to enforce speed limits and other laws
- Develop enforcement strategy with safety, law enforcement, civil rights, social equity stakeholders



*National Safety Council preliminary estimate

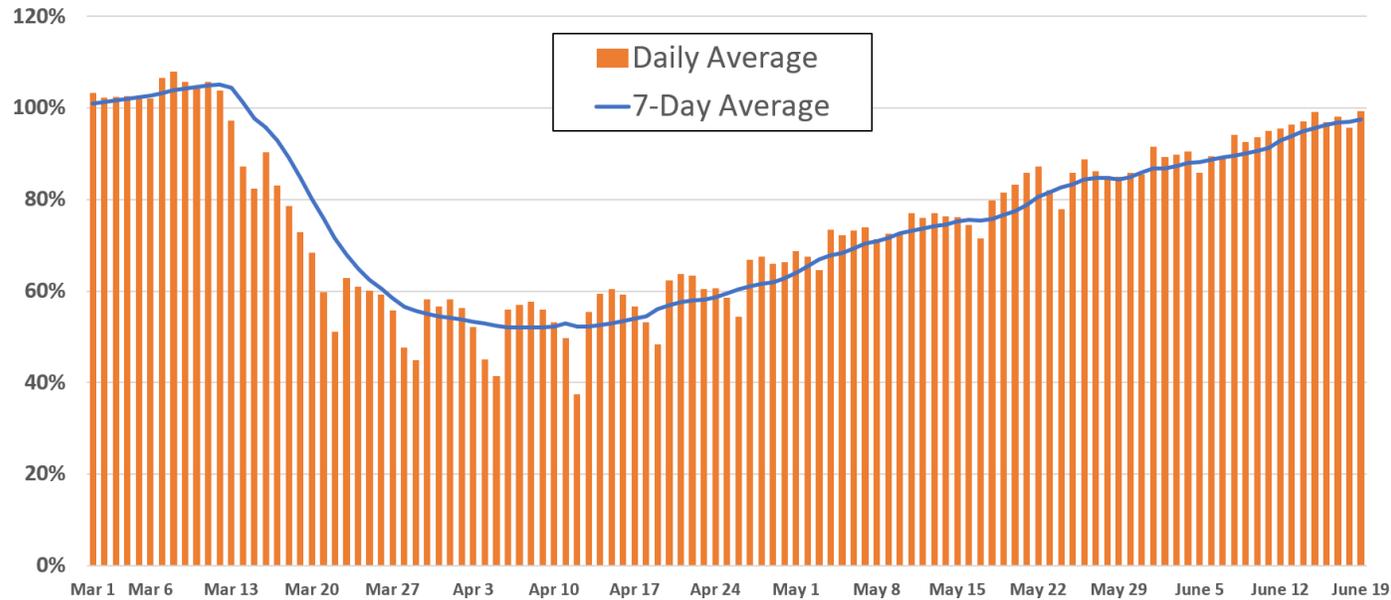
Lessons from COVID-19

Zooming in and out: telecommunity as the “new normal”

- Suddenly forced to use technology we’ve had for a long time
 - Success is driving new thinking on worker expectations and office space requirements
 - Some will want to go back to the office, many won’t
- Helps manage demand without adding roadway capacity – flattens the peak hour
- Telecommunity – A society in which information can be transmitted or received freely between all members without technical incompatibilities
 - Investment to support telecommunity and making the opportunity more equitable – significant economic, social, environmental benefits
 - Fully ADA-accessible conferencing systems are needed and should be adopted as the industry standard



Relative Level of Nationwide Passenger Vehicle Travel
(100% on February 29, 2020)



Traffic Counts and Studies in a Pandemic

What are you going to do?

- Data Sources, Types and Studies
- Ethics
- Policies
- Timing of the “new normal”
- Forecasting
- Trip Generation

Look for Task Force information in July



Flexibility & Nimbleness in a Pandemic

- The rapidly changing workplace creates challenges, stress, and uncertainty for team members, partners, and clients.
- Being flexible and nimble - including experimenting with new tools / techniques - helps manage uncertainty.

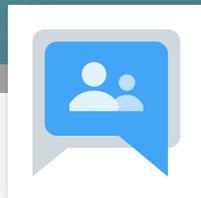
1

Maintain frequent and meaningful communication, emphasizing transparency and accountability.



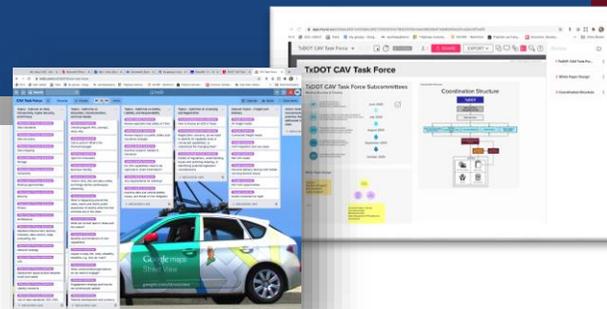
2

Establish teams with members who can step in to lead efforts in a rapidly changing workplace environment.



3

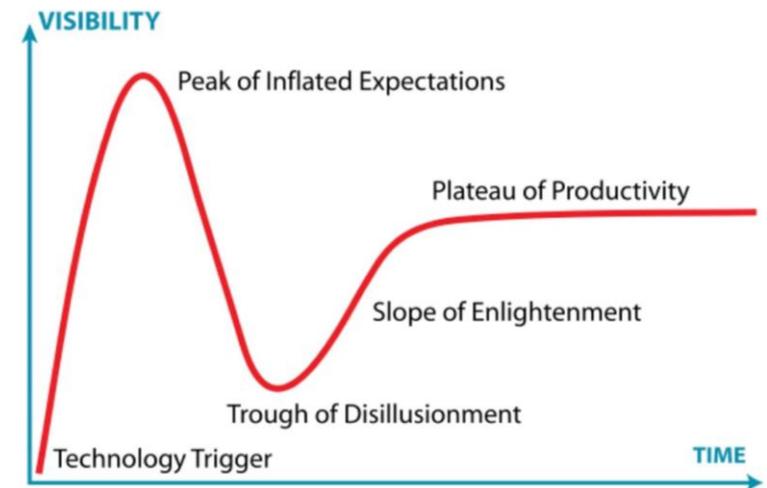
Utilize collaboration tools for internal coordination and external activities to help mitigate



4

Encourage flexibility and empower team members to achieve results.

Rapid Adoption, Change and Fatigue



Work from home
On-line
Permitting
Open Streets

Rapid Decisions
Risk
Management

Problem
Identification
Regression