

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Bicycle in Tunnel Warning System

Overall goal:	To increase the bicyclists' perception of safety while travelling through tunnels.
Technical approach:	Prior to the entrance to a tunnel the shoulder was widened sufficiently to allow bicyclists to pull off the road safely and activate a push-button that triggered flashing beacons on a fixed message sign further upstream of the tunnel entrance. The sign reads "PEDS / BICYCLES IN TUNNEL WHEN FLASHING". The flashing beacons operate for a period sufficient for the bicyclist to pass through the tunnel before timing out.
Current status:	The system has operated since its installation in 1979.
Location / geographic scope:	This system is installed at a tunnel on Highway 971 in Washington State near the city of Chelan.
Agencies involved:	The system was installed and funded by the North-Central region of Washington State DOT.
Cost information:	The system cost \$5,000 to build and install in 1979. These costs were relatively low as a power supply was already in place to provide lighting on the tunnel. Had this not been the case, installation costs would have been significantly higher.
Key contacts:	Janine Ring, North-Central Region, Washington State DOT. (509) 663-9638
Have goals been achieved?	No information has been gathered on accidents involving bicycles in the tunnel either before or after the system was installed. It is believed that no serious accidents took place prior to the system being installed; rather the system was put into place in response to reports of bicyclists feeling unsafe



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Solution timeline:

in the tunnel environment.

Fully installed since 1979. No plans exist for installing the system elsewhere in the area.

