ARKANSAS CLEAN CITIES NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

ARKANSAS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

REVOLUTIONIZING URBAN TRANSPORTATION

EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF EV MICRO MOBILITY PROJECTS

Electric Vehicles Micro Mobility (EVMM) projects are transforming how cities approach public transportation. These projects involve the implementation of electric vehicles (EVs) for short-distance travel, with a focus on addressing the "Last Mile" problem—closing the gap between transportation hubs and final destinations. These projects encourage the use of low—no emissions public transportation and bridge the gap from transit hubs to destinations.

EVMM projects offer various sustainable transportation options, including e-scooters, e-bicycles, and EV ride-sharing services. E-scooters have gained popularity globally, while e-bicycles combine the convenience of traditional bikes with electric assistance. EV ride-sharing services enable users to book electric-powered vehicles for short trips within a defined service area. Embracing these projects empowers cities to promote sustainable transportation choices and cultivate healthier environments for residents.

The main advantage of EVMM projects is their contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. These projects replace traditional gasoline-powered vehicles with electric alternatives. Moreover, they help alleviate traffic congestion and improve traffic flow, particularly in densely populated urban areas. They offer a more inclusive and equitable transportation system by offering affordable transportation and catering to a wide range of users through rental programs and sharing platforms.

Micro-mobility implementation on modern roads and sidewalks can have challenges. Historically, as cars increased in size and speed, cities widened their streets, often at the expense of sidewalk space. And these shrinking sidewalks tend to serve multiple uses beyond pedestrian traffic including outdoor seating, retail space, signage, streetlights, etc. This already crowded pedestrian space may become even more precarious with the addition of e-scooters left haphazardly in the walkways. Users often do not have the proper training or safety equipment recommended for these short trips which may lead to injuries and property damage. Considering these factors, the success of EVMM projects relies on cities allocating sufficient space and regulation to them. Planners can implement "complete streets" designs that prioritize room for protected bus bulbs, wider sidewalks, street-level plazas, and buffered bike lanes.

Despite these challenges, EVMM projects continue to evolve and expand in response to the growing demand for sustainable, affordable, and efficient urban transportation. Embracing these initiatives may lead to decreased emissions, enhanced mobility, and more livable environments for urban residents.

NEWS & EVENTS

GREEN TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT AND EXPO

AUG. 22- 24 | TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Register at: **www.gtsummitexpo.com/event-details**

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This newsletter is a monthly feature of the Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition whose focus is alternative fuels and vehicles, advanced technology, efficient vehicles, greater use of mass transit systems, trip elimination measures, and other congestion mitigation approaches.