

Student name: Nishita Sinha

Academic level: Doctoral Program; Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

Impact Statement:

As a PhD student with a specialization in Environmental and Resource Economics, I was looking for research opportunities that focused on alternative transportation modes. This project has been a perfect fit and has helped me understand the need for understanding the day-to-day challenges faced by pedestrians and pedal cyclists. Safety risk is an integral part of these challenges. Contributing to the project by advancing the assessment of relative risk by using injury data from health records is a big step in accurately assessing safety risk for pedestrians and pedal cyclists. This project is a unique combination of methodological advancement as well as a program implementation. Working on the project as a student before and now as a Co-PI has augmented my skillset in multiple ways including health data analysis and better understanding of relative risk estimates.

Student name: Macson Ogieriakhi

Academic level: Doctoral Program; Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

Impact Statement:

My PhD program requires submission of a dissertation which involves writing research proposals, literature reviews, and discussion of results. Participating in the SAFE-D project has given me first hand experience in applying the principles of research writing to my dissertation. It has also given me the opportunity to learn and collaborate with others and work as a team for mutually beneficial outcomes. Thanks to the SAFE-D project, now I am a better reader, a better writer, a better collaborator, a better team player, and a better researcher.

Student name: Cat Woodson

Academic level: Masters Urban and Regional Planning; Department of Sustainable Transportation, Virginia Tech University

Impact Statement:

My master's program primarily involved elements of planning, however I was able to explore varying concentrations including transportation planning and policy, economic development, and disaster reliance and risk management. This project gave me a real-world opportunity to work with interdisciplinary fields and research, namely with the public health sector. I appreciate the hands-on opportunity to apply my insight and knowledge of [alternative] transportation. From this project, I gained technical knowledge, conducted more qualitative research, and have a better understanding of and appreciation for those in the public health sector. These skills and more were immediately applied to coursework throughout my graduate studies and my work with the university. I have been able to highlight these skills during job interviews as I continue on

to the next adventure of my career. It has truly been a pleasure working with and learning from such an incredible team.

Student name: Dominique Villani

Academic level: Masters Student in Public Health; Department of Population Sciences, Virginia Tech University

Impact Statement:

As a public health graduate student, the SAFE-D project provided an opportunity and challenge to apply theoretical coursework. Through the "Using Health Behavior Theory and Relative Risk Information to Increase and Inform Use of Alternative Transportation" project, I was able to integrate foundational public health knowledge in health education, health behavior theory, environmental health, and public communications during the development and delivery of the project's health education program. It was a rewarding experience to be a part of an initiative that may improve the health and safety of the Virginia Tech community.

Student name: Samantha Edwards

Academic level: Undergraduate and Masters Student in Public Health; Department of Population Sciences, Virginia Tech University

Impact Statement:

The SAFE-D project was an amazing opportunity to learn how public health research functions outside the classroom. The project's data collection and qualitative analysis portions occurred during the last year of my undergraduate degree. These experiences before entering my graduate program were valuable as we discussed various research methods and real-world applications in the classroom. More specifically, I came away from this project with a more in-depth understanding of conducting focus groups/interviews, coding, identifying themes, and writing reports, which are valuable to my future endeavors.