**FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation University Course**

**Module: 18 – Temporary Facilities and Maintenance**

**Assignment: Tactical Urbanism Project**

*This assignment and description were originally created by Dr. Wesley Marshall of the University of Colorado Denver and Dr. Kari Watkins of the Georgia Institute of Technology.*

*Notes:*

* *The suggested deliverable is a TRB-style paper and 15-minute lectern session. Adjust the deliverable to meet the goals of your course. The enclosed example of a student project shows how the deliverable could be an opportunity for students to practice using a graphic design software to craft their final report.*
* *Encourage students to think creatively about materials, investigate issues of liability, establish a point of contact with the agency that owns the site of the proposed project, and budget time to acquire materials, collect “pre” data, construct their project, and collect “post” data.*
* *Helpful resources for students:*
  + *Tactical Urbanist’s Guide to materials and Design, Version 1.0:* [*http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/guides/tactical-urbanists-guide-to-materials-and-design/*](http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/guides/tactical-urbanists-guide-to-materials-and-design/)
  + *Lydon, M., & Garcia, A. (2015).* Tactical urbanism*. Island Press, Washington, DC.*

**PROMPT**

While the current incarnation of what is generally known as tactical urbanism sprouted from the first Park(ing) Day in San Francisco in 1995, the movement can trace its roots as far back as 16th century Paris with the pop-up book vendors along the Seine and later the Play Streets of New York and London from the first half of the twentieth century. The key concept behind tactical urbanism is the idea that temporary interventions can help garner an understanding of what interventions might work in a context and lay the foundation for more permanent ones.

Tactical urbanism can also resolve what Dr. Wes Marshall calls “knowledge controversies” that arise between traffic engineers, urban planners, politicians, business owners, and the general public. Cities certainly have competing interest groups, and urbanism is not immune to disagreements between these different stakeholders. The collective experimentation of tactical urbanism is a suitable response for critically assessing uncertainty and helping resolve these knowledge controversies.

**PROCESS**

Your task is to design and conduct your own tactical urbanism experiment. Your project must draw on what you have learned about complete streets and apply that knowledge in **[city or area chosen by instructor]** using a *legal* intervention with measurable impacts. For the project, you will work in groups of 2 - 3 people. Each team will be required to submit a single paper in TRB format and make an in-class presentation summarizing their paper.

You will use a scientific approach:

1. Ask an interesting question
2. Conduct background research
3. Formulate a hypothesis
4. Test your tactical urbanism experiment
5. Gather data and test your predictions
6. Draw conclusions

While tactical urbanism often means painting an unsanctioned crosswalk in the middle of the night, our goal here is to find an idea that breaks convention but is also legal. For instance, the original **Park(ing) day** installation simply exploited a loophole in the system. If they paid for that parking space, nowhere did it say that they couldn’t use that space as a park. The ability for **Build a Better Block** to reallocate street space from cars to other uses stemmed from a typical special event permit. A more recent example is the current **ParkMobile** concept, which repurposes a dumpster into a parklet with seating and plantings. This intervention takes advantage of a law that allows dumpsters to take up a parking space up to six months. Another successful tactical urbanism strategy has been to consider existing and approved, but unimplemented, planning documents. So while coming up with an interesting question is important, the background research you undertake is equally important in presenting an idea that is truly tactical with an eye toward long-term change.

**DELIVERABLES**

***Paper***

Your paper should include the following sections:

* **Introduction** (introduce your research question and show why it is important by connecting it to potential for long-term change and the broader themes of the class);
* **Background or Theory section** (or literature review to help give context to tactical urbanism and your study; it may include existing unimplemented plans);
* **Hypotheses section** (given all that you learned in your research of this issue, explain why you made the aforementioned predictions);
* **Methods** (include procedures and how you collected the data);
* **Data & Results;**
* **Discussion** (be sure to connect your data and results with the bigger picture themes); &
* **Conclusions**.

TRB has a detailed guide for preparing manuscripts for submission for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting that is held every January in Washington, DC. You should follow this format. Some important requirements are as followed:

* **Overall Length:** The length of each paper - including the abstract and references - may not exceed 7,500 words. Each table, figure, or photograph accompanying the text counts as 250 words. For example, if two figures and three tables are submitted, the text may be no more than 6,250 words.
* **Cover Page:** The names, current affiliations, complete mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all authors must be listed on the title page. The list should be a single column. The total word count should also be on the cover page.
* **Abstract:** Each paper must have an abstract. The abstract must be no longer than 250 words, it must be self-contained, and it must not require reference to the paper to be understood.
* **Page Setup:** The font should be Times New Roman, and no smaller than 10 points. Page numbers should be inserted at upper right of each page; insert name(s) of author(s) at upper left of each page. Text should be single-spaced. Each new paragraph should be indented.
* **Tables & Figures:** Tables and figures should be embedded in the body of the report.
* **References**: The reference list should contain only references that are cited in the text, numbered in the order in which they are first cited. Denote a reference at the appropriate place in the text with an italicized Arabic numeral in parentheses, e.g., (2). Do not denote text references with superscripts.

Please review the detailed instructions at the following link: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/AM/InfoForAuthors.pdf>

Additional work that is relevant but supplemental to your TRB-formatted paper should be attached as an appendix.

***Presentation***

The presentations will be conducted in “Lectern Sessions” that follow TRB format. Presentations may be up to ***15 minutes in length***, and presenters will be provided with a 5-minute and 1-minute warning. Presentations will be followed by a brief question and answer session that will be moderated by the instructor.

Tips for TRB Presentations can be found at the following link: <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/am/2018/AVAids.pdf>

**Remember: You must keep your treatment installation safe and legal!**