

UC Berkeley

SafeTREC Webinars

Title

Teens, Technology, and Transportation: An exploration of the digital lives of high schoolers

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5g24r9x6>

Author

Lee, Brian H.Y.

Publication Date

2013-07-02

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5g24r9x6#supplemental>

To download the MP3 file with the webinar recording click "supporting material" in the lower left navigation bar.

SAFETREC-UCTC FRIDAY BROWNBAG RESEARCH SEMINAR/WEBINAR

"Teens, Technology, and Transportation: An exploration of the digital lives of high schoolers" noon-1 p.m., Friday, April 5, 2013



Presented by Brian H. Y. Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Vermont (UVM)

In the face of increasing sprawl and car-dependence in US metropolitan areas, young people – especially teens in middle-class suburbs – may be experiencing new mobilities generated by their near-universal adoption of cell phones and increasing access to private automobiles. The growth in the adoption of hand-held mobile devices that can be used for communication and information may enhance accessibility and independent mobility for

certain segments of the youth population, especially those in higher socio-economic status households. In a project with teens in two high schools in Chittenden County, Vermont, we used a mix of methods to explore the rapid changes in teens' lives fostered by tools such as cell phones, texting, mobile internet access, and various forms of messaging. In this study, we find that millennial teens use digital devices to construct new intersections between communication, information, and transportation. By also actively employing these devices in our research, we are using novel methods for understanding the "digital lives" of teens, which represent a mix of traditional analog techniques and exploratory digital methodologies. In this presentation we examine issues including how often and in what ways high school students use advanced electronic communication tools to arrange transportation, what travel needs are being met and modes used, and how social processes contextualize the use of digital tools for mobility. We conclude by reflecting on how the daily lives of these teens may serve as a harbinger of emerging intersections of mobility, communication, and place.

This research was performed in collaboration with Meghan S. Cope, Professor and Chair of Geography, also at UVM

Lee is an Assistant Professor at the University of Vermont (UVM) with a primary appointment in the School of Engineering and secondary appointments in the UVM Transportation Research Center and the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics. His research interests include information and communication technologies (ICT) in transportation, relationships between travel behavior and the built environment, walking and bicycling activities, and transportation safety.

Register to here to hear the seminar and see the slides.

2nd Floor conference room at SafeTREC, **2614 Dwight Way #7374, Berkeley, CA 94720-7374** (map)

Photo credit: Matt Bird 2011 (mattbird.net).

COPYRIGHT 2013 UC REGENTS

FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM WAS PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY, THROUGH THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.