

Human Environment Digest

July 9, 2020

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment biweekly email digest. This digest shares the latest information from a range of Federal and non-Federal sources, addressing transportation and its relationship to the human environment. Through this information exchange, FHWA hopes to foster dialogue at all levels and continue to further the state of the practice on these important topics in support of safety; infrastructure, including accelerated project delivery, access to jobs, and community revitalization; technology and design innovation; and accountability, including, data-driven decisions and performance-based planning.

For more information on any of these topics, see the FHWA Related Links on the sidebar.

Click [here](#) to manage your subscriptions.

*The information provided in this mailing does not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Highway Administration or the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Safety

PBIC Information Brief Analyzes Safety-Based Prioritization for Youth Pedestrian Travel Planning

The *Pedestrian Bicycle and Information Center* published an [information brief](#) discussing a process for examining high risk locations for youth pedestrian crashes. The information brief builds on the "[Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis Research Report](#)" from the *National Cooperative Highway Research Program*, and describes a systemic approach for collecting data and analyzing risk factors for youth pedestrian crashes. It outlines best practices in proactive, safety-based planning to support the safe travel of youth, families, and other community members.

Research Examines Micromobility Crash Characteristics

A [study](#) published in the *Accident Analysis & Prevention Journal* examined crash characteristics of dockless electric scooters (e-scooters) using news media reports between 2017 and 2019. Researchers conducted a quantitative analysis to better understand the patterns of crashes and crash risk associated with e-scooters, analyzing elements including rider demographics, crash type, and location. The findings suggest that crash outcomes vary based on riding environments. The study also highlights key issues related to helmet use, riding under the influence, vulnerable users such as children and older adults, and exposure data needs.

Webinar Discusses Tribal Transportation Planning and Pedestrian safety

A national transportation advocacy group hosted a webinar discussing Tribal transportation planning and pedestrian safety. It provides an overview of pedestrian fatalities among Tribal communities, outlining common challenges, potential solutions, and case studies involving Tribal, State, and Federal governments. The webinar recording is [now available](#).



Infrastructure

Report Analyzes Pedestrian Crosswalk Development

The *Minnesota Department of Transportation* published a [report](#) analyzing the development of pedestrian crosswalks in order to help local agencies improve consistency and pedestrian safety. Researchers surveyed local agencies in Minnesota on their policies and practices for marking and managing crosswalks, identifying a set of 12 countermeasures to improve pedestrian safety. As part of the study, researchers developed countermeasure fact sheets and a quick-reference guide based on the *Federal Highway Administration* "[Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations](#)".

Research Examines User-Rated Comfort and Preference of Separated Bicycle Lane Intersection Designs

The *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* published a [research article](#) surveying bicyclists and their perceived level of comfort and preference of separated bicycle facilities. Researchers collected data at various locations in Colorado, Oregon, Maryland, Minnesota, Utah, and Washington to determine the types of bicycle facilities and intersection designs that users prefer. The findings suggest that separated bicycle lanes,

protected intersections, and bicycle signals provide users with the most comfort as compared to designs that direct motor vehicles and bicyclists into shared spaces, which users note provide the least comfort.



Innovation

BTS Launches Interactive Map of Docked Bicycle Share Ridership During COVID-19

The *U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics* (BTS) launched an [interactive map](#) visualizing the [ridership levels of docked bicycle share systems during COVID-19](#). The map builds on the previous [BTS interactive map of bicycle share and electric scooter systems](#), featuring monthly and trip-level data to better understand the impacts of travel behavior. The map includes ridership data for 12 docked bicycle share systems across the country. It allows users to compare trips in 2020 to 2019 and examine how the spatial distribution of trips have changed due to local stay-at-home orders.

Policy Brief Discusses E-Bicycle Influence on Local Travel Behavior

The *Institute of Transportation Studies* at the *University of California, Davis* released a [policy brief](#) discussing the role of electric bicycle share systems in the Sacramento region. The study analyzes the impacts of dockless bicycle share services on individual travel behavior, including influence on motor vehicle trips and transit use. Researchers surveyed residents before and after the implementation of a dockless electric bicycle share program. The findings suggest that the service is reducing vehicle trips, and that attitudes towards bicycling were more favorable following program implementation.

Research Examines E-Scooter Policies and Regulations

The *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* published a [research article](#) examining electric scooter (e-scooter) policies from 10 mid-sized peer cities with dockless e-scooter programs. The study aimed to better understand the current state of e-scooter systems by comparing local policies and regulation through the perspectives of cities, operators, and users. Researchers analyzed the policies across 12 elements such as fleet size and limits, speed limit, equity, parking, and data sharing. The findings highlight common e-scooter policy measures including device removal, safety, speed limit, and performance bonds.

Online Tool Analyzes Potential Impacts of Electric Vehicle Incentive Programs

The *Transportation Research and Education Center* at *Portland State University* launched an [online tool](#) visualizing the potential impacts of electric vehicle (EV) incentive programs. The tool estimates the cost efficiency of a proposed EV program and enables policymakers, public stakeholders, and advocates to quickly visualize the potential outcomes of an EV incentive program made up of several vehicle types. Researchers also released an [Oregon case study](#) using the tool.

FHWA Offers Webinar on Emerging Mobility and Transportation Demand Management

The *Federal Highway Administration Office of Operations* is offering a [free webinar on July 23 at 11:00 AM ET](#) to discuss the integration of emerging mobility and transportation demand management (TDM). The webinar will discuss how resort towns and communities have implemented strategies to advance TDM, meet visitor travel expectations, and reduce single-occupant vehicle travel.



Accountability

FHWA Offers Web-Based Training Course on Fundamentals of Environmental Justice

The *Federal Highway Administration* is offering a free web-based training course on the [Fundamentals of Environmental Justice](#) (EJ) through the *National Highway Institute*. This five-hour course explains how EJ applies to each stage of transportation planning and decision making. The course covers principles related to EJ considerations in environmental review and design, as well as during right-of-way coordination, construction, operations, and maintenance. It presents a variety of strategies and resources for considering EJ throughout the transportation decision-making process.

Report Analyzes State Practices and Policies Related to Active Transportation and Physical Activity

A national transportation advocacy group released a [report](#) analyzing the current practice of active transportation initiatives across the country. The research includes mapping visualizations, fact sheets, and State report cards summarizing initiatives that support walking, bicycling, and physical activity for children and adults. It examines policies and funding programs related to complete streets, safe routes, active neighborhoods and schools, as well as Federal and State active transportation funding. Researchers are hosting a [free webinar on July 9 at 2:00 PM ET](#) to discuss the report.