

## Human Environment Digest

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June 25, 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.

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\*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

#### U.S. DOT Hosting Virtual Summit on Pedestrian Safety

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* is hosting a [virtual summit on pedestrian safety](#) through a series of webinars during the month of July. The summit will provide a platform to engage in and learn about pedestrian safety issues and priorities, including related initiatives, resources, and actions. It will also include remarks from *Federal Highway Administration* Administrator Nicole R. Nason and *National Highway Traffic Administration* Deputy Administrator James C. Owens, in addition to other guest speakers from leading transportation safety organizations. The webinar series is free and will include three parts. [Registration is now open](#) and attendees must register for each webinar separately.

#### TRB Publishes Guide to Improve Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety at Intersections

The *Transportation Research Board National Cooperative Highway Research Program* published [a guide](#) discussing countermeasures that improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at intersections. It also highlights the importance of following a proactive, systemic approach to identify attributes that lead to a higher risk of crashes at intersections, such as land use, traffic volume and speed, street lighting, and more. The guide outlines a process for countermeasure selection, helping practitioners to identify safety issues, evaluate priorities, and choose appropriate countermeasures to meet safety goals.

#### ITE Article Discusses Road to Zero Coalition and Importance of Safe System Approach

The *Institute of Transportation Engineers Journal* released an [article](#) discussing the [Road to Zero Coalition](#), as well as the safe system framework to reach zero roadway deaths in the country by 2050. The article explains that the safe system approach prioritizes improvements to roadway design and operations, shared responsibility for transportation safety, and roadway protection for users of all abilities. It analyzes approaches to reducing human error during crash events such as installing separated bicycle lanes, and notes the importance of planning and designing infrastructure systems to reduce crashes and the severity of injuries.

#### Fact Sheets Highlight Policies and Data Needs to Support Safe Routes to Parks

A national transportation advocacy group published two fact sheets outlining opportunities to enhance safe routes to parks, including [data sources and methods](#) needed to identify community priorities, as well as [policies to support safe routes to parks](#) through walking, bicycling, and access to public transportation. The fact sheets outline approaches to accessing, collecting, and sharing data in order to identify action items and needed improvements. They also provide example initiatives that improve access to parks, such as establishing ordinances for safe park zones or installing lower speed limit signs around a park.



### Infrastructure

#### Research Examines Effects of Bicycle Traffic on Motorized Traffic Speed Along Roadways without Bicycle Lanes

The *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* published a [research article](#) analyzing whether the presence of bicyclists on roadways without bicycle lanes slows down motorized vehicle speeds. The study explains that motorized vehicles may be forced to reduce their speed when approaching bicyclists from behind to avoid crashes, which may contribute to congestion. Researchers conducted a comparative analysis of travel speeds of passenger vehicles along urban roads without bicycle lanes in Portland, Oregon, and assessed the interactions between vehicles and bicyclists to determine impacts on traffic flow. The findings indicate that bicyclists reduce passenger car speeds up to 1 mile per hour at most locations and do not negatively impact traffic flow, supporting the concept of shared-use roads within bicycle networks.

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## Innovation

### U.S. DOT Releases the Complete Trip – ITS4US Deployment Program Broad Agency Announcement

The U.S. Department of Transportation has posted the [Broad Agency Announcement](#) for the [Complete Trip - ITS4US Deployment Program](#) funding opportunity, which aims to solve mobility challenges for all travelers accessing employment, education, healthcare, and other activities, regardless of location, income, or disability. Supported by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Highway Administration, the program will make up to \$40 million available for large scale, replicable, real-world deployments of integrated innovative technologies that address the challenges of planning and executing complete trips. The program website includes [past webinar recordings](#), a [program overview fact sheet](#), and [Complete Trip - ITS4US frequently asked questions](#). Proposals are due on August 3, 2020.

### Research Examines Impact of Emerging Mobility Pilot Projects on Transportation System

The *Urbanism Next Center* at the *University of Oregon* published a [study](#) examining pilot projects in the United States and Canada that involve new mobility services in order to better understand how emerging mobility and e-commerce services impact the transportation system. Researchers analyzed a series of new mobility pilot projects by mode, including the mobility of people through micromobility services such as shared bicycles and electric scooters, transportation network companies, microtransit, and automated vehicles. The study outlines key findings and lessons learned from the various pilot projects related to project development, implementation, and evaluation. Also highlighted is the potential for new mobility and urban delivery services to transform transportation behaviors and the related effects on equity, health, safety, environment, and the economy.

### Research Analyzes Effects of Emerging Mobility on Local Governments

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* at the *University of Oregon* published a [study](#) analyzing the effects of emerging mobility services on local governments. The research examines how innovative transportation technologies, such as electric scooters and bicycle share, influence urban form and development, land use, street design, parking, housing, equity, and municipal finance. It also outlines tools and best practices to assist local governments with managing the deployment of emerging mobility in the built environment, as well as recommendations to support local policy.

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## Accountability

### FHWA Offers Web-Based Training Course on Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Programming

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) is offering a free [Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Programming web-based training course](#) through the *National Highway Institute*. This three-hour introductory-level training helps transportation practitioners learn about processes and requirements for developing and implementing metropolitan transportation improvement programs (TIPs) and Statewide transportation improvement programs (STIPs). It also highlights FHWA's and the Federal Transit Administration's requirements for Statewide, non-metropolitan, and metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. The course covers elements of the decision-making process related to TIPs and STIPs, including public involvement, financial planning, performance-based planning, and connections between long-range transportation planning and project prioritization.

### AASHTO Hosting Environmental Justice Peer Exchange

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) is hosting an [Environmental Justice Virtual Peer Exchange](#) on July 10. Offered by the Center for Environmental Excellence at AASHTO and in partnership with the *Federal Highway Administration* and *Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations*, the peer exchange will provide an opportunity for transportation practitioners to learn about Federal, State, and regional resources on environmental justice, planning and environment linkages (PEL), and health in transportation. The two-hour virtual meeting will be broken up into two panel discussions, including one focused on the connection between health and transportation and the other on PEL. [Registration is now open](#).

### Report Highlights Quality of Life Priorities

A national foundation and research organization recently released a [report](#) and [interactive website](#) highlighting quality of life priorities that attach people to where they live. Researchers surveyed over 11,000 people in urbanized and metropolitan areas across the country to better understand the amenity types that people find the most important to their quality of life. The findings indicate that access to recreational areas and safe places to work and play are critical to

residential livelihood, including roadway infrastructure, access to public transportation, and availability of alternative transportation modes.

### **Webinar Discusses Relationship Between Walkability and Public Health**

A national transportation advocacy group hosted a webinar on the connections between walkability and public health. It outlines a series of street design tools and techniques to help improve built environment conditions, such as community walk audits. The webinar also discusses concepts that support active transportation including mixed land use, network connectivity, functional site design, and safety and access for all users. The webinar recording is [now available](#).