

## Human Environment Digest

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**May 28, 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.

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### Safety

#### **National Center for Mobility Management Launches 2020 Community Mobility Design Challenge**

The *National Center for Mobility Management* is currently accepting applications as part of its [2020 Community Mobility Design Challenge](#), which will fund mobility solutions that address transportation barriers in communities. Supported by the *Federal Transit Administration*, the funding opportunity will award four communities with grants of up to \$25,000 each to develop innovative approaches that support personal wellbeing and safety by increasing access to physical activity, recreational resources, healthy foods, economic opportunity, and community and peer support services. The program website includes a [webinar recording](#) that provides an overview of the application process and the primary research requirements. Applications are due July 6, 2020.

#### **Research Analyzes Speed Limits and Opportunities to Improve Safety**

The *Institute of Transportation Studies* at the *University of California* released a [research synthesis](#) analyzing the current practice for setting speed limits and key interventions to improve roadway safety for all users. The synthesis addresses critical issues related to traffic speed and safety, and provides a list of opportunities to increase road user safety, such as road and vehicle design improvements, infrastructure-based emerging technologies, and pedestrian-focused efforts to support vulnerable road users.

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### Infrastructure

#### **National Scenic Byways FY2020 Nominations Due June 15**

The [National Scenic Byways Program](#) fiscal year 2020 nominations for designation to America's Byways® are due on June 15, 2020. All nomination applications must be completed online and submitted electronically through the [Byway Nomination Form](#). The *Federal Highway Administration's* National Scenic Byways Program recognizes roads throughout the United States that have outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and archaeological intrinsic qualities. America's Byways® is the umbrella term used for the collection of 150 distinct and diverse roads designated as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

#### **FHWA Offers Web-Based Training Course on Bicycle Facility Design**

The *Federal Highway Administration* is offering a free [Bicycle Facility Design](#) web-based training course through the *National Highway Institute*. This eight-hour training helps transportation practitioners learn to implement high-quality, safe, multimodal projects by efficiently and effectively delivering critical planning and design information. The course covers principles of bicyclist safety, comfort, connectivity, selection of bikeway type and associated design considerations, and national planning and design resources.

#### **Report Highlights Congestion-Based Principles to Improve Sustainability and Equity Goals**

The *Eno Center for Transportation* released a [report](#) discussing congestion-based principles to advance sustainability and equity goals, outlining pricing programs to help reduce traffic in U.S. cities. The report covers findings from interviews

with stakeholders and analysis of emerging best practices to inform policy development. It highlights examples of international cities that implemented the initiatives and saw positive outcomes related to emissions reductions, improved safety, and increased access to public services, employment, and schools. Researchers are hosting a [free webinar on May 28 at 2:00-2:30 PM ET](#) to discuss the report.

## APA Report Discusses Site Design Guidelines to Support Human-Scale Transport Networks

The *American Planning Association Transportation Planning Division* released its "[State of Transportation Planning 2020](#)" report, which includes a chapter on [retrofitting site design guidelines to support human-scale transport networks](#), allowing pedestrians and motorists to safely share operating spaces. The chapter emphasizes the importance of designing infrastructure to better support mobility and accessibility for people with disabilities. It also highlights the need to link site planning elements with transportation planning, and offers recommendations for improving zoning regulations, building codes, and other site-level characteristics to enhance mobility goals.

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## Innovation

### U.S. DOT Seeks Comments on Draft Broad Agency Announcement for Complete Trip - ITS4US Deployment Program

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* is seeking comments on the [draft Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#), as part of 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](#). The draft BAA provides a preview of the anticipated procurement and the comment period closes on June 13, 2020.

### Learning Module Discusses the Importance of Electric Scootersharing

The *Shared-Use Mobility Center* released a [learning module](#) highlighting the importance of electric scooter (e-scooter) sharing through examples of policies and projects across the country. The module examines e-scooter sharing concepts and outlines key issues related to equity, safety, and environmental impact. It also analyzes e-scooter policies that have evolved from emergency regulations to official ordinances and operating permits allowing e-scooter as a mobility option. The module explains that shared mobility options can provide first/last-mile connections and address other travel barriers especially when supported by policies and adequate infrastructure.

### Reports Highlight Best Practices for Data Terminology Governance for Shared Micromobility Systems

The *Mobility Data Collaborative* released two [reports](#) examining the critical role that mobility data plays in local planning and decisionmaking processes. The reports focus on mobility data frameworks for shared micromobility devices such as electric scooters, electrical bicycles, and self-balancing scooters. The "Data Sharing Glossary and Metrics for Shared Micromobility" report provides a consensus-based set of definitions and performance metrics to improve analyses of these emerging modes. The "Guidelines for Mobility Data Sharing Governance and Contracting" report addresses related issues such as data privacy and ownership, and outlines best practices to mitigate risks and maximize opportunities for mobility data sharing.

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## Accountability

### Report Examines Impacts of Transit-Oriented Development on Local Travel Behavior

The *Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University* released a [study](#) analyzing the impacts of transit-oriented developments (TODs) on the travel behaviors of residents in Portland, Oregon. It covers findings from 15 years of surveys and research to assess whether living in a TOD affects changes in travel patterns over time, including the factors that influence walkability. The findings indicate that neighborhood features such as sidewalk presence and access to highways are important elements that enhance residential travel behaviors. Researchers are hosting a [free webinar on June 2 at 2:00-3:00 PM ET](#) to discuss the study results and the potential impacts of TOD on travel behavior.

### Report Analyzes Transportation Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Communities

A national transportation advocacy group recently released a [report](#) discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with the rural transportation network. It explains that rural communities provide a critical connection to the movement of goods and products across the country. It adds that many rural roads, highways, rails, and bridges lack adequate capacity to support growing freight travel, and thus need significant upgrades. The report identifies a series of challenges and opportunities related to rural transportation safety, infrastructure, connectivity, economic vitality, and funding.

### Webinar Highlights Strategies to Enhance Public Transit

A national transportation advocacy group recently hosted a [webinar](#) on public transit and strategies for effective bus service. It features presentations on how to leverage existing systems, and how to create or advocate for reliable,

affordable, and walkable transit networks that increase connectivity.