

Human Environment Digest

February 20, 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 Announces \$8.9 Million to Improve Safety on Tribal Lands

The *United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)* Secretary Elaine L. Chao recently [announced](#) \$8.9 million in grant awards to 80 Federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations for traffic safety improvements. The grant funding will support 91 projects aimed to improve road safety and accessibility including sidewalk and road repairs, and the development or update of transportation safety plans. Funded through the Federal Highway Administration [Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund](#), the initiative will help enhance safety and quality of life for Tribal communities.

Bicycle Ridership Increases in Downtown San Francisco, California with Multimodal Prioritization Project

San Francisco, California recently saw a 20 percent increase in bicycle ridership on Market Street following a new car ban on the downtown corridor. A recent [article](#) highlights [San Francisco's Better Market Street Project](#), which prohibits private vehicles from traveling on Market Street in order to prioritize access and safety for sustainable modes including transit, bicycles, and walking. The city launched the project as part of its [Vision Zero program](#), which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries by 2024.

New Research Analyzes E-Scooter Safety

A recent [article](#) published in *One Zero* summarizes existing research on electric scooter (e-scooter) safety. The article highlights research conducted in Washington, D.C., which found that e-scooter users share similar vulnerabilities to bicyclists. Also noted in the article was the importance of developing infrastructure designed to protect all vulnerable roadway users, thus promoting the safety of e-scooter users and bicyclists alike.



Infrastructure

TRB Publishes Guidebook on Impacts of Transformational Technologies on Land Use and Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program* published a [guidebook](#) on transformational technologies, examining their impacts on land use and transportation planning processes. The guidebook outlines examples of new transportation-related technologies including shared vehicles, autonomous vehicles, drones, and more. It also explores the potential impacts that these technologies have on government functions related to policy-making and project planning.

New Report Examines Gaps on Access to Opportunities For Environmental Justice Populations

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* recently published a [report](#) analyzing gaps in transportation services and infrastructure for environmental justice populations in North Central Texas. The report summarizes the impacts of the gaps on access to opportunities, and the infrastructure needed to enhance mobility and economic growth. It also highlights qualitative findings from focus group workshops with residents. The project team is hosting a [webinar on Monday, March 17 at 4:00 PM ET](#) to provide an overview of the study and discuss the results.



Innovation

TRB Publishes Guidebook on Economic Implications of Automated Vehicles and Shared Mobility

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* released a [publication](#) on the economic implications of automated vehicles and shared mobility. The report outlines the potential role of the public sector as these technologies advance to ensure their successful integration into the transportation system. It also summarizes a workshop held in July 2019 by the National Academies-TRB Forum on Preparing for Automated Vehicles and Shared Mobility.

City of Columbus, Ohio Launches Autonomous Shuttles in Residential Areas

The *City of Columbus, Ohio* recently became the first city in the country to launch autonomous shuttle service in a residential area. A recent [article](#) highlights Columbus Ohio's autonomous shuttle service, the [Linden LEAP](#), in the city's Linden neighborhood. The shuttle service, which is free for residents, connects community members to jobs, education, food resources, transit connections, and other amenities in order to improve quality of life.



Accountability

New Memorandum Explores The Role of Gender in Local Planning Processes

The *American Planning Association* published a Planning Advisory Service [memorandum](#) that discusses the role gender plays in planning projects and community building. The article explores gender mainstreaming, a policy-making strategy that considers the role of gender to address the interests and concerns of women. In addition, it also outlines the importance of designing built environments, public services, and amenities to the varying wants and needs of different genders.