

Human Environment Digest

February 6, 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 Initiative to Prevent Human Trafficking

The *United States Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT) Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking Initiative* is a collaborative effort between transportation and travel industry stakeholders working to prevent human trafficking in transportation systems. The *U.S.DOT's* Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking published a [report](#) in 2019 outlining Federal actions and best practices for States and local transportation stakeholders. The *U.S.DOT* Secretary Elaine L. Chao recently [announced](#) \$5.4 million in grant awards as part of the *Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Human Trafficking, Awareness and Public Safety Initiative*. The *FTA's* Initiative supports *U.S.DOT's* Initiative through transit-focused industry engagement, education, public awareness and outreach, research, and technical assistance.

Recent Information Briefs Discuss Tools for Youth Road Saety

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center*, with support from advocacy group *Vision Zero for Youth*, published two information briefs about local programming tools that help improve pedestrian safety. The first [information brief](#) discusses reducing vehicle speed through roadway design and operations changes that benefit youth walkers and bicyclists. It also describes lessons learned from youth-focused initiatives such as [Safe Routes to School](#). The second [information brief](#) highlights using local events as a tool to engage stakeholders and build community support. It also discusses events such as Walk or Bike to School Day as best practices for improving youth road safety.

New Research Analyzes the Dangers of Mobile Phone Use on Pedestrian Behavior

A recent [article](#) published in *Injury Prevention* analyzes the impacts of mobile phone use on pedestrian behavior. The article explains that texting by individuals walking and crossing streets is a leading driver behind distracted pedestrians and a major safety issue. The research highlights the importance of establishing a relationship between distracted pedestrian behavior and crash risk for future planning.

Recent Report Examines Pedestrian Safety on Roadways

A recent [report](#) from a national transportation advocacy group ranked States and metropolitan areas across the country based on how dangerous the roadways are for pedestrian travel. The report used data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System national database to develop a "Pedestrian Danger Index" which measures how deadly it is for people to walk based on the number of people struck and killed by drivers while walking.



Infrastructure

TRB Publishes Guidebook on Right-Sizing Transportation Investments

The *Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program* published a [guidebook](#) on right-sizing transportation investments to better support decision making. The guidebook outlines how to identify right-sizing opportunities in order to maximize existing transportation system assets including social and economic resources. It also highlights targeted tools and methods to support the integration of right-sizing decisions in order to meet future demand.



Innovation

U.S. DOT Releases Complete Trip – ITS4US Deployment Program Fact Sheet

The *United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)* published a [fact sheet](#) for the Complete Trip – ITS4US Deployment Program. The fact sheet outlines the Complete Trip concept along with the program's vision and goals. Individuals are encouraged to participate in the seven part [webinar series](#), which will offer useful information on deployment partnerships and planning, deployment scenario examples, the procurement path, and more.

U.S. DOT Publishes Guiding Principles for Automated Vehicle Technologies 4.0

The *United States Department of Transportation* published a [report](#) titled *Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies: Automated Vehicles (AV) 4.0*. The report establishes Federal principles for the development and integration of automated vehicles in the national transportation system, consisting of three focus areas: safety and security, innovation, and a consistent regulatory approach. The report also highlights collaborative efforts across Federal departments, independent agencies, and commissions to provide high-level guidance to State and local governments and all stakeholders on the U.S. government's approach to AVs.

13 Cities to Join Smart Cities Collaborative

Transportation for America [announced](#) 13 communities and municipal agencies that are participating in the 2020 [Smart Cities Collaborative](#) program. The year-long program provides public sector transportation leaders with the opportunity to engage with each other and collaborate on new mobility technologies and best practices that enhance quality of life. Over the course of the year, participants will work together to develop and implement pilot projects in curbside management and learn about managing new mobility services

Recently Published Report on the Future of the Last-Mile Delivery Ecosystem

The *World Economic Forum* published a [report](#) discussing the increased demand for e-commerce delivery and its implications on traffic congestion and delivery costs. It also includes 24 interventions for the public and private sectors to help mitigate and reduce these challenges by improving strategic planning to better manage traffic volume.



Accountability

New Evaluation Report on E-Scooter Pilot Program Impacts

The *City of Chicago* published an [evaluation](#) of Chicago's electric scooter (e-scooter) pilot program and its impacts on the local transportation system. The evaluation report includes utilization data to assess the performance of the pilot and highlights community outreach efforts that helped to educate the public about the program. It also describes the lessons learned and outlines policy recommendations for future e-scooter programs.

New Survey on Transportation Priorities for U.S. Cities

The *Boston University Initiative on Cities* published a [report](#) identifying key issues and priorities facing U.S. mayors. The report highlights infrastructure as the highest priority, particularly related to improving roadways, mass transit, and safety improvements for bicycles and pedestrians. The report also examines the positive impacts of [Opportunity Zones](#) in boosting local economies.