

## Human Environment Digest

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January 23, 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.

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### Safety

#### **New Paper on the Use of Data to Improve Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists**

The *Virginia Tech Transportation Institute* published a [paper](#) on the use of data mining to improve planning for pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The report uses data from a variety of sources including automated pedestrian and bicycle counters, video cameras, crash databases, and GPS applications, to inform pedestrian and bicyclist improvements. The results of the research will help planners and practitioners quantify the risk of bicycling and walking at intersections to prioritize high-risk locations for countermeasure implementation.

#### **Article Examines Injuries Associated with E-Scooter and E-Bicycle Use**

*Reuters* published an [article](#) analyzing a recent study, which examined injuries associated with electric scooters (e-scooters) and e-bicycles. Researchers used U.S. consumer product data to conduct a descriptive and comparative analysis of injury patterns and trends associated with e-scooters, e-bicycles, and traditional bicycles. The findings indicated in comparison to traditional bicycle users, e-scooter and e-bicycle users involved in crashes were more likely to be hospitalized. Researchers emphasized the importance of further research to better understand these injuries, along with improvements to the built environment to enhance safety for e-scooter and e-bicycle users.

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### Infrastructure

#### **U.S. DOT Announces over \$900 Million in Funding for the INFRA Program**

The *United States Department of Transportation* [announced](#) the availability of over \$900 million in funding for infrastructure projects across the country as a part of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program. The INFRA program provides funding for major infrastructure projects and utilizes selection criteria that promote projects with national and regional economic vitality goals while leveraging non-Federal funding to increase the total investment by State, local, and private partners. The [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) application period will remain open until February 25, 2020.

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### Innovation

#### **FHWA Publishes Case Study on Micromobility Initiative and Successes in Santa Monica, CA**

The *Federal Highway Administration* published a [case study](#) highlighting the Shared Mobility Services Pilot in Santa Monica, California. The case study showcases the efforts taken by the city to collaborate with private companies to provide shared micromobility services, including electric scooters (e-scooters) and e-bicycles, to the community. It also highlights steps the city took to develop a flexible regulatory framework that encourages data sharing, equity, and accessibility within the system.

## **U.S. DOT Announces Complete Trip – ITS4US Deployment Program Webinar Series**

The *United States Department of Transportation* recently [announced](#) the Complete Trip – ITS4US Deployment Program webinar series. The webinar series will provide prospective deployers and partners with more information about the program, which makes \$40 million available to enable communities to showcase innovative business partnerships, technologies, and practices that promote independent mobility for all. Individuals are encouraged to register for the first webinar scheduled for January 30 [here](#) and to review the program's [website](#) for more information, including a forthcoming fact sheet.

## **Report Examines Emerging Mobility Technologies in Mid-Sized Communities**

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* published a [report](#) examining how emerging transportation technologies may impact mid-sized cities. The report provides mid-sized communities with information on how new mobility services such as autonomous vehicles and electric scooters could impact their communities, along with strategies and policy responses to promote safety, data privacy, and equity.

## **U.S. DOT Releases Interactive Map to Encourage Investment in Underserved Communities**

The *United States Department of Transportation* released a new [interactive map](#) highlighting Federal investment in major projects located in and around Opportunity Zones across the country. Opportunity Zones are economically distressed communities designated by the United States Secretary of the Treasury to incentivize economic investment in these areas. The map provides detailed information about vital infrastructure resources located near Opportunity Zones to help determine the range of potential economic investments.

## **FTA Announces Accelerating Innovative Mobility Initiative**

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* [announced](#) \$11 million in grant funding as a part of the [Accelerating Innovative Mobility \(AIM\)](#) initiative, which is designed to support and advance innovation in the transit industry. The AIM initiative will offer grants to transit agencies that are exploring new service models that promote faster and more efficient service in communities across the nation. The initiative will also establish a national network of transit agencies that will test and share project results and use FTA's technical assistance centers to promote promising innovations.



## **Accountability**

### **U.S. DOT Publishes Request For Information For the Inclusive Design Challenge**

The *United States Department of Transportation* published a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) for the Inclusive Design Challenge, which was first announced at the Access and Mobility for All Summit. The [Inclusive Design Challenge](#) will solicit solutions that address obstacles faced by persons with disabilities to develop inclusive designs for automated vehicles as they are deployed. Responses to the RFI may be submitted by email to [inclusivedesign@dot.gov](mailto:inclusivedesign@dot.gov) until January 31, 2020.

### **New Article Highlights the Importance of Addressing Women's Mobility Needs**

The *World Economic Forum* published an [article](#) highlighting the importance of addressing the needs of women in transportation planning. The article highlights behavioral differences in how women travel at night, the need to combine family care with a paid job, and moving between business meetings downtown. The article also highlights the need to improve the mobility options often undertaken by women, towards a more inclusive, fully integrated multimodal and intermodal travel transportation network.

### **TRB Publishes Report Offering a Research Roadmap on the Intersection of Transportation and Public Health**

The *Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program* published a [report](#) offering a research roadmap for transportation and public health. The report includes a 10-year strategic roadmap, which provides an overview of critical research needs along with implementable tools for State departments of transportation and partners across the nation advancing research at the intersection of transportation and public health.