

## Human Environment Digest

January 9, 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

#### FHWA Publishes Report on the Effectiveness of Pedestrian Countdown Signals

The *Federal Highway Administration* published a [report](#) that examines the effectiveness of pedestrian countdown signals. The research team collected traffic and crash data at a number of signalized intersections across the country and found that the presence of pedestrian countdown signals helped to reduce the crash rate. The results of this research will help to promote similar strategies for nationwide implementation to improve pedestrian safety.

#### New Report Highlights Ways to Improve Safety of Protected Bike Lanes at Intersections

The *Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University* published a [report](#) that offers suggestions on extending protected bike lanes through intersections. The report analyzes various types of protected bike lanes by considering safety and perceived comfort for bicyclists in order to identify the types of bike lanes that will promote safety for all types of bicyclists. The findings from the report indicate that the protected bike lanes that minimize the time and distance that bicyclists mix with traffic are the most comfortable and safe for bicycling.



### Infrastructure

#### Publication Examines Strategies to Develop Accuracy Checks for Bike and Pedestrian Count Data

The *Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University* published a [study](#) that highlights methods to improve the accuracy of bicycle and pedestrian traffic monitoring data. The research provides a practical method to verify bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts and improve data review efficiency. The results of the research will help planners better estimate bicycling and walking to inform policy and decision making.

#### TRB Publishes Study on Tactical Transit Projects

The *Transportation Research Board's Transit Cooperative Research Program* published a [study](#) on the use of tactical transit projects. These projects include both physical and operational strategies for municipal governments to accelerate short-term transit solutions. The study highlights a number of tactical transit projects in municipalities across North America to demonstrate innovative and low cost strategies that cities and transit agencies are using to improve transit speed, access, and ridership.



### Innovation

#### January 2020 FHWA Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter Now Available

The January 2020 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration* [Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter](#) is now available. The newsletter provides transportation professionals with real-world examples of multimodal transportation investments

that improve livability and achieve safer communities through accelerated project delivery, technology, and design innovation. This edition includes articles on designated curbside ridehailing pick-up/drop-off zones, autonomous shuttle deployment, an adaptive bike share pilot, and a road diet to improve safety.

### **FHWA Releases Call for Ideas for Next Round of EDC Submissions**

The *Federal Highway Administration* released a [call for ideas](#) for the next round of the Every Day Counts (EDC) program. FHWA encourages State, local, and industry partners to submit proven, market-ready, transformative innovations for consideration for the next round of EDC. Responses may be submitted until January 21, 2020 by emailing this [PDF form](#) to [EDCsuggestions@dot.gov](mailto:EDCsuggestions@dot.gov).

### **Study Examines the Potential Impact of Autonomous Vehicles on Transit and Parking**

The *Center for Transportation Studies* at the *University of Minnesota* published a [report](#) that examines the potential impacts of autonomous vehicles (AVs) on transit and parking systems. Through a literature review and several focus groups, researchers were able to analyze the potential benefits of AVs such as improving transit operation safety and efficiency. The report concludes by emphasizing the importance of enacting proactive policies to maximize the benefits of AV technology.



## **Accountability**

### **Article Examines How Bicycle Use Affects Accessibility for People Experiencing Homelessness**

The *Journal of Transport Geography* published an [article](#) that examines how bicycle use affects the accessibility of people experiencing homelessness. The research found that while bicycle use reduces the potential range of travel when compared to a car, it does increase accessibility and can be more responsive to travel needs than transit.

### **New Report on the Intersection of Transportation and Equity**

A [field scan](#) with research conducted by a national transportation advocacy group examines the intersection of transportation and equity. The report identifies the biggest challenges to equity facing the transportation system and offers a number of strategies for public and private stakeholders to use in order to enhance safe and accessible mobility for all, regardless of income or race.