

## Human Environment Digest

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October 31, 2019

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

#### NHTSA Releases 2018 Highway Crash Fatality Data

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* released [highway crash fatality data for 2018](#). The data showed a 2.4 percent decline in overall fatalities over the previous year; however, pedestrian fatalities increased by 3.4 percent and bicyclist fatalities rose by 6.3 percent. NHTSA is examining current and planned research to better understand the rise in pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, and is identifying opportunities to leverage its resources and collaborate with modal partners within the *U.S. Department of Transportation* to reduce fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists.

#### ITF Publishes Annual Road Safety Report

The *International Transport Forum* released its [annual road safety report](#), which provides an overview of road safety performance for 41 countries. The report offers a detailed analysis of road safety by type and age of mode user and type of road. The report also describes crash data collection processes, effective road safety strategies, and recent road safety trends in each of the countries examined.

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### Infrastructure

#### Report Examines the Societal Benefits from Increased Investment in Active Transportation Infrastructure

The *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy* published a [report](#) that examines the potential benefits of increased public investment in connected active transportation infrastructure. The report indicates that greater investment in active transportation facilities could lead to significant societal benefits in the form of greater economic investment in communities, and mode shift from personal vehicles to walking and bicycling. Such mode shift could lead to decreased congestion and fewer negative environmental impacts, and an increase in the physical health of active transportation users.

#### APTA Report Shows that Proximity to Public Transit Boosts Property Values

The *American Public Transportation Association* released a [report](#) on the correlation between proximity to transit and property values. The report found that property values of residential and commercial buildings increase significantly when located within a half mile of public transit services. The report analyzed housing prices in seven metropolitan regions across the country and found that residential properties within these areas had higher median sale prices of 4% to 24% between 2012 and 2016.

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### Innovation

**U.S. DOT Mobility for All Summit Webcasts Available**

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* hosted the [Access and Mobility for All Summit](#) on Tuesday, October 29. The summit raised awareness of U.S. DOT and government-wide efforts to improve access and mobility for people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income individuals. In her remarks at the summit, Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao [announced](#) a planned Complete Trip Deployment solicitation, Inclusive Design Challenge, and Notice of Funding Opportunity for the *Federal Transit Administration* Fiscal Year 2020 Mobility for All Pilot Program. [Recordings](#) of the event's sessions and [remarks](#) delivered by Secretary Chao are now available.

### **PBIC Publishes Info Briefs on Micromobility**

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center*, with support from the *Federal Highway Administration*, published two info briefs about micromobility that provide information about micromobility devices and operation, and share common opportunities and challenges associated with micromobility device management. The first [info brief](#) is an introductory document that provides an overview of powered forms of micromobility and compares their key characteristics with traditional and emerging forms of transportation. The second [info brief](#) documents best practices related to electric scooters in nine mid-sized U.S. cities. The document shares feedback from participating cities on issues including device permitting and regulation, potential safety concerns, and infrastructure design observations.

### **Eno Center Webinar on Reforming America's Transportation System**

The *Eno Center* hosted a recent webinar titled, "Reforming America's Transportation System" and the [recording](#) is now available. The webinar included discussion of how current transportation governance structures, funding arrangements, decision-making mechanisms, and operating practices may require reforms based on the impacts of new technologies and emerging forms of mobility.

### **New Resource on Shared Mobility Policies and Regulations**

The *World Resources Institute* released a sustainable mobility [database](#) that tracks and maps shared mobility regulations at the national-, state-, and local-level in Brazil, China, India, and Mexico. The database identifies similarities in regulations across geographies and points out unique features that can inform cities and policymakers on how their peers are regulating shared mobility services.



## **Accountability**

### **Report Shares Strategies to Enhance Transportation Equity in Household Travel Surveys**

*Portland State University* and the *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* published a [report](#) that assesses the accuracy of travel survey data from low-income, minority, and transit-dependent populations in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The report explores how these populations are represented in travel survey data and highlights strategies and interventions to adapt transportation survey questions, improve distribution techniques, and increase outreach and engagement to generate more inclusive measures of transportation behaviors.