

Human Environment Digest

October 3, 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.



Safety

FHWA Publishes Fall Edition of the Safety Compass Newsletter

The Fall 2019 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration Safety Compass newsletter* is now available. The newsletter promotes roadway safety awareness by providing transportation professionals and the public with resources and real-world examples. This edition features Vision Zero initiatives; efforts to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety; and holistic approaches to roadway safety management.



Infrastructure

PBIC Publishes Info Brief on Building Connected Bicycle Networks

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center* published an [info brief](#) that provides an overview of existing approaches for measuring bicycle infrastructure network quality. The document outlines strategies for quantifying bicycle network quality in order to build effective connected bicycle facilities. The brief also includes a case study highlighting the Bicycle Network Analysis [tool](#), which supports transportation practitioners in conducting bicycle network connectivity analyses in communities across the country.

Report on Smart Congestion Relief

The *Victoria Transport Policy Institute* published a [report](#) providing a comprehensive evaluation of traffic congestion costs and congestion reduction strategies. The report provides an overview of the methods used to measure congestion before summarizing a number of congestion mitigation strategies, including smart growth policies and pricing reforms. The report concludes with examples of smart congestion relief and recommendations for how to implement effective strategies.



Innovation

New Resource Shows the Deployment of Bike Share and E-Scooters in the United States

The *Bureau of Transportation Statistics* released an interactive bike share and electric-scooter (e-scooter) [map](#) documenting the extent of bike share and e-scooter deployment across the nation. The map shows the nearly 300 bike share and e-scooter systems that serve over 200 municipalities as of July 2019. The resource reveals the rapid growth of micromobility in recent years and shows efforts by communities across the country to promote an array of transportation options.

TRB Publishes Report on Partnerships Between Transit Agencies and TNCs

The *Transportation Research Board's Transit Cooperative Research Program* published a [report](#) examining relationships between transit agencies and transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. The report includes the findings from extensive research into 20 partnerships between transit agencies and TNCs across the country. It also includes recommendations for decisionmakers on when, where, and how to pursue partnerships between transit agencies and TNCs.

Article Examines How Brazilian Cities Regulate E-scooters

The *World Resources Institute (WRI) blog, The City Fix*, published an [article](#) analyzing e-scooter regulations in seven cities across Brazil on five key metrics: speed limits, helmets, parking, taxes, and data sharing. The analysis found that e-scooter use is largely restricted to sidewalks and bike paths; however, there is significant variation in policy and regulation across Brazil.

TRB Publishes Report on the Impact of New Technologies on Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board* published a [report](#) on the potential impact of new transportation-related technologies on land use and transportation. The report helps State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments consider how to develop policies and plans to incorporate new transportation-related technologies that will help communities maintain economic vitality and a high quality of life.



Accountability

FHWA Publishes Revised Guidance on Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development

The *Federal Highway Administration* published [revised guidance](#) focused on bicycle and pedestrian planning, program, and project development. The purpose of this guidance is to identify references to Federal legislation, and other relevant guidance and reference materials, related to bicycling and walking safety and accommodation. This guidance describes the range of opportunities to improve conditions for bicycling and walking, consistent with *U.S. Department of Transportation* goals for safe, comfortable, equitable, and integrated multimodal transportation network infrastructure that serves all ages and abilities.

Report Examines the Challenges Women Face on Transit

The *Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority* published a [report](#) documenting the challenges that women face while riding transit. Using focus groups and customer surveys, the transit agency was able to identify trends in travel patterns and barriers that women must overcome when taking transit. The report concludes with recommendations to create a gender action plan that will help transform the research findings into actionable policy changes to make travel on transit safer and more accessible for women.