

## Human Environment Digest

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September 19, 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.

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 Study on Child Pedestrian Safety

The *Mountain Plains Consortium* sponsored by the *U.S. Department of Transportation* published a [study](#) on redefining the child pedestrian safety paradigm. The report analyzes 30 years of crash data in six U.S. cities to locate areas with high child pedestrian crash and fatality rates. The findings indicate a concentration of child pedestrian fatalities in areas around parks as compared to other areas that children frequent. The study concludes by offering street-level design recommendations to make the places where children walk and bicycle safer.

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### Infrastructure

#### FHWA Publishes Quarterly Research Newsletter

The *Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning* published its [summer 2019 quarterly newsletter](#). The newsletter highlights the virtual public involvement initiative within FHWA's [Every Day Counts-5 program](#), which focuses on using innovative efforts and virtual tools to enhance traditional public involvement strategies. The newsletter also examines recent research highlights, including the planning and design of micromobility networks and best practices for the implementation of mobility-on-demand services.

#### Report Analyzes Impact of Transit Service Closure on Bicycle Share Demand

The *Journal of Transport Geography* [published](#) an article that examines how transit service closures influence bike share demand. The report uses the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region as a case study to track how rail transit closures in 2016 impacted the city's bike share system. The findings indicate a rise in bike share use during the study period, suggesting that bike share can enhance mobility and serve to complement transit during periods of limited service.

#### LAB Requests Session Proposals for 2020 National Bike Summit

The *League of American Bicyclists (LAB)* is requesting session proposals for its [2020 National Bike Summit](#) in Arlington, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., from March 15-17, 2020. The theme for the 2020 summit is [Safe Streets for Everyone](#). LAB is requesting that session proposals address equity, education, design, data and research, culture change, advocacy, technology, or other work that has advanced safe streets for everyone. Session proposals may be submitted [here](#) until October 23, 2019.

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### Innovation

#### U.S. DOT Announces Grant Funding for Automated Driving Systems Projects

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* [announced](#) nearly \$60 million in grant funding for projects across the country to test the safe integration of automated driving systems (ADS) on the nation's roadways. The grants aim to gather data to inform future rulemaking and to help foster collaboration between State and local governments and private partners. The projects cover a wide range of topics including promoting equity by using shared on-demand, wheelchair accessible automated vehicles and encouraging rural connectivity by testing ADS in rural contexts.

### **FHWA Releases Quarterly GIS Newsletter**

The geographic information systems (GIS) team at the *Federal Highway Administration* published its [August 2019 quarterly newsletter](#). The newsletter highlights a new Tableau-based tool designed to allow transportation agencies to integrate social equity considerations into transportation planning. The publication also includes recently published reports along with a number of editorials that follow the use of GIS to examine equity impacts.

### **Rockefeller Foundation Launches the National Opportunity Zones Academy**

The *Rockefeller Foundation* and *Smart Growth America* announced the [launch](#) of the National Opportunity Zones Academy. The Academy will work with the five selected cities of Chicago, IL; Greater Miami and the Beaches, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; Seattle, WA; and Norfolk, VA to help drive sustainable growth in opportunity zones by attracting economic investment. The cities will work with the technical assistance team, socially-responsible investors, and peer cities to create community-led approaches that seek to transform opportunity zones into economically-thriving and socially-inclusive, walkable neighborhoods.

### **NACTO Publishes Updated Guidelines for Regulating Shared Micromobility**

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials* released updated [guidelines](#) for regulating shared micromobility. The guidelines offer an overview of the current state of the practice of shared micromobility and include best practices for developing regulations, implementing effective infrastructure, and sharing usage data. The publication emphasizes the increased need for safe infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes, to serve bicyclists and those using other micromobility devices.

### **ITF Publishes Report on Regulating App-Based Mobility Services**

The *International Transport Forum* published a [report](#) on the development of app-based mobility services such as bicycle share and ridehailing. The report summarizes the current landscape of app-based mobility services and the response of city regulators to the rapid growth of new mobility services. The report concludes with recommendations for policymakers and city officials on how to best address mobility providers, along with strategies to develop an effective regulatory framework.



## **Accountability**

### **U.S. DOT Calls for Input on Barriers and Solutions to Complete Trips**

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* and *Department of Labor* ask for input and feedback as part of the [Barriers and Solutions to Complete Trips for All Online Dialogue](#). The dialogue seeks to inform efforts to reduce mobility barriers that constrain people with disabilities from fully participating in the workforce and in their communities. Individuals may submit ideas, comments, and votes on more accessible and inclusive transportation through the end of September.

### **APTA Releases Study Highlighting the Transit Needs of Late-Shift Workers**

The *American Public Transportation Association* published a [study](#) examining the transit needs of late-shift workers in metropolitan areas across the country. The study highlighted the needs of late-shift commuters and the ways public transit providers and decisionmakers can improve commuting options for this growing segment of the U.S. workforce.