

Human Environment Digest

September 5, 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

Red Light Running Crashes at a Ten Year High

The *American Automobile Association (AAA) Foundation for Traffic Safety* released a data analysis [report](#) on fatal crashes caused by red light running. AAA found that more than two people are killed every day in red light running crashes, including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This represents a 10-year high and a 28 percent increase since 2012. AAA recommended that local governments invest in red light cameras, which have been found to reduce the fatal red light running crash rate in large cities by 21 percent and the rate of all types of fatal crashes at signalized intersections by 14 percent.

Report Highlights Safer Streets Projects

A new [report](#) from *America Walks* and the *University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center (UNC HSRC)* highlights pedestrian safety improvement projects in communities across the country. The report showcases the work done in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Flint, Michigan; and Richmond, Virginia as part of *America Walks* and *UNC HSRC's Safer Systems program*, which works to build local and regional capacity to assess, plan, and prioritize effective and context-sensitive pedestrian safety countermeasures to promote safety and walkability.

Study Finds Transit Bus Travel Safer Than Car Travel

The University of Montreal conducted a [study](#) that examined the risk of injury along the ten busiest bus routes in Montreal. The study found that the risk of injury for car occupants was four times greater than that for bus occupants. In addition, the study also found that car trips were associated with a greater number of pedestrian injuries (four times more), bicyclist injuries (five times more), and fatal and severe injuries (five times more) per kilometer traveled compared to bus trips.



Infrastructure

APBP Requests Proposals for 2020 Webinar Series

The *Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)* requests proposals for its 2020 monthly webinar series. [APBP webinars](#) highlight topics useful to professionals and advocates working in the field of bicycling and walking, such as planning, design, engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation, enforcement, and advocacy. Submitted proposals must contain evidence-based material. Webinar proposals may be submitted [here](#).

Report Analyzes Transit Ridership Data to Determine Impact on Pollution

A [report](#) published by *Environmental Research Communications* used public transit ridership data to determine the pollution reduction by passengers taking transit instead of driving cars. Report authors collected and analyzed data from the *Utah Transit Authority (UTA)* and found that transit ridership helped to offset emissions during peak travel periods.



Innovation

University of California at Davis Publishes Paper on Mobility Data Sharing

The *University of California at Davis* published an issue [paper](#) examining the critical needs and challenges surrounding mobility data sharing. The report offers an overview of the current state of mobility data sharing and provides four policy recommendations to help provide planners and officials with the necessary data to make informed decisions. These recommendations focus on developing a middle-ground approach, in which data is shared in specific contexts and managed by a trusted third party to minimize privacy concerns and maximize benefits.

Transportation Institute Publishes Urban Mobility Report

The *Texas A&M Transportation Institute* released a [report](#) addressing the state of urban mobility across the nation. The report used highway inventory data from the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* to conduct a comprehensive analysis of traffic conditions in urban areas across the United States, finding a continued increase in travel demand on roadways across the country.



Accountability

TRB Publishes Guide on Emergency Management at State Transportation Agencies

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* published a [guide](#) on emergency management at State transportation agencies. The report provides an update on advances in emergency management, recent changes to Federal guidance, and changing operational roles at State departments of transportation. The guide provides resources for all types of incidents and offers strategies for employing a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, and multimodal approach by including all modes and sectors that use the highway system when developing an effective emergency response.

ASLA Releases Universal Design Guide

The *American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)* published a new [universal design guide](#), which provides a set of universal design principles to address the needs of people with disabilities and limited mobility. The guide's [section on streets](#) emphasizes multimodal, complete streets and designing for the safety and comfort of all roadway users.