

Human Environment Digest

August 22, 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

NHTSA Publishes Report on Pedestrian Safety Around Vehicles

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently published a [report](#) on the current state of pedestrian protection among the U.S. vehicle fleet. The publication examined the impacts of injury when a pedestrian hits the hood or windshield of a vehicle. It also compared U.S. and European vehicle models.

Case Study Series on Safer Street Design

A new case study [series](#) highlights safety demonstration projects from across the country that led to the design of safer streets. *Smart Growth America* highlights efforts in Durham, NC, Huntsville, AL, and Pittsburgh, PA using *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* proven safety countermeasures, as well as those developing new approaches to safer street design through community engagement and creative placemaking.



Infrastructure

The Center for Transportation Studies Releases Report on Access to Jobs by Bicycle

The *Center for Transportation Studies* at the *University of Minnesota* recently published a [report](#) that examines access to jobs by bicycle in the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The study incorporated both traffic stress and bicycling comfort in order to evaluate accessibility to destinations by bicycle. The report also defines low- and medium-stress bicycle infrastructure, and considers how access varies in cities for each of these types of facilities.

TRB Releases Report on Urban Freeway Roadsides

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)* published a [report](#) on landscape development and management practices for urban freeway roadsides. The report offers best practices and support to stakeholders tasked with maintaining urban freeway roadsides to ensure that roadway systems and highway infrastructure are adequately cared for and receive the necessary restoration.



Innovation

July/August 2019 FHWA Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter Available

The July/August 2019 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter* is now available. The newsletter provides transportation professionals with real-world examples of ways in which multimodal transportation investments promote livability and achieve safer communities through support of accelerated project delivery, technology, and design innovation. This edition includes articles on curb space management, multimodal trip planning, an autonomous shuttle pilot, and bicycle network planning.

FHWA Webinar Recording on Shared Mobility Planning Available

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* hosted a webinar focused on two recently published FHWA reports (a [white paper](#) and [case studies](#)) on shared mobility planning, which provide a framework for conceptualizing how shared mobility fits into the regional transportation planning process. The webinar also highlighted three case studies of how metropolitan planning organizations and their regional partners are integrating shared mobility into their overall transportation plans. The case studies included locations in Boston, Massachusetts, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, and the San Francisco Bay area. The webinar recording is now available [here](#).

Report Examines the Environmental Impact of Dockless Scooters

IOP Science published an [article](#) that examines the environmental impacts of shared electric dockless scooters. The report analyzed the environmental impacts of the scooters using a life cycle assessment, which found a number of areas for potential improvement. The authors encourage companies to improve the scooter collection and charging process by using fuel-efficient vehicles for collection and only charging scooters once their batteries are low in order to mitigate environmental impacts.

Workshop Covers Advanced Vehicle Technology in Relation to Bicycle Safety

Over 100 attendees from 65 organizations representing the bicycle and automotive industries, academia, first responders, and the public sector – including the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* – met at a workshop organized by *Tome Software* in Detroit, Michigan on August 13 and 14. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss advanced vehicle technologies and connectivity in relation to bicycle safety. The conversation also embraced topics of concern for other vulnerable roadway users such as pedestrians and persons using scooters. Presentations and notes from the event breakouts can be found [here](#).



Accountability

Report Focuses on Promoting Equity in Bikeshare Systems

The *Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University* recently published a [national scan](#) of bikeshare equity programs. The report identifies policies that cities have implemented to make bikeshare systems more equitable based on income, neighborhood, race/ethnicity, ability, and access to smartphones or banking services. The report may serve as a guide for communities across the country to implement data collection, marketing campaigns, community partnerships, and other strategies to measure and support equity in their active transportation systems.