

Human Environment Digest

August 8, 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

Paper Addresses the Importance of Increasing Enforcement to Improve Pedestrian Safety

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* published a [paper](#) examining the factors linked with the recent increase in pedestrian crashes. The report also discusses the importance of improving driver compliance in yielding to pedestrians through increasing high-visibility enforcement in crash-prone areas and discovered a higher rate of pedestrian crashes at sites close to public transit stops due to unsafe driver behavior and street conditions.



Infrastructure

USDOT Releases List of INFRA Grant Recipients

The *U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)* [released](#) the list of Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant recipients. The funds were awarded for highway and bridge projects nationwide that incorporate the use of innovative technologies to improve transportation systems for greater safety and economic development.

Report Examines Strategies to Promote Sustainable Urban Transportation

The *World Road Association (PIARC)* published a [report](#) examining the mobility needs of urban regions around the world. The report examines strategies cities can take to organize and optimize their existing transportation systems in order to promote more sustainable urban transport. The report also emphasizes the relationship between access to transportation and issues of equity, such as access to jobs, amenities, and resources for residents in more rural or less accessible locations.



Innovation

PBIC Publishes Automated Vehicles Module Series

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)* [released](#) a new automated vehicles (AVs) university course module series to increase practitioner knowledge on emerging AV technology. The module series provides an introduction to AV development and technology, AV interaction between pedestrians and bicyclists, and the current and future planning needs to prepare for the arrival of AVs.



Accountability

NITC Releases Digital Toolbox to Support Transit Planning and Decisionmaking

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC)* released an open-source [digital toolbox](#) to support public transit system planning. The toolbox was created in an effort to integrate social media and general transit feed specification data to enhance the performance of transit systems. The toolbox provides resources to support transit decisionmaking, while also allowing agencies to evaluate the access equity of their transit systems.