

Human Environment Digest

June 13, 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

Study Reveals Bicycle Lanes Reduce Fatalities for All Road Users

The *University of Colorado Denver* [conducted a 13-year longitudinal study](#) that found bicycle infrastructure decreases fatalities for all road users. The study noted that bicycling infrastructure—specifically separated and protected bicycle lanes—leads to fewer fatalities and better road-safety outcomes for all road users. The study also reinforces the importance of building bicycle networks to increase safety.

Study Analyzes Different Types of Bicycle Crashes at Local, State, and National Levels

Researchers at the *University of North Carolina* and *Arizona State University* published a joint paper that [investigates the circumstances influencing both fatal and disabling bicycle crashes](#). The research found that the majority of bicycle crashes occur at intersections; however, data from North Carolina and Boulder, Colorado show that most fatal and disabling bicycle crashes occur at non-intersection locations, including crashes resulting from collisions with motorists. The report also provides insights for governments and other organizations to plan safer bicycle networks, and undertake other proactive measures to reduce crashes.



Infrastructure

NACTO Report Outlines Effective Intersection Designs That Encourage Bicycling

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)* released [a guide on designing bicycling crossings for all ages and abilities](#). The report expands upon NACTO's existing [Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#) to present comprehensive, safe, and connected design approaches that will reduce conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists at different types of intersections. The report offers signalization strategies and a toolkit for intersection improvements.

Sidewalk Labs' Updated Street Design Principles Address New and Emerging Mobility

Sidewalk Labs updated their [Street Design Principles](#), which provide recommendations on how transportation practitioners can use new technology to design safer, more comfortable and efficient streets. The new principles focus on tailoring streets for different modes, separating streets by speed, incorporating flexibility into street space, and recapturing street space for non-vehicular modes. The principles suggest specific improvements such as LED embedded pavement, street sensors, flexible lanes, demand-based pricing, and other traffic management tools. Such designs can help officials plan for future transportation modes, such as automated vehicles.



Innovation

FHWA Issues Notice of Funding Opportunity for Transformative Technology Projects

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for States, cities, and other agencies to compete for \$60 million in Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program (ATCMTD) grants to fund new technologies that improve transportation efficiency and safety. The grant solicits projects that bring data together from different systems, such as integrated corridor management, real-time traveler information, traffic data collection and dissemination, and other intelligent transportation system technologies, in order to improve safety, reduce congestion, and improve multimodal connections. The deadline for project submission and consideration is [June 18, 2019](#).

Report Offers Recommendations for Micromobility Regulations

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* at *San Jose State University* released a [report on existing and recommended regulations for micromobility](#), or "personal transportation devices" (PTDs). The report documents and analyzes micromobility regulations across 176 jurisdictions and presents State-level recommendations designed to balance safety and freedom of movement for all road users. The report supports States and local governments in developing comprehensive regulations for this evolving transportation technology.

Portland, OR Launches Pilot with Sidewalk Labs

Portland, Oregon [launched a year-long pilot program with Sidewalk Labs](#) to collect mobility data to more accurately track public transportation demand and other methods of mobility. The pilot demonstrated methods of using de-identified location data from smartphones and smartphone apps. Sidewalk Labs will deliver this data to Portland's transportation agencies to aid their understanding of urban movement patterns.

Article Highlights Joint Benefits of Autonomy and Shared Mobility

An [article](#) by *McKinsey & Company* addresses infrastructure improvements that will promote the use of shared autonomous mobility (SAM). The adoption of SAM could support decreased congestion, increased safety, economic growth, and an improved quality of life. The article recommends that agencies plan for the future by designing infrastructure that welcomes automated vehicles while encouraging the shared use of vehicles. It also discusses strategies to enable automated vehicle (AV) pilot testing, more systematic



Accountability

Upcoming Deadline to Submit Requests for Virtual Public Involvement Technical Assistance

As part of the [Every Day Counts \(EDC-5\) Virtual Public Involvement \(VPI\) innovation](#), the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* is providing technical assistance to State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and local public agencies in States pursuing the VPI innovation. Technical assistance may take the form of peer exchange workshops, virtual peer exchanges, case study development, peer to peer technical assistance, conference presentations, or other forms of assistance. Completed applications should be submitted by email to TPCB@dot.gov, copying scott.allen@dot.gov by June 14, 2019.

NACTO Releases Principles for Mobility Data Management

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)* and the *International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA)* released a [best practices and principles document](#) to help cities as they collect, store, and use data from mobility companies. The document offers four overarching principles: 1) mobility data is a public good and should be used to ensure positive safety, equity, and mobility outcomes; 2) data should be protected and treated akin to personally identifiable information; 3) cities should be clear about when and why they are gathering data; and 4) data should be kept open and shared with public and private partners. The document also offers a series of "principles in practice" for cities seeking to establish safe and ethical data practices.