

Human Environment Digest

May 30, 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

TRB Report Studies Cyclist Compliance

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* [published a journal article](#) assessing cyclist behavior in relation to existing laws. The report found a disconnect between the goals of safety laws and cyclists' perceptions of their own safety, contributing to cyclist noncompliance. Recommendations include targeted interventions for cyclist education and improved dedicated infrastructure for cyclists.

Report Focuses on Speed Management to Promote Pedestrian Safety

The *University of California, Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC)* and the *California Office of Traffic Safety* released an [overview of motor vehicle speed as a risk factor in pedestrian safety](#). The report summarizes recent research on this topic, which emphasizes that managing speed and avoiding impact are the primary factors in promoting pedestrian safety.



Infrastructure

TRB Report Assesses Coordination between Transportation and Land Use Planning

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* published a [state-of-the-practice report](#) on connecting transportation and land use planning in the United States. The survey includes 30 metropolitan planning organizations and 10 case studies of communities that have increased multimodal connectivity and accessibility through coordinating transportation planning and promoting development, particularly around transit stations.

WRI Paper Explores Urban Transportation Access in the Global South

The *World Resources Institute (WRI)* published a paper titled "[From Mobility to Access for All: Expanding Urban Transportation Choices in the Global South](#)." The paper analyzes limitations on access to jobs and opportunities, particularly for low-income communities in Mexico City, Mexico, and Johannesburg, South Africa. To provide more equitable access, the report recommends promoting multimodal options and shared mobility; reprioritizing road space and building more complete street networks; and investing in transit infrastructure and transit-oriented development.



Innovation

FHWA Publishes EDC-5 Summit Summary and Baseline Report

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* [published a report](#) to document the status of innovative projects implemented as part of the fifth round of Every Day Counts (EDC-5). The report outlines the status of these projects and

documents launch summits held in fall 2018. This round's projects include human environment topics such as reducing rural roadway departures and pedestrian safety.

Workshop Explores Potential of Mobility on Demand (MOD)

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* [released a research circular](#) titled "Mobility on Demand: A Smart, Sustainable, and Equitable Future." The circular is a synopsis of the current state of mobility on demand (MOD), a system that would allow travelers to access all of their multimodal travel options as a consumer service, with a heavy focus on public transportation and shared mobility options. The report explores how MOD can increase mobility and access for all users.



Accountability

TCRP Report Identifies Social and Economic Sustainability Performance Measures for Public Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) Transit Cooperative Research Program* released a pre-publication of its report on "[Social and Economic Sustainability Performance Measures for Public Transportation](#)." This report serves as a tool to help transit agencies report progress and measure success towards agency financial stability; regional economic growth; improved mobility and access; and safety of riders, employees, and the public.

Research Brief Highlights Strategies for Reducing Transportation Disparities

The *Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Transportation* published a research brief on "[Advancing Transportation Equity: Strategies for Reducing Transportation Disparities](#)." The brief focuses on inter-agency collaboration and multimodal solutions to address transportation barriers, particularly for low-income, rural, and elderly communities.

TRB Report Examines Methods to Measure Access Impacts of Park-and-Ride Systems

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* [published a new methodology](#) in its research journal for calculating the access impacts of park-and-ride systems in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The study analyzes how using mixed-mode transit travel influences the number of jobs accessible within a certain travel time threshold. The research results revealed that current methods underestimate transit connections in these suburban areas and that park-and-ride facilities significantly improve these communities' access to employment centers.