

Human Environment Digest

May 16, 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

Report Considers Safety Attitudes Among Bicyclists

A new report published in the *Journal of Safety Research* [connects individual bicycling crash histories with safety attitudes and perceptions among bicyclists](#). The research addresses gaps in bicycle safety data, and draws on survey data to capture bicyclist attitudes, safety perceptions, and individual bicycle crash histories. The report concludes that education of bicyclists about local bicycle laws and regulation is key to building cycling confidence, which may encourage people to start bicycling.

City of Austin Studies Dockless Electric Scooters

The *City of Austin, Texas* released "[Dockless Electric Scooter-Related Injuries Study](#)," which evaluated the safety of the existing dockless electric scooters (e-scooters) in the city. The study is the result of an epidemiological investigation that the city conducted in partnership with the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*. It draws from two data sources: emergency medical service incident reports, and emergency department data from nine hospitals. The study also provides descriptive statistics for e-scooter incidents that resulted in various types of injuries, and calculates incidence rates using the number of confirmed and probable injuries that were associated with e-scooter use.



Infrastructure

National Report Ranks Best Complete Streets Policies

A national annual [report](#) ranking new complete streets policies was recently published. The report features a new grading framework that emphasizes equity and accelerated project delivery, and recognizes communities in America that have implemented policies that will provide safe multimodal access to destinations regardless of age, ability, income, race, ethnicity, or mode of travel. The information was published by the *National Complete Streets Coalition*.

Presentations Available Centered on Transportation Infrastructure's Influence on Site Selection

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* released a [series of recordings](#) that examine the site selection process for the siting of facilities, including retail, office, industrial, and other businesses. The presentations explore how site selectors evaluate a community's transportation infrastructure and discuss how transportation infrastructure may be among the factors that prevent a community from being eliminated from consideration during the site selection process. The slides are [available for download](#).

Sidewalk Labs Develops Street Design Principles

Sidewalk Labs released its "[Street Design Principles](#)," describing notable practices in street design and emphasizing designs that allows cities to leverage emerging technologies to make streets safer, more comfortable, and more efficient. The document proposes design principles that will be periodically updated to reflect lessons learned and technological advances.



Innovation

TRB Releases RFP on Transit and Micromobility

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)* released a [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) focused on understanding the full impacts of micromobility on public transportation systems. Successful proposals will identify micromobility's impact on transit ridership and the built environment (e.g., bike lanes, parking spaces, etc.), economic impacts of micromobility on communities and transit agencies, and ways to strengthen the relations between micromobility and transit to maximize sustainable trips. Proposals are due by [June 25, 2019](#).

Presentations Available from Second Annual National Mobility Summit

Mobility 21, a *United States Department of Transportation National University Transportation Center*, hosted their [second annual National Mobility Summit](#) on April 12, 2019 in Washington, D.C. The Summit brought together over 125 attendees from government, community, industry and universities, including 10 university transportation centers representing 50 colleges and universities across the United States to explore new frontiers and opportunities for 21st century mobility. Presentations from invited speakers, including members of the United States Department of Transportation, are [available](#).

NACTO Releases Shared Micromobility Report

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)* published a [report on the state of shared micromobility in the United States in 2018](#). According to the report, people took 84 million trips using shared micromobility, including docked and dockless bicycle and scooter share, in the United States in 2018. The report outlines the rapid popularity growth of micromobility options in recent years and identifies areas for improvement.

AMPO Releases Framework for Connectivity and Automation

The *Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)* released its "[National Framework for Regional Vehicle Connectivity and Automation Planning](#)." The framework outlines how metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) can incorporate vehicle connectivity and automation into their transportation planning processes, and how new technologies may help MPOs reach their regional transportation goals. The report concludes with recommendations focusing on the aspects of vehicle connectivity and automation that are within the purview of MPOs and the scope of the metropolitan planning process.



Accountability

NCHRP Measures Public Involvement Effectiveness

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)* released a report titled "[Measuring the Effectiveness of Public Involvement in Transportation Planning and Project Development](#)." The report provides a toolkit to measure the effectiveness of transportation agencies' public involvement activities. The toolkit includes a survey instrument for use with the public, a tool for converting survey response data into an effectiveness index, and guidelines for using and scoring the survey.

RFP Focuses on Preventing Trespassing on Rail Rights-of-Way

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)* released a [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) to identify strategies for deterring trespassing on rail transit and commuter rail rights-of-way. Successful proposals will identify approaches to prevent trespassing on rail rights-of-way, analyze different trespasser mitigation strategies, document best practices, and make recommendations to increase safety around rail rights-of-way. Proposals are due by [June 25, 2019](#).

Call for Abstracts for Conference on Health and Active Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board* is accepting abstracts for posters and oral presentations for their [Conference on Health and Active Transportation](#) held in Washington, D.C. from December 11-12, 2019. The conference will explore opportunities in quantifying the health effects of transportation policies, infrastructure, and travel behavior. The conference seeks to raise awareness for the need to integrate health and health equity into transportation planning across all levels. Abstracts are due by [June 7, 2019](#).

Report Analyzes SR2S Health Effects

A new report from *San Jose State University* analyzes the [active transportation health effects of the Safe Routes to Schools \(SR2S\) program](#). The research finds that SR2S methods are successful in improving health and increasing active transportation in the communities that implement them. The report also summarizes key resources that are currently available on the public health and active transportation outcomes of SR2S implementation.