

## Human Environment Digest

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May 2, 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.

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### Safety

#### Researchers Develop Pedestrian Injury Severity Model for Rural and Urban Crashes

A new journal article from researchers at the *University of North Carolina* outlines a model for the [injury severity of pedestrians in pedestrian-vehicle crashes in rural and urban areas](#). The results indicate that the severity of pedestrian injuries is related to the driver's physical condition, the presence of heavy trucks, light conditions, the pedestrian's age, and the speed limit. The model and analysis of the available injury data provide information that may help develop measures to reduce the incidence and severity of pedestrian injuries.

#### ITF Publishes Road Safety Report

The *International Transport Forum (ITF)* released a report titled "[Road Safety in European Cities: Performance Indicators and Governance Solutions](#)," which provides a case-based analysis of road safety policies in various cities. The report benchmarks road safety performance in 72 urban areas in Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. The study finds that fatality risk for road users varies widely across cities. It illustrates government solutions that may improve urban road safety using two case studies conducted in Lisbon, Portugal and Riga, Latvia.

#### ITE Podcast Episode Focuses on Safety Through Speed Management

The *Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE)* latest episode from their podcast series, *ITE Talks Transportation*, features experts discussing how communities can safely manage speeds with roadway design and speed management. They also examine the benefits of creating a speed management program to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on roads. This episode's guests include Leah Shahum, founder and executive director of the [Vision Zero Network](#), and Robert Spillar, director of transportation for the [city of Austin, Texas](#).

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### Infrastructure

#### Paper Proposes Incorporating Livability into Transportation Asset Management Practices through Bikeway Quality Networks

A new paper published by the *Transportation Research Board* outlines a [framework for integrating livability and transportation asset management practices](#). The paper introduces the Bikeway Quality Framework, which provides ideas for assessment, prioritization, scenarios, and reporting for improved bikeway quality. The authors also suggest performance measures for livable bikeways including: agency expenditures, level of non-motorized investment, bikeway pavement condition, bikeway pavement marking condition, and jobs created. The paper applies the framework with a real-world example in San Francisco, California.

#### NLC Releases Micromobility Guide

The *National League of Cities (NLC)* released a guide titled "[Micromobility in Cities: A History and Policy Overview](#)," which provides strategies to help leaders integrate micromobility into their local transportation systems. The guide outlines challenges and considerations associated with micromobility in cities, and provides seven recommendations for

successful deployment and management of micromobility services, such as dockless bicycles, e-bicycles, and e-scooters as part of the transportation system.

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## Innovation

### NSF Hosts Smart & Connected Communities Meeting

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* participated in the *National Science Foundation (NSF) Smart & Connected Communities Principal Investigators Meeting* in early April 2019. The Meeting brought together principal investigators from government and academia in social and behavioral sciences, engineering, computer science, and the built environments to interact with community partners in order to disseminate project objectives and foster collaboration. [Presentations from the meeting](#) are available for download, and include several related to mobility innovation.

### AASHTO Center for Excellence Releases Call for Research Proposals

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Center for Environmental Excellence* released their [call for research proposals](#) for the [Transportation and Environmental Research Ideas \(TERI\) database](#). The TERI database is a central storehouse for tracking and sharing new transportation and environmental research ideas. Proposals are due by June 3, 2019.

### Report Identifies Relationship between Land Use and E-Bicycles

The *Institute of Transport Economics* at the *Norwegian Centre for Transport Research* released a report titled "[Land Use Development Potential and E-bike Analysis](#)," which considers the relationship between bicycling and land use planning. The research focuses on new models of data collection and analysis for land use data, which provide insight on the potential of electric bicycles to revolutionize commuting trips. The researchers recommend integrating the impact of electric bicycles with land-use planning processes and decisions.

### AMPO Releases Framework for Connectivity and Automation

The *Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)* recently 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 that focus on the aspects of vehicle connectivity and automation that are within the purview of MPOs and the scope of the metropolitan planning process.



## Accountability

### April 2019 FHWA Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter Available

The April 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 economic revitalization, provide access to jobs, and achieve safer communities through support of accelerated project delivery, technology and design innovation, and public/private partnerships. This edition highlights examples related to micromobility and multimodal safety and access.

### AASHTO Publishes Communication Guidebook for Connecting Health and Transportation

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)* released a report titled "[Connecting Transportation and Health: A Guide to Communication and Collaboration](#) ." The guidebook provides transportation practitioners at all levels with tools to collaborate with other entities on health issues. It also outlines the connections between health issues and transportation, and includes best practices for interacting with stakeholders, communications techniques, and assembling relevant organizational and data resources. The guidebook provides a review of the relevant literature and resources, and advice from both transportation and health professionals.

### Researchers Release Report on Transportation Needs and User Experience in Areas of Concentrated Poverty

The *Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota* released a report [examining the transportation assets and challenges](#) faced by residents of Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs). The authors identified unmet transportation needs and captured user experience information that is difficult to gather in traditional travel behavior surveys. The authors found that participants' activity spaces vary significantly based on car availability and local built form, and that pedestrian environments around transit stops affect the experience of using transit in ACPs more strongly than the transit service itself, leading to the conclusion that transit- and pedestrian-oriented community design is a significant equity issue.