

Human Environment Digest

March 21, 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

GHSA Spotlights Pedestrian Safety

The *Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA)* released its 2018 [preliminary data report on pedestrian traffic fatalities by State](#). The preliminary data provides an overview and analysis of pedestrian fatalities across the United States from 2008 to 2017, and outlines areas for improved pedestrian safety. The report identifies differences among States and outlines some key programs and resources for pedestrian safety.

NTSB and TRB Consider Future of Transportation Safety

The *National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)* and the *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* published [slides and a recording of their cohosted webinar](#) that focused on safety and security in all modes of transportation. The webinar outlined [NTSB's Most Wanted List](#) of safety improvements and [TRB's Critical Issues in Transportation 2019](#) report. Both reports identify top safety and security challenges and priorities across all modes.

UNC Organizes Library of Vision Zero Plans

The *University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center's Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety* has [organized a library of all United States local Vision Zero plans](#) through the year 2018. These plans help guide municipal governments as they incorporate safety strategies for their local contexts. The library provides easy access to these various plans for those working to implement Vision Zero.

Report Focuses on Active Transportation Safety

The *Transport Research Laboratory* in the United Kingdom released a [report quantifying the relationship between active transportation and safety](#). The report analyzes the benefits and risks of substituting walking and bicycling for short car trips. The analysis draws on data from multiple sources and attempts to estimate the likely effects on overall transportation system safety that may be associated with increased walking and bicycling.



Infrastructure

New Report Examines Pedestrian Behavior and Design Changes

The *New Zealand Transport Agency* released a [report examining pedestrian behaviors and experiences in the context of the transportation system as a whole](#). The researchers identify opportunities to better align current design resources with the reality of existing physical systems. The report considers design changes that will encourage walking, and challenges for ensuring that walking is a safe, convenient, and accessible modal choice.

NPS Newsletter Highlights Active Transportation Projects

The *National Park Service (NPS)* published the March edition of its [Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program newsletter](#). The newsletter highlights NPS and its partners' efforts to support access to trails, parks, and other spaces for

recreation in national parks. This edition focuses on active transportation projects that allow visitors to more easily access parks on foot or by bicycle, including a pedestrian bridge and bicycle share expansion.



Innovation

TRB Considers Emerging Technologies

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* has released the [January/February 2019 edition of its magazine, TR News](#). The edition, titled "Harnessing Technology for a Safe, Equitable, Resilient System: Findings from the States," considers emerging trends and research opportunities for incorporating developing technologies into resilient transportation systems. It features state-of-the-art research and practice in all modes of transportation, and focuses on news items of interest to the transportation community.

Working Paper Answers Ten Questions on The Evolution of Bicycle Sharing

The *World Resources Institute* and *The Financing Sustainable Cities Initiative* [published a working paper focusing on the opportunities and risks of emerging bicycle share technology](#). The paper focuses on planning and policy frameworks; financing; and safety considerations for implementing bicycle sharing programs. The paper also considers how communities can successfully integrate dockless systems.



Accountability

TRB Report Focuses on Intersection between Healthcare and Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* released the draft of a research report titled "[Dialysis Transportation: Intersection of Transportation and Healthcare](#)." The effort included a literature review; surveys of patients, dialysis facilities, and transit agencies; and development of a forecasting tool to estimate needs and costs for these patients. Responding to concerns by public transportation agencies about the rising demand and cost of providing dialysis trips, the report documents challenges and potential solutions to support transporting these patients.

NTI to Offer Trainings on Performance-Based Planning and Programming

The *National Transit Institute* will offer three deliveries in the spring of its [Performance-Based Planning and Programming \(PBPP\) training](#). The goal of the course is to familiarize transportation agencies with key elements of the PBPP framework and how to connect these elements to performance management requirements. The course is designed for participants at local, State, and Federal levels.