

Human Environment Digest

March 7, 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

NHTSA Releases Safety Research Programs Summary

The *Office of Behavioral Safety Research* and the *Office of Safety Programs* at the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)* released [a summary of their new and ongoing research programs](#) for pedestrian and bicycle safety. The summary includes a list of resources for States and communities, as well as information about upcoming projects and reports from the Office of Safety Programs.

MDOT Publishes Driving Change Playbook

The *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)* published a "[Driving Change Playbook](#)" as part of its Driving Change Campaign, a bicycle safety education campaign. The campaign recognizes an increase in the use of bicycles, and acknowledges the need for safety improvements. The Playbook is intended to help other agencies and organizations design and implement bicycle safety education campaigns, using data and insights that are unique to their contexts.

New Report Published on Bicycle Helmet Legislation

The *School of Mathematics and Statistics Transport and Road Safety (TARS)* at *The University of New South Wales Sydney* published a [report](#) that identifies bicycle helmet laws worldwide and reviews evidence of the impacts of helmets on bicyclist ridership and risky behavior. The report concludes that bicycle helmet legislation did not negatively impact bicycling ridership or increase risky behavior in most studies reviewed. The report offers recommendations for helmet legislation and technology that supports bicyclist safety.



Infrastructure

FHWA Releases Resources for Separating Bicyclists from Traffic

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* has released a "[Bikeway Selection Guide](#)," which provides techniques for informed decision making for selecting appropriate bicycle infrastructure. The report highlights the connections between bikeway selection and transportation planning, and presents the factors and considerations in a practice-oriented way. The report was informed by a [literature review providing resources for separating bicyclists from automobile traffic](#), which summarizes the existing literature that provides techniques to separate bicyclists from other motorized traffic. It also includes strategies for considering the relative safety impacts of different bicycle infrastructure types and example practices and metrics for selecting appropriate bikeway treatments to accommodate bicyclists on public roadways.

FHWA Publishes Report on Transportation Operations in Smart Connected Communities

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* published a report titled "[Transportation Systems Management and Operations \(TSMO\) in Smart Connected Communities](#)," which outlines the key characteristics of smart connected communities and the channels through which they may benefit from improved connections with Transportation Systems Management and Operations. The report includes an overview of the ways in which smart, connected communities build on what transportation system operators already do to further interagency collaboration; data collection and data

sharing; and use of innovative technologies. It also describes methods that will allow transportation system operators to leverage other aspects of smart, connected communities to improve transportation systems management and operations.

AARP Opens 2019 Community Challenge Grant Program

AARP is accepting applications through April 17, 2019 for its [2019 Community Challenge Grants Program](#), which provides grants to selected community-based, "quick-action" projects related to transportation, smart cities, public spaces, and housing. The program is open to nonprofits and government entities, and other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Community Challenge grants may support permanent physical improvements in the community, temporary demonstrations that will spur long-term change, and new, innovative programs or services. All activities must be completed by November 4, 2019.



Innovation

FHWA Publishes Overview of Pedestrian and Bicycle Research and Program Activities

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* published a [document](#) that presents recent and ongoing pedestrian and bicycle research efforts and related activities. This document includes relevant Federal-aid funds, FHWA offices, and activities organized by the current USDOT strategic goals: safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability.

FHWA Releases Community Connections Handbook

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* released a "[Community Connections Innovations Handbook](#)," which provides strategies for advancing Community Connections in transportation planning, development, and design. The report includes a description of the existing analytical tools, public involvement strategies, planning and design techniques, and operational improvements. The report also includes 16 case studies featuring projects in urban, suburban, and rural communities that have successfully applied the Community Connections strategies.

AARP Considers Impact of Autonomous Vehicles

AARP published an [article](#) on the adoption of autonomous vehicle technologies and how such technologies will affect older Americans. The article emphasizes the potential for autonomous vehicles to increase independence and safety for older Americans, while reducing isolation and other problems they may face. It also considers some of the challenges in the current autonomous and connected vehicle market.

Report Outlines Automated Transit Fleet Framework

The *Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University* released a [report that presents a framework and timeline for managing automated and connected vehicle fleets](#). The report outlines how coming changes and adoption of technologies will impact trucking, urban planning, infrastructure, the workforce, and vehicle ownership. It also explores the potential shift to Transportation as a Service and its implications for public transit systems, governments, and people.

New Report Considers Scenarios for Autonomous Vehicle Impacts on Communities

The *Greenlining Institute* published a new report, "[Autonomous Vehicle Heaven or Hell? Creating a Transportation Revolution that Benefits All.](#)" The report explores how emerging transportation technology, specifically autonomous vehicles (AVs), could contribute to positively to communities, though could also have unintended outcomes. Positive potential for AVs include reduced congestion, increased mobility, and increased safety. Potential risks include lack of affordability and accessibility. The report considers each of these potential outcomes, and includes policy recommendations at the Federal, State, and local level to promote AV technology that improves transportation options for all users.