

Human Environment Digest

February 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

Winter 2019 FHWA Safety Compass Newsletter Available

The Winter 2019 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safety Compass Newsletter* is now available. The newsletter aims to increase highway safety awareness by providing transportation professionals with resources, and real-world examples of ways in which they can support and invest in highway safety. This edition features information about federal aid programs, open online courses, and practices aimed at protecting vulnerable road users.

Report Outlines Systemic Approach to Safety Analysis

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)* has released a report titled "[Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis](#)," which provides a method for analyzing and identifying sites for potential pedestrian-centered safety interventions. The systemic approach outlined in the report enables transportation agencies to identify, prioritize, and select appropriate countermeasures for locations with a high risk of pedestrian-related incidents. The report also includes considerations for data collection and management. *TRB* held a [webinar](#) focused on this research; [slides](#) from the presentation are available to download.

National Transportation Safety Board Releases "Most Wanted" List of Transportation Safety Improvements

The *National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)* released their "[Most Wanted](#)" List, which identifies the top safety improvements that can be made across all modes to prevent accidents, minimize injuries, and save lives in the future. Recommendations include steps to improve pedestrian safety, such as reducing vehicle speeds and addressing driver fatigue. *NTSB* and the *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* will cohost a [webinar](#) focused on the List and *TRB's* 2019 [report](#), "Critical Issues in Transportation," on March 5, 2019 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM ET.



Infrastructure

FHWA Publishes Freight and Land Use Report

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* has released a report titled "[Freight and Land Use Travel Demand Evaluation](#)," which examines the recent paradigm shifts in freight and goods movement. The study analyzes and documents best practices and tools for analyzing how land use, local economic development, and demographic factors drive freight movement, trip generation, and freight demand analysis.

Study Identifies Challenges and Opportunities for Bike Share in Minority and Low-Income Communities

Northwestern University published a [report](#) exploring the factors that influence perceptions of bike share systems in different communities. The report, titled "Where does active travel fit within local community narratives of mobility space and place?," highlights the importance of considering community context and history when planning and implementing policies that encourage active mobility. The findings suggest that underserved populations view active mobility both as a necessity and as a symbol of privilege and unwelcome neighborhood change. Encouraging active transportation with this context in mind may allow bike share systems to expand to more diverse neighborhoods.

ITDP Releases Report on the Future of Mobility

The *Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)* has released a [report on the future of urban mobility](#). The report analyzes the transportation environments of 25 cities around the world, and synthesizes the findings into a list of indicators for sustainable transportation systems. The report presents the indicators in an accessible and nontechnical form so that they may be used by various groups in mobility planning efforts.



Innovation

FHWA and FTA Extend TPEA Nomination Deadline

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* and the *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* extended the nomination period for the 2019 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards (TPEAs) to [Friday, March 1, 2019](#). The TPEA program recognizes outstanding development, planning, and implementation of transportation projects. For additional information on TPEA eligibility and evaluation criteria or to submit a nomination, please visit the [TPEA Program website](#). States, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit operators that have used Federal FHWA/FTA funding to develop a plan, project, or planning process that demonstrates excellence in planning are encouraged to apply.

Innovative Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Recording Available

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)*'s Council on Active Transportation hosted "[Innovative Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects](#)," a webinar sharing new State programs and projects focused on improving active mobility. The webinar recording includes presentations from State transportation officials, and information about planning innovative bicycle and pedestrian projects and measuring their success.

New Bike Rack Collects Energy Generated by Cyclists

Designers in the Netherlands have unveiled a [new bike rack design](#) that can collect the energy that bicyclists create. Each day, bicyclists in Amsterdam generate an estimated total of 19.5 million watt-hours of energy. As bicyclists ride, the front wheel produces kinetic energy, which can be stored in batteries on the bicycle. To collect the stored energy, bicyclists park in a communal bike rack, which is connected to the electric grid, which collects the energy stored during the ride.



Accountability

Mineta Transport Institute Releases Report on Mobility Challenges for Low-Income Seniors

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* at *San Jose State University* has released a [report](#) that explores the travel patterns, needs, and mobility problems faced by diverse low-income, inner-city older adults in Los Angeles. This report seeks to identify solutions to these groups' mobility challenges. This report also reviews municipal policies and services geared toward older adult mobility in six cities, and provides guidance for Los Angeles municipal services to improve older adults' ease of mobility and quality of life.

Report Highlights Transportation Challenges for Those Unable to Drive

A [report](#) from the *National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)* outlines specific challenges for people who are unable to drive. The *NADTC* used a Transportation Needs Assessment to survey older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers to identify their transportation needs and challenges. The report concludes that older adults and people with disabilities face many barriers, including lack of access to adequate and affordable transportation alternatives, such as transit and ride share. Additionally, caregivers, family, and friends often provide both transportation and information about transportation options.

Report Outlines Practices for Involving the Visually Impaired in Planning Efforts

A [report](#) from the *Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)* explores best practices for involving people with visual impairments in transportation facility planning efforts. The report includes a survey of practice, insights from State transportation leaders, and a review of related research. It may inform planning efforts to ensure that transportation facilities are accessible to those with visual impairments, in accordance with the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Bike Share Equity Report Reviews Progress Made in 2018

The *Better Bike Share Partnership* has released a report, "[2018 in Bike Share Equity: A Year in Review](#)," which considers the evolution of bike share programs nationwide in 2018. The report addresses questions of innovation, infrastructure, policy, and technology, and identifies areas for future improvement for equity in bike share systems.