



## Human Environment Digest

December 27, 2018

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

#### **Road to Zero Coalition Accepting Applications for 2019 Safe System Innovation Grants**

The Road to Zero Coalition announced that it is accepting applications for its third annual [Safe System Innovation Grants](#) program. Grants will be awarded to selected organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to increasing roadway safety and elimination preventable roadway deaths. In the application, organizations should explain how their programs will reduce roadway crashes, set a time frame for reaching their goal, outline their method for program evaluation, and detail the organizations' intended public outreach strategy. Applications will be accepted through January 25, 2019.



### Infrastructure

#### **U.S. DOT Announces \$1.5 Billion in BUILD Grants**

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced [\\$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding](#) to 91 projects in 49 States and Washington, DC. The grants are made through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants program. Projects were selected for BUILD Grant funding based on several criteria, including safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, and state of good repair. The BUILD Grants program focuses on investing in rural infrastructure, and 62 of the 91 selected projects are in rural areas.

#### **PeopleForBikes Seeks Applications for Spring 2019 Community Grant Program**

PeopleForBikes opened applications for its [Spring 2019 Community Grant Program](#), which provides grant funding for bicycle infrastructure projects and advocacy initiatives. PeopleForBikes will accept grant applications supporting a specific project or program that will make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles. Grant funds will be awarded to nonprofit organizations, city and county entities, or State and Federal agencies working locally. Selected grantees will receive funding of up to \$10,000.

#### **New York City Announces New Bikeshare Partnership and Expansion**

New York City announced a [large expansion to Citi Bike, enabled by a new partnership](#) to invest \$100 million in New York City's bikeshare network over the next five years. This partnership will enable the bike fleet to grow by nearly 40,000 and increase the size of the service area. The expanded fleet will also include more pedal assist bikes than are currently available. The partnership will support an expansion of the reduced fare program, which provides discounted memberships for low-income New York residents.



### Innovation

## **America Walks Spotlights Transit-Walkability Collaboration**

The *America Walks* published a [Transit-Walkability Collaborative case study series](#), which highlights collaborations between public transit operators and active transportation organizations to improve safety, walkability, and transit access in four different communities. The case studies highlight models for connectivity between transit and active transportation options. The featured communities were chosen for their efforts to strengthen local economic development, create opportunities for vulnerable and underserved residents, and enhance community resilience.

## **APTA Study Considers Changes for the American Commuter**

The *American Public Transportation Association (APTA)* released a study titled "[The Transformation of the American Commuter](#)," which is based on qualitative and quantitative data with a strong focus on millennials. The report finds that 77% of commuters surveyed see public transit as the backbone of emerging technologies in transportation like ride-sharing, autonomous vehicles, and bike and scooter share programs. The report also acknowledges that commuters, particularly millennials, are demanding multiple, diverse mobility options and finds that 74% of millennials would use a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) mobile app that allowed for coordinating payments for multiple types of transportation.

## **Chaddick Institute Publishes Study of e-Scooter use in Chicago**

The *Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development* at DePaul University released a study titled "[Evaluating the Potential Mobility Benefits of Shared Dockless Scooters in Chicago](#)," which considers the emerging popularity of e-scooter share programs in Chicago. The study finds that e-scooters provide an alternative to the private automobile for short trips between 0.5 and 2 miles and that scooters provide first and last-mile connections to existing transit on longer distance routes. The findings suggest that e-scooters can serve a critical transportation need to complement existing transit systems.

## **Urban Institute Highlights Opportunities for Digital Fare Payment and Development**

A [new blog post](#) from the *Urban Institute* highlights the potential of digital transportation fare payment systems to foster economic growth in developing cities around the world. Digitizing payments may reduce problems associated with cash transactions, increase economic mobility, promote data collection and data-driven decision making, and expedite the widespread adoption of new digital technologies.



## **Accountability**

### **Executive Order Directs Spending to Opportunity Zones**

President Trump signed an [executive order](#) directing Federal agencies to steer funds to designated Opportunity Zones. The Zones are census tracts that have high rates of poverty or that border other zones with high poverty rates. Federal investment in the Zones is intended to support private investment in previously overlooked areas and to assure investors that the Zones are viable places in which to invest.

### **ITE Publishes Report on Curbside Management**

The *Institute of Transportation Engineers* published [a report](#) that provides guidance on best practices for curb space allocation related to policy, prioritization, implementation tools, and evaluation metrics. The report considers tools and treatments that support safety and access for users of all modes. It also includes a step-by-step process for selecting curb treatments that consider both short and long-term planning strategies.

### **NADTC Poll Finds Transportation Challenges for Those Unable to Drive**

The *National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)* released the [results of a poll](#), which finds significant transportation challenges for older adults and people with disabilities. Poll respondents indicated that a lack of accessible and reliable transportation alternatives to driving caused feelings of frustration and isolation. Respondents living in small towns and rural areas were more likely to feel that they were unable to access alternatives to driving.