

Human Environment Digest

December 13, 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.

*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

OECD and ITF Release Report on Urban Road Safety

The *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* and *International Transport Forum* released a research report, "[Safer City Streets: Global Benchmarking for Urban Road Safety](#)." The report presents data and analysis collected from 31 cities to inform and support urban policymakers as they set road safety targets and monitor progress towards improving road safety, with an emphasis on vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.



Infrastructure

FTA Announces \$281 Million in Funding for Transit Projects

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* [announced \\$281 million in funding for five transit projects](#) through its Capital Investment Grants program. The funds will help to advance large-scale, capital-intensive transit projects in Arizona, California, Minnesota, and Texas. Newly funded projects include new and extended streetcar, heavy rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit.

EPA Requests Letters of Interest for Green and Complete Streets Tool

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Communities are invited to apply for the *Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)* [Green and Complete Streets tool](#). This tool can be used to develop strategies and policy changes to build more pedestrian and bike-friendly streets that better manage storm water on-site. Applicants must submit a two-page letter of interest before 5:00 PM ET on December 19, 2018.



Innovation

FWHA and AASHTO Announce 2018 STIC Excellence Award Recipients

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* and *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)* awarded the [2018 State Transportation Innovation Council \(STIC\) Excellence Awards](#) to STICs in Colorado, Delaware, and Texas. The STIC Excellence Award recognizes a STIC that has made significant impact toward fostering a strong culture for innovation. This year's awarded activities included projects dedicated to stakeholder engagement, pedestrian safety, data-driven safety analysis, congestion mitigation efforts, and open data challenges.

Nominations Open for FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Excellence Awards

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* and *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* are now accepting nominations for the [2019 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards \(TPEA\) Program](#). The TPEA Program recognizes outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. 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. The nomination period is open now through February 1, 2019.

TRB to Host Committee Meeting on Shared Mobility

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* will host its first committee meeting for the Mobility as a Service Study on December 17, 2018. [Part 1](#) will take place from 10:00-12:00 PM ET and [Part 2](#) from 1:00-3:00 PM ET. The Study examines the role of new and expanding shared mobility options, such as transportation network companies, taxis, carsharing, bikesharing, scootersharing, and microtransit, and the relationship to and the impact of these services on existing public transit operators. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will make a presentation in Part 2.

International Transport Forum Publishes Paper on Economics of Regulating Ride-Hailing and Dockless Bikeshare

The *International Transport Forum (ITF)* published a [discussion paper](#) reviewing the economic case for regulating ride-hailing and dockless bikeshare. The paper examines the impact of ride-hailing and dockless bikeshare on the economy, safety, and social and environmental resilience. It also shares existing regulatory responses to these new mobility options.

Mineta Transportation Institute Releases Report on Parking Impact of Electric Scooters

The *Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jos  State University* has released a [report](#) that explores the extent to which the parking of shared electric scooters poses a problem to other users on streets, sidewalks, and in public spaces. It includes suggestions for policymakers and regulators on how to create and maintain shared infrastructure for scooters and other mobility devices.

Center for Transportation Studies Develops Smartphone-based Device to Support Safety and Wayfinding for the Visually Impaired

The *Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota* developed a smartphone-based assistive system that incorporates a network of Bluetooth low energy beacons to provide location-specific traffic and navigational information for the visually impaired. The [report](#) details the results from their pilot study and provides lessons for others looking to improve safety and access for the visually impaired.



Accountability

FHWA Office of Civil Rights Completes Website Update

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Civil Rights* recently updated its [website](#). The website includes information on the office's various programs and information on filing complaints. The update is designed to be more user-friendly with potential to expand online assistance to partners.

TRL Releases Report on Innovative Active Travel Modes

The *Future of Transport (TRL)* released a [report](#) that identifies recent developments in active travel modes and determines their impacts on health. Active travel is defined as travel by bicycle, skateboard, scooter, and electrically assisted vehicle. The report includes suggestions and tools for practitioners to encourage active travel in their communities.

Call for Abstracts for International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation

The [call for abstracts](#) is open for the *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's)* 6th International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation (WIit). Accepted topics include women's travel behavior patterns; transportation planning and policy processes to consider women's issues; women's safety; personal security and health considerations in transportation; women and emerging transportation innovations; and women in the transportation workforce. Abstracts are due by January 30, 2019.