

Human Environment Digest

November 29, 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.

Highlight: Two New FHWA Job Opportunities

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment is advertising a [Transportation Specialist – GS-13/14](#) vacancy in Washington, DC to provide leadership for bicycle and pedestrian policies and programs. The Ideal Candidate is a senior professional with an in-depth understanding of transportation planning policies, guidance, and legislation related to multimodal, bicycle, and pedestrian network planning, accelerating project delivery, and data-driven, systemic safety design. Applications are due by December 3.

In addition, the FHWA Office of Human Environment is also advertising a [Transportation Specialist – GS-13](#) vacancy to lead national multimodal, public involvement, and community impact assessment activities. The Ideal Candidate is a mid-level professional with experience in multimodal transportation, accelerating project development, public involvement, community impact assessment, and emerging technologies. Applications are due by December 12.



Safety

Report Highlights Child Safety in Autonomous Vehicles

Safe Kids Worldwide has released a report on the implications of autonomous vehicle technology for child safety. The report, titled "[Children in Autonomous Vehicles](#)" considers safety standards, usability testing, inclusive design, appropriate supervision, and marketing standards for autonomous vehicles. It recommends various policy and education initiatives to ensure that child safety is a priority in automated vehicle technologies.

New Report Spotlights Relationship between Travel Behavior and Bicycling Safety

A [new report](#) from the *Norwegian Centre for Transport Research* at the *Institute of Transport Economics* identifies potential methods for increasing the popularity of bicycling in Norway's four largest cities, and the implications that doing so would have on travel behavior and safety. The report compares the cities, and finds that people choose to bicycle more frequently when they perceive it to be safe. The researchers find that a higher perceived bicycling friendliness rating is related to an increased likelihood that one will choose a bike over other modes.



Infrastructure

USDOT Announces Rural Projects Initiative

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) *Build America Bureau* has announced an expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Investment Act (TIFIA) program called the [Rural Projects Initiative](#). This initiative will encourage and support rural communities' applications for low-cost loans from the Federal government to improve transportation infrastructure. Rural communities disproportionately face barriers that prevent them from qualifying for these programs, a hurdle the Rural Projects Initiative plans to address.



Innovation

FHWA Publishes Cases Study Featuring Dockless Bike Share

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* recently published a [new case study](#) in its livability series highlighting the dockless bike share program in Seattle, WA. The publication looks at how Seattle adopted dockless bike share and the manner in which the city successfully leveraged innovation in the private sector to improve mobility in the city. The case study may also serve as a beneficial resource for cities and towns that are exploring how to integrate dockless bike share into their transportation networks.

ITS JPO Releases State-of-the-Practice Report on Low-Speed Automated Shuttles

The *U.S. Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO)* has released the [Low-Speed Automated Shuttles: State of the Practice Final Report](#), which defines the design and service characteristics of low-speed automated shuttles; discusses the deployers, their motivations, and their partners; and provides information on demonstrations and deployments, both international and domestic. In the short term, pilot projects gather data, spur economic development, and expose the public to the technology. In the long-term, deployers aim to improve safety for all roadway users and address transportation problems, such as first- and last-mile connections.

2019 Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Opens

The *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* has issued a solicitation for applications for its [Environmental Justice Small Grants \(EJSG\) Program for fiscal year 2019](#). Entities chosen will use grants to engage, educate, and empower communities to identify and understand local environmental and public health issues, along with potential strategies to mitigate them. The program will award approximately 50 grants totaling approximately \$1.5 million. Prospective applicants are invited to participate in [conference calls](#) with the EPA to address questions about the EJSG Program and this solicitation. Entries are due by February 15, 2019.

Report Finds Dockless Mobility More Accessible to People of Color

A new [report](#) from *Populus* finds that dockless bike and scooter share programs may expand access to transportation options and improve mobility in underserved communities. The report focuses on the deployment of dockless bicycle and scooter share programs in [Washington, D.C.](#), and finds that use of dockless programs may be more equally distributed along racial lines than use of traditional, docked bike share programs.

NCHRP Report Considers Planning for Automated Vehicles

A new report from the *National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)* at the *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* explores the urban and regional planning tools needed to address automated and connected vehicles. The [report](#) outlines several planning approaches to integrating connected and automated vehicles into the local or regional transportation system, and emphasizes the role of local context in planning for autonomous and connected vehicles.

Study Examines the Implications of On-Demand Ridehailing Services

A new [study](#) from the *National Center for Sustainable Transportation* at the *University of California, Davis* examines the implications of on-demand ridehailing services on the transportation system. The study considers current transportation system stakeholder attitudes about the effects of on-demand ridehailing services and stakeholder perspectives on potential on-demand ridehailing policymaking. The study also offers a number of approaches that policymakers can adopt to ensure that on-demand ridehailing will be integrated into the transportation system in a manner that promotes greater equity and livability for all users.



Accountability

PBIC Releases Info Brief on Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Programs

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)* released [Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Programs: Summary of Practice and Key Resources](#), which shares practices and resources for implementing count programs to measure walking and biking. This brief aids those interested in starting, expanding or maintaining bicycle and pedestrian count programs in order to inform decision-making for multimodal infrastructure investment.

Rudin Center Releases Report on Gender and Transportation

New York University's Rudin Center for Transportation has released a report titled "[The Pink Tax on Transportation: Women's Challenges in Mobility](#) ." The report examines the price that women pay for transportation in New York City, and its implications for transportation planning and policymaking. It finds that women pay a median extra \$26-50 per month due to safety concerns on public transportation.