

Human Environment Digest

November 1, 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

FHWA Releases Pedestrian Safety Toolbox

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* has released an issue brief on the effectiveness of different strategies for reducing the incidence of pedestrian-involved crashes. [The Toolbox of Pedestrian Countermeasures and Their Potential Effectiveness](#) estimates the expected crash reduction effects of specific countermeasures. Planners, traffic engineers, and other transportation professionals can use the toolbox to estimate the number of crashes that may be prevented by implementing specific countermeasures.

FHWA Releases Guide to Support Local Communities in Working Towards Zero Deaths Vision

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* has released "[Transportation Safety Planning and the Zero Deaths Vision: A Guide for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Local Communities](#)." The guide will assist local governments and transportation agencies to use a step-by-step safety planning process to work towards the zero deaths vision, including the development and implementation of a regional or local safety plan.

Center for Transportation Studies Releases Report on Tribal Transportation Safety

The *University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies* has released a research report on technologies that may improve traffic safety on tribal reservations. "[Using GIS to Improve Tribal Safety: Applications, Trends, and Implementation Dimensions](#)" explores the application of geographic information systems (GIS) to transportation safety on tribal lands. Motor vehicle crashes are the main cause of death for Native Americans between the ages of five and 34, and as such, improved traffic safety can reduce this major public health risk to Native populations. GIS technology may enhance the collection and use of transportation safety information to reduce risks on tribal lands.



Infrastructure

AARP Publishes Article on Walkable Communities

AARP has published an [article about the benefits that living in walkable communities may have for older adults](#). Living in walkable communities may promote regular, low-intensity physical activity as part of residents' daily routines. Walkability may foster active, social, and fulfilling lifestyles for older adults, which may be associated with longevity and long-term health outcomes for older adults.

FHWA, FRA, and FTA Publish Final Rule on Environmental Impacts and Related Procedures

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*, *Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)*, and *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* published a [final rule in the Federal Register](#) on implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 4(f) requirements. This final rule updates FHWA and FTA regulations to reflect MAP-21 and FAST Act changes, and establishes regulations for FRA. It was published October 29 and will become effective on November 28, 2018.

Economic Benefits of Bicycling Can be Measured with New Economic Impact Model Templates

The *Walton Family Foundation*, *PeopleForBikes*, and *BikeNWA* developed a series of free, user-friendly [Economic Impact Model Templates](#). These tools guide users through calculating the economic contribution of bicycling across six key

categories: events, resident spending, bicycle business, tourism, retail sales tax, and health. The templates were created following a [study](#) to quantify the economic benefits of bicycling in Northwest Arkansas, which turned out to be \$137 million annually. To access these templates, enter your email address on the PeopleForBikes [webpage](#).



Innovation

City Form Lab Releases Guide for Bicycle and Pedestrian Trip Monitoring

The *Harvard Graduate School of Design's City Form Lab* has released a guide to tools for modeling pedestrian and bicycle trips in cities with the computer modeling program Rhinoceros 3D. The [Urban Network Analysis Toolbox](#) provides designers, planners, and others with the necessary tools to measure and predict flows of non-motorized transportation in cities.

FHWA Features Nevada DOT Pilot on Vehicle-Based Data Sharing

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* released a [case study](#) through its [Every Day Counts](#) program on the Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT's) hybrid communications platform for Integrating Mobile Observations (IMO). Since 2011, NDOT has been piloting the IMO program, which combines radio, Wi-Fi, and cellular capabilities to collect real-time weather data from connected vehicles. The program's goal is to improve safety, reliability, and mobility of the State's road system during winter weather events.

ITF Publishes Report on Shared Mobility Simulations

The *International Transport Forum (ITF)* has released a report on [shared mobility simulations performed in Dublin, Ireland](#). The report studies how new shared mobility services may affect congestion and the use of public space, as well as potential impacts on mobility and livability in the city and its immediate surrounding area. The report finds that shared, on-demand mobility solutions may reduce congestion and the need for increased parking space in Dublin. Shared mobility services may also increase citizens' access, especially for those people living in areas not easily accessible by the existing public transportation system.

UC Davis Releases Report on Sustainable Transportation Implications of On-Demand Ride Services

The *Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California at Davis* has released a [report](#) that discusses various perspectives of policies and other actions that might enable on-demand services to help alleviate existing transportation issues. This report focuses on the issues of congestion, emissions, and inequality of access and mobility. It seeks to assess the potential outcomes related to on-demand ride-hailing, identify how emerging on-demand transportation services can effectively enhance sustainability and mobility outcomes, and determine how related policy goals can be realized.



Accountability

6th International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* is sponsoring the 6th International Conference on Women's Issues in Transportation (WiiT 2019) on September 10-13, 2019 in Irvine, California. This conference explores women's perspectives, challenges, achievements, and opportunities with respect to travel and transportation. Session tracks 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; and women and emerging transportation technologies. The conference provides an update on the progress and challenges in relation to women and mobility; explores how gender equality practices in transportation are increasing business and economics development; exchanges ideas on how public agencies can incorporate good gender equality policies and practices with approaches to oversee efforts and measure performance; and examines methods to address safety and security of women who are employed with or using transportation systems. [Registration](#) is now open.