Human Environment Digest

August 9, 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

New Infobrief on Improving School Commutes for Student Pedestrians and Cyclists

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership released an infobrief, "Keep Calm and Carry On to School: Improving Arrival and Dismissal for Walking and Biking" on how schools and school districts can improve the safety and comfort of school arrival and dismissal for students walking and bicycling. The brief identifies strategies and techniques in the categories of engineering; operations and programming; and education and enforcement. Key recommendations include clear separation and delineation of modes, staggered dismissal of students, and "walk-on-in" programs that reduce congestion by having parent pickup locations a short walking distance from the school.

ITF Releases Study on the Safety of E-Bikes

The *International Transport Forum* (ITF) released a study discussing the crash likelihood and safety of electric bicycles (e-bikes) in the Netherlands . E-bikes are a rapidly growing transportation option as they allow individuals to travel at higher speeds across longer distances and steeper terrain than classic bicycles. Despite this increase in speed, the study found e-bike users are not more likely to be involved in a crash when compared to conventional bicycle users; however, there is a need for additional research to determine the overall impact of e-bikes on road safety.

Infrastructure

2019 Environmental Excellence Awards Open for Nominations

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) is accepting entries for its 2019 Environmental Excellence Awards, which recognize outstanding transportation projects, processes, and organizations that incorporate environmental stewardship into the planning and project development processes. FHWA is accepting nominations for any project, process, group, or individuals involved in a project or process that has used FHWA funding sources to contribute to transportation and the environment. Entries are due by September 14, 2018.

ITF Publishes Paper on Best Practices for Bike Lanes

The *International Transport Forum* (ITF) published a paper examining the effectiveness of light separation as an alternative to more permanent infrastructure to protect bicycle lanes. With more cyclists on the road each year, the use of small physical objects for light separation of bike lanes from vehicle lanes presents a cost-effective opportunity for city officials to invest in bicycle infrastructure that is easily adaptable to changing conditions. While there is no one-size-fits all approach for light separation, the paper found this improvement to be effective at keeping vehicles outside of bike lanes and improving the overall safety of cyclists.

FHWA Releases Case Studies Highlighting Multimodal Roadway Design and Green Infrastructure

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently published a Successes in Stewardship article, which outlines a set of case studies highlighting multimodal roadway design and green infrastructure throughout the United States. The case studies focus on efforts to promote connected pedestrian and bicycle networks through attempts to mitigate flood risks, establish public-private partnerships, improve multimodal network connectivity, and highlight State and locally driven projects. Overall, the article outlines effective examples of improvements to bicycle and pedestrian networks that incorporate both green infrastructure and resiliency benefits.

Innovation

Urban Land Magazine Publishes Article on Designing for the Driverless Age

A recent article in *Urban Land Magazine* outlines how urban planners and designers are considering the arrival of autonomous vehicles (AVs) in the development of new spaces. The expected increase in AVs has the potential to drastically change how the public navigates urban areas by repurposing traditional parking areas and helping to solve curbside congestion. By taking a proactive approach towards the arrival of this technology, communities will be better prepared to handle AVs and ensure the system promotes safety for all users.

New Report from Populus on the Micro-Mobility Revolution

A report from the data analytics firm *Populus* presents new findings on the introduction and adoption of micro-mobility services, such as electric scooters, in the United States. The report found that a majority of people across the ten major U.S. metropolitan areas surveyed view scooters positively, as they expand transportation options and serve as a complement and solution to the first- and last-mile problem. Public-private partnerships and collaboration will be necessary to develop new transportation initiatives that promote safety within this rapidly developing area.

New Report Examines the Effects of Ride Share in Urban Areas

A recently published report from Schaller Consulting, titled "The New Automobility: Lyft, Uber, and the Future of American Cities " examines the effects that app-based ride-share services have on traffic congestion in urban areas. The report found that documented impacts on increased traffic congestion from ride sharing are linked to the service competing more with public transportation than personal vehicle ownership. It may be important for city officials to take steps to manage congestion influenced by ride sharing and work alongside stakeholders to ensure that ride sharing apps are used to promote accessibility and augment public transportation networks rather than supplant them.

Accountability

Study Evaluates Public Sentiment Towards New Bicycle Infrastructure

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* released a recent study looking at the effectiveness of a pop-up protected bike lane at increasing safety for bicyclists and pedestrians in San José, California. Following the installation of the bike lane, city officials conducted a survey that found an overall positive impression of the bikeway from the public. Issues related to safety and the perception of safety motivated the positive comments about what survey respondents liked about the bikeway. The city will use the results of the study to continue expanding its bicycle infrastructure with design elements that prioritize safety.