

Human Environment Digest

July 26, 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

U.S. DOT Issues Final Safety Regulations for the National Public Transportation Safety Program

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) [announced two final regulations](#) to help improve the safety of public transportation systems across the country. The [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan](#) rule will help transit agencies develop safety plans that better manage their safety risks, while the [Safety Certification Training Program](#) rule will establish a basic training curriculum to improve the safety oversight of rail transit systems. The Safety Plan rulemaking encourages transit agencies to take into account bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns.

ITF Releases Report on the Safety of Bike Share Systems

The *International Transport Forum* (ITF) [published a report](#) outlining the safety impacts associated with the growth in bike share. Bike share systems are one of the fastest growing modes of transportation across the world and the recent emergence of dockless bike share systems has produced new safety related concerns. The report calls for bike safety to be an increased priority for policymakers and for consistent collection of bike crash data to help identify and reduce safety risks.



Infrastructure

U.S. DOT Announces Funding Opportunity for Tribal Transit Projects

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) announced the opportunity to apply for [\\$5 million in competitive grant funding](#) to support transit for Native American tribes and Alaska Native villagers in rural areas. The funding program supports projects that will provide greater access to jobs, schools, and health care in tribal areas where transit is currently limited or nonexistent. Applicants should indicate how the funding will help improve the quality of life of the tribe through increased ridership, elimination of gaps in service, and increased reliability.

NPS Releases Active Transportation Guidebook

The *National Park Service* (NPS) released the [National Park Service Active Transportation Guidebook: A Resource on Supporting Walking and Bicycling for National Parks and their Partners](#). This new resource supports parks, gateway communities, and partners who are interested in pursuing opportunities to enhance walking and bicycling to and within national parks. The Guidebook provides key information, best practice examples, and numerous useful resources to help inspire and guide efforts that would allow visitors to experience their natural, cultural and historical places in new ways through active transportation. The NPS collaborated with the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) staff on the development of the guidebook.

TRB Announces Release of Access Across America: Transit 2017 Report

Researchers at the [Center for Transportation Studies](#) at the *University of Minnesota* recently released the [Access Across America: Transit 2017](#) report, which analyzes access to jobs by transit and walking for each of the United States' 11 million census blocks. The report analyzes the data in 49 of the 50 largest metropolitan areas by population and helps to monitor and compare how access in metropolitan areas evolves over time in response to transportation investments and land use decisions.



Innovation

TRB Releases Early Access Papers Addressing Pedestrians and Bicyclists

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published a two-part series of early access papers addressing safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists across the world. [Part one](#) of the series includes 14 papers examining topics such as distracted walking, bicycle lane capacity, and walking distances to transit. [Part two](#) focuses on how pedestrians, bicyclists, and autonomous vehicles will interact on roadways. This series is intended to increase awareness on issues surrounding walking and bicycling in order to promote more accessible and livable communities.

NACTO Issues Guide for Managing Shared Active Transportation

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials* (NACTO) [released a guide](#) to help cities and public entities manage shared active transportation modes such as dockless bike share and scooter share companies. The report outlines zoning regulations, best practices on how small vehicles should be parked, and provides a brief overview of discount and engagement programs for bike share systems. The guide concludes with existing practices in cities across the United States with regard to fleet sizes, implemented fees, and parking policies for shared modes of active transportation.

TRB Releases Report on the Interplay Among Public Transit, Shared Mobility, and Automobiles in Cities

A new report from the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB), "[Broadening Understanding of the Interplay Among Public Transit, Shared Mobility, and Personal Automobiles](#)," explores how shared transportation modes such as rideshare influence the use of public transit and personal automobiles. The report discusses the effects that app-based transportation companies have on urban areas including their impact on traffic congestion, public transit ridership, and single-occupancy vehicle trips.



Accountability

The Center for Active Design Releases Guidelines

The *Center for Active Design* (CfAD) published [The Assembly Civic Design Guidelines](#), which provides recommendations for city officials to create well-designed and well-maintained public spaces in local communities. The report culminates with a number of strategies designed to promote green spaces, develop bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, preserve affordable housing, and invest in public transit in communities across the country.