

Human Environment Digest

July 12, 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

SRTS National Partnership Releases Infobrief on Engaging Students with Disabilities

The *Safe Routes to School* (SRTS) National Partnership [released an infobrief](#) on how to plan and develop a program that considers and meets the needs of students with disabilities. The brief describes the benefits of SRTS for students with disabilities and outlines important components of inclusive SRTS programming. Developing a program that is welcoming for students with disabilities helps to broaden a program's reach, ensures all students can receive the benefits of the program, and enables students with and without disabilities to enjoy each other's company and learn safe and healthy habits together.

FHWA Announces Funding for Tribal Transportation Safety Improvements

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) announced that [82 tribes across the country will receive \\$17.5 million](#) for projects to improve transportation safety on tribal lands. The funds will largely be used for safety planning, data improvements, and engineering for tribal communities. The investments in these communities will help to improve safety, create jobs, and increase access to schools, work, and medical facilities.



Infrastructure

July 2018 Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter Available

The July 2018 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) [Multimodal Connectivity Newsletter](#) is now available. The newsletter provides transportation professionals with real-world examples of ways in which multimodal transportation investments promote livability, such as providing access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safer roads.

TRB Releases Report on Developing an Expanded Classification System for Highways and Streets

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB's) [National Cooperative Highway Research Program](#) (NCHRP) released a report that builds upon the preliminary engineering of a design project to help facilitate the accommodation of multimodal transportation on highways and streets. The report, "[An Expanded Functional Classification System for Highways and Streets](#)," helps practitioners balance priorities for roadway design by classifying based on the various needs of roadway users. The report is accompanied by an additional web-only document, "[Developing an Expanded Functional Classification System for More Flexibility in Geometric Design](#)," which documents the methodology used by researchers.

GIS-Based Sidewalk Network Improves the Asset Management of Pedestrian Infrastructure

A new paper from the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB), "[A Semi-Automated Method to Generate GIS-Based Sidewalk Networks for Asset Management and Pedestrian Accessibility Assessment](#)," aims to improve the asset management of pedestrian infrastructure by developing a GIS-based sidewalk network. The report notes a number of ways GIS can be used to manage sidewalks as transportation assets; assess accessibility for pedestrians and those with disabilities; and prioritize repairs or improvements. This paper can help to support a safe, accessible, and equitable transportation system for all users.



Innovation

FHWA Announces EDC-5 Initiatives

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently announced the latest technologies and innovations that will be promoted in the [fifth round of Every Day Counts](#) (EDC-5). The State-based initiative rapidly deploys proven but underused innovations to accelerate project delivery and enhance the transportation system. In addition to continuing the [Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian](#) (STEP) program, EDC-5 introduces innovations such as [Virtual Public Involvement](#) strategies to promote more effective engagement from the public at all stages of the planning process, and [Value Capture: Capitalizing on the Value Created by Transportation](#) to recover a portion of public transportation investment that results in increased land values.

WEF Publishes Report on Reshaping Urban Mobility with Autonomous Vehicles

The *World Economic Forum* (WEF) and the *Boston Consulting Group* co-published a [report examining how autonomous vehicles \(AVs\) could reshape the future of urban mobility](#). The report found that the expansion of AVs could have major impacts on city streets by drastically reducing the need for on-street parking, while potentially increasing congestion in downtown areas. The report recommends that policymakers work alongside public and private transportation providers to unlock the social benefits from this new technology and help enhance urban mobility for all.

STRIDE Releases Report on Using Crowdsourcing to Prioritize Bicycle Route Network Improvements

The *Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development, and Education* (STRIDE) Center released a report on [Using Crowdsourcing to Prioritize Bicycle Route Network Improvements](#). The report uses data collected from crowdsourced bicycling smartphone applications to determine factors that influence route choice. The analyses focused on both urban and suburban areas and found that demographics, roadway characteristics, and surrounding land use all had a significant impact on whether a particular street segment would be used for bicycling.



Accountability

SRTS National Partnership: 2018 Making Strides State Report Cards

The *Safe Routes to School* (SRTS) National Partnership released [State report cards](#) that provide a snapshot of how supportive each State is of walking, bicycling, and physical activity for children and adults. The report cards and accompanying [full report](#) primarily look at State policy, focusing on four key areas: Complete Streets and Active Transportation, Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation Funding, Active Neighborhoods and Schools, and State Physical Activity Planning and Support.

HUD Releases Report on the Displacement of Lower-Income Families in Urban Areas

The *Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) released a [report examining the causes and consequences of gentrification](#) in urban areas. The report emphasizes the importance of preserving affordable housing and encouraging investments in multi-modal transportation to help limit the effects of displacement in lower-income communities. It concludes by identifying key steps policymakers can take to foster neighborhood change that is both inclusive and equitable.