

Human Environment Digest

June 28, 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

NCSC Launches the Safe Streets Academy to Promote Safety on Roadways

The *National Complete Streets Coalition* (NCSC) launched the [Safe Streets Academy](#) to test out new creative approaches to promote safer street design in three cities. Through [demonstration projects](#) focused around neighborhood traffic calming and incorporating complete streets into roadway redesign, Orlando, FL, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, KY, and South Bend, IN transformed their streets, intersections, and neighborhoods into safer places for all road users.

USDOT Announces Solving for Safety: Visualization Challenge

The *United States Department of Transportation* (USDOT) announced the [Solving for Safety: Visualization Challenge](#), in which individuals and teams will develop innovative analytical visualization tools to inform decisions on efforts to reduce fatalities and injuries on U.S. roads and rail systems. The challenge supports developing tools that promote safety for vulnerable system users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as motorcyclists and persons with disabilities or reduced mobility and orientation, such as those with limited vision and hearing. Submissions for Stage I are due July 31, 2018.

NTSB Reports on Initial Findings from Uber AV Fatal Crash

The *National Transportation Safety Board* (NTSB) [reported the preliminary findings](#) from its ongoing investigation of the Uber automated vehicle crash in Tempe, AZ, which killed a pedestrian. The NTSB is collecting additional information about the crash before conducting further analysis and drawing conclusions about probable cause. [The League of American Bicyclists](#) and other stakeholders are asking Congress to create a "Vision Test" safety standard that would ensure automated vehicles can detect and respond to bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable roadway users prior to passing any legislation on the sale of automated vehicles.



Infrastructure

FHWA Releases Recordings of Community Impact Assessment Webinars

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released recordings for the latest [community impact assessment \(CIA\) webinars](#). CIA is a critical part of the transportation planning and project development process in order to better understand and document the anticipated social effects of proposed actions on a community. The latest webinar recordings demonstrate current CIA techniques and approaches, discuss the recent updates to the [CIA Reference Guide](#), and highlight new CIA best practices across the country.

FHWA Offers Technical Assistance in Testing the Multimodal Corridor Planning Framework

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) is working with the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) to offer technical assistance to test the [Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning](#) in up to five States or local transportation agencies. The technical assistance and training will support transportation agencies in developing a data-driven systems approach to incorporate multimodal access and improved health outcomes into corridor planning. Interested agencies should submit a two to three page letter of interest to [Victoria Martinez](#) or [Alan Tabachnick](#) by July 6, 2018.

ITDP Publishes Bikeshare Planning Guide

The *Institute for Transportation and Development Policy* (ITDP) recently published [The Bikeshare Planning Guide](#), which provides city planners and stakeholders with resources to plan and implement a bikeshare system. The guide draws from examples of bikeshare systems across the world to demonstrate how to design and implement a system that will encourage ridership across a diverse population. The guide also focuses on the importance of working alongside city and community leaders to build bikesharing into the transportation network in order to prioritize transit integration and a high-quality user experience.

FTA Announces Funding Opportunity to Improve Transit Bus Infrastructure

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) [announced \\$366.3 million](#) in competitive grant funding for transit bus projects across the country. The funding program seeks to improve the condition of bus infrastructure nationwide by funding the replacement and rehabilitation of buses and related facilities. Eligible projects for funding include those that replace, lease, rehabilitate, or purchase buses, along with distinct projects to purchase, rehabilitate, construct, or lease bus-related infrastructure.



Innovation

Series Explores How Autonomous Vehicles Could Revolutionize Cities

The *National League of Cities* released a series of [interactive future scenarios](#) for autonomous vehicles (AVs) that aim to help cities see how autonomous technologies will affect daily life. By anticipating the changes that the use of AVs will have on cities, leaders will be able to make decisions that promote this innovative technology, while improving quality of life for residents by increasing mobility, reducing congestion, and promoting the efficient use of public space.

FRA Releases New Dashboard to Illustrate Rail Trespass and Suicide Data

The *Federal Railroad Administration* (FRA) released a [new dashboard](#) to help visualize trespassing and suicide data along railroad rights-of-way. The dashboard will help analyze trespass and suicide incidents along railroad property and allow users to visually interact with the data. The FRA will use the data to better understand where trespassing incidents are occurring both locally and nationally, and to identify trends in incidents from year to year.



Accountability

APBP Publishes Policy Statement on Autonomous Vehicles

The *Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals* (APBP) released a [policy statement](#) on the impact of automated vehicles (AVs) for pedestrians and bicyclists. The policy statement specifically emphasizes the importance of establishing minimum performance standards for detection and reaction capabilities of AV technologies, requiring safety regulations for all AVs, implementing policies that improve safety for people walking and biking, and reducing or eliminating the number of AVs allowed exemptions from safety standards.

AARP Releases Report Ranking Livable Communities

The Association for Aging and Retired Persons (AARP) released "[The Livability Index 2018: Transforming Communities for All Ages](#)," a research report that scores every neighborhood and community in the United States for services and amenities that support livability. The Livability Index uses over 50 national data sources and 60 indicators to rank communities across seven categories: opportunity, housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, and engagement. The transportation component focuses on convenience, accessibility, costs, and safety. AARP hosted a [solutions forum](#) in June 2018 to present key findings and engage stakeholders.

CEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Updates to the NEPA Environmental Review Process

The *Council on Environmental Quality* (CEQ) announced an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register. CEQ is proposing updates to [40 CFR 1500-1508](#), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process in order to make these processes more efficient. CEQ is requesting feedback on the proposed changes by July 20th, 2018 through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#).