

Human Environment Digest

June 14, 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

NHTSA Updates Traffic Safety Fact Sheets with New Data System

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)* recently released revised versions of its [2016 Pedestrian Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](#) and [2016 Bicyclists and Other Cyclists Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](#). The revised versions replace the National Automotive Sampling System General Estimates of police-reported traffic crashes with a new data system, the [Crash Report Sampling System](#). This data allows practitioners to identify problem areas, measure trends, and analyze highway safety initiatives to support safer roads for all users.

Transportation Safety Planning Model Estimates Trips and Crashes for Non-Motorized Modes

A new publication in the *Transportation Research Record* aims to improve transportation safety planning by estimating non-motorized trips and crashes in an integrated model. The report, "[Integrated Modeling Approach for Non-Motorized Mode Trips and Fatal Crashes in the Framework of Transportation Safety Planning](#)," identifies that low-income and minority users are more likely to be involved in fatal crashes. It also notes that crashes are less likely for households located in the vicinity of parks or open space, and more likely in the vicinity of a major transportation facility, such as a railroad, highway, or airport.



Infrastructure

FHWA Publishes Updated Community Impact Assessment Quick Reference for Transportation

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* recently published the 2018 update to the "[Community Impact Assessment \(CIA\): A Quick Reference for Transportation](#)." The reference guide defines CIA, outlines the community impact assessment process, and identifies tools and information sources. The intent of this update is to ensure that the document reflects current laws and regulations, incorporates technological advancements like the use of social media and enhanced modeling and visualization capabilities, and outlines techniques available to transportation practitioners, including the use of online data sources like [EJSCREEN](#) and analytical tools. [Five new examples](#) have also been posted that demonstrate current CIA techniques and approaches.

"2017-2018 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report"

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* helps States provide and maintain recreational trails in urban, suburban, and rural communities through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). FHWA recently released the "[2017-18 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report](#)," which highlights examples of trail construction, maintenance, assessment, and educational efforts supported by RTP funding. The report also focuses on benefits communities have gained from RTP funding, including improved accessibility, active transportation opportunities, economic development, environmental protection, and opportunities for public-private partnerships. The report highlights program funding and administration, the RTP Database, and how States use funds. It illustrates eligible project types along with project examples. Since 1993, States have funded 23,000 RTP projects. The \$1.2 billion received through the RTP has leveraged \$900 million in other funds.

FTA Announces Emergency Relief Program Funding

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* [announced \\$277.5 million in Emergency Relief Program](#) funding for public transportation systems damaged by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The funding will support emergency response; replacement and repair costs for damaged vehicles and equipment; and projects that will improve resiliency to reduce the risk of future serious damage.



Innovation

International Transport Forum Releases "The Shared-Use City: Managing the Curb"

The *International Transport Forum* has released a report titled "[The Shared-Use City: Managing the Curb](#)" that discusses how to manage growing competition for curb access in cities. This report explores the potential for a shift away from curb use focused on street parking to more flexible allocation that includes pick-up and drop-off zones for passengers and freight.

NSC Announces Winners of Road to Zero Safe Systems Innovation Grants

The *National Safety Council (NSC)* has announced the winners of its Road to Zero [Safe Systems Innovation Grants](#). The grants are intended to support the [Road to Zero](#) initiative of eliminating roadway deaths by 2030. Awarded grants include safe driver and cyclist certification educational efforts, youth programs, active transportation infrastructure, safe driving competitions, and a technical assistance program supporting pedestrian safety in small and mid-sized cities.

Cities Work to Manage Popularity of E-Scooters

The Mashable released [an article](#) examining how officials are responding to the influx of e-scooters that have hit the streets in cities across the country in recent months. The scooters have proven to be an especially popular option for shorter trips; however, officials have raised concerns with regards to their impact on safety. Cities are attempting to solve these problems with the development of policies that are designed to limit the number of scooters within certain urban areas, along with regulating where they can be parked in order to help reduce congestion on sidewalks and promote greater safety.

TRB Releases "Snap Search" Series: Communities and Cultural Concerns

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* recently announced an addition to its "Snap Search" series that will explore [communities and cultural concerns](#). A [Snap Search](#) is designed to provide a summary of TRB research reports that are both underway and published to help individuals quickly learn more about complex topics. This specific piece will advance emerging materials on promoting equity and livability in communities.

Skateboards Increasing in Popularity as Mobility Option

Transfers Magazine recently published [an article](#) that notes the increase in the use of skateboards as a transportation option that fills a niche between walking and bicycling. While skateboards can increase accessibility and support multimodal trips, regulations often respond to negative perceptions of skateboarders. Communities may increasingly need to ask the question: "where should skateboarders ride?" to support innovative approaches to incorporating skateboards as a multimodal option and promote safety for all roadway users.

FTA Final Rule Supports Innovation in Public Transportation Project Funding

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* published the [Private Investment Project Procedures \(PIPP\) Final Rule](#). The new rule is intended to support innovation in project funding and more efficient and on-time project delivery. PIPP funding will support the public transportation industry in identifying federal regulations, practices, or procedures that would impede private investments or public-private partnerships.



Accountability

"Understanding Changes in Demographics, Preferences, and Markets for Public Transportation"

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* recently released a report on "[Understanding Changes in Demographics, Preferences, and Markets for Public Transportation](#)." The report is intended to help transit agencies prepare for the future needs of their customers by understanding changes to travel behavior, including a focus on factors influencing preferences for multimodal transportation and where people choose to live, work, and play. This report will support transit agencies in making more strategic capital investments that improve transit access and quality for customers.

Coalition for Recreational Trails Announces 2018 Annual Achievement Awards

The *Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT)* announced winners for its 2018 [Annual Achievement Awards](#) to recognize the outstanding use of [Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) funds across the country. The awards showcase projects that were made possible by RTP funding and promote the importance of having access to recreation in communities across the country. American Trails posted the 2018 awards on their [website](#). The awards recognize projects that enhance safety and accessibility, connect communities with low-cost projects, promote rural economic development, enhance and increase access to public lands, provide youth workforce development, and enhance partnerships among Federal, State, local, and private entities.

