

Human Environment Digest

May 31, 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

Reports Released on Identifying Bicycle Crash Factors and Improving Countermeasures

Portland State University released two new reports, "[Addressing Bicycle-Vehicle Conflicts with Alternate Signal Control Strategies](#)" and "[Improving Bicycle Crash Prediction for Urban Road Segments](#)." The reports identify factors that can lead to motor vehicle and bicycle crashes, analyze the effectiveness of different bicycle signal control strategies, and provide recommendations for addressing common conflicts that can lead to crashes.

Road to Zero Coalition Releases National Report to Eliminate Traffic Fatalities by 2050

The *Road to Zero Coalition* published the report, "[The Road to Zero: A Vision for Achieving Zero Roadway Deaths by 2050](#)." The report identifies strategies for improving street design, addressing human error, and prioritizing safety in emerging technology in order to reduce roadway deaths nationally to zero by 2050. The report, which is co-sponsored by Federal agencies, is the first of its kind in the United States to establish a national Vision Zero goal.

Communities Launch Safe Streets Demonstration Projects

Through *Smart Growth America's* Safe Streets Academy, teams from Orlando, FL, Lexington, KY, and South Bend, IN [launched demonstration projects](#) to transform their streets into safer places for people walking, biking, and driving. On June 12, Smart Growth America will release new case studies to tell their stories, which can help others around the country learn how to create safer streets in their own communities.



Infrastructure

Federal Transit Administration Awards Capital Investment Program Grants for New Transit Lines

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) recently announced [Capital Investment Program](#) (CIG) grant awards to the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation in Indiana and the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority in Washington. Indianapolis's [new bus rapid transit line](#) will connect the city's downtown with surrounding areas including universities, hospitals, government offices, community services, and a transit center. In Central Puget Sound, the [Tacoma Link Extension](#) will double the length of the existing system and include six new stations and five new light rail vehicles. The CIG serves to fund major capital investments in transit and bases awards on criteria related to land use, congestion relief, environmental benefits, economic development, and local financial commitment.

New Report Assesses Bikeshare Locations for Underserved Communities

The *National Center for Sustainable Transportation* at the University of California Davis recently published the report "[High Impact Prioritization of Bikeshare Program Investment to Improve Underserved Communities' Access to Jobs and Essential Services](#)." The researchers developed a spatial index that can identify priority areas for investment in bikeshare infrastructure to increase access to jobs, essential services, and connections to transit for underserved communities.

AARP Releases Transportation Workbook

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) recently released part four, the transportation component, of its "[Roadmap to Livability](#)." series. The series is a step-by-step guide for improving a community's livability for people of all

ages relating to health, housing, economic development, community engagement, and transportation. The [Transportation Workbook](#) identifies opportunities to improve safety, mobility, convenience, and affordability for older adult populations.



Innovation

New Report Develops Decision Framework for Highway Projects

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recently published the report "[A Decision Support Framework for Assessing the Contextual Factors for Complex Highway Projects](#)." Megaprojects or multifaceted projects face challenges like greater transportation capacity, complex multimodal solutions, and designs sensitive to environmental context. The researchers developed a support framework, which transportation agencies may use to assess the context dimension of highway projects.

AASHTO's 2nd Edition Partnering Handbook Focuses on Public-Private Partnerships

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) recently published the second edition of its [Partnering Handbook](#). The handbook was first released in 2005 and focused on educating key stakeholders on the benefits and methods of partnerships in traditional contract agreements. The updated edition focuses on how agencies can pursue innovative partnership methods, such as public-private partnerships.

Cities Work to Preserve Urban Forests

Next City recently published an article titled [What Cities Are Doing About the 'Shocking' Loss of Urban Forests](#). The article is part of a series called *The Power of Parks*, which explores how parks and recreation facilities and services can help cities further wellness, conservation, and social equity. The loss of urban forests influences walking and biking, heat island, and community spaces.