

Human Environment Digest

May 16, 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

USDOT Champions Motorcycle Safety

May is [Motorcycle Awareness Month](#), and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) has compiled [extensive information on motorcycle safety](#) to help motorists understand standard motorcycle driving behaviors and to learn how to drive safely around motorcycles on our roadways. In 2015, 4,976 motorcyclists were killed in motor vehicle crashes - an 8 percent increase from the 4,594 killed in 2014.

"Safe Routes for Older Adults"

In April 2018, the [University of California Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center](#) (Berkeley SafeTREC) published the report, "[Safe Routes for Older Adults](#) ." The report "provides communities with background information on walking and bicycling safety for older adults and tools to make transportation in California communities age-friendly for all." The report organizes solutions based on the "Six E's"--Evaluation, Engineering, Equity & Empowerment, Enforcement, Education, and Encouragement.



Infrastructure

USDOT Offers BUILD Grant Webinars

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced the [Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\)](#) Transportation Discretionary Grants program, formerly known as TIGER. To provide technical assistance to a broad array of stakeholders, USDOT will host a series of webinars during the grant application process. A webinar on how to compete for BUILD Transportation grants for all applicants will be held on [Thursday, May 24](#) and [Thursday, June 5](#); a webinar for rural and tribal applicants will be held on [Tuesday, May 29](#) and [Wednesday, June 6](#); and a webinar on how to prepare a benefit cost analysis for a BUILD application will be held on [Thursday, May 31](#) and [Wednesday, June 13](#). All webinars will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM ET and will be recorded and posted on the website for later viewing.

The BUILD application deadline is July 19, 2018.

"Integrating Urban Public Transport Systems and Cycling"

The [International Transport Forum](#) released the report, "[Integrating Urban Public Transport Systems and Cycling](#)," which contains the findings and recommendations of a roundtable held in Tokyo, Japan in April 2018. The report examines how seamless integration of transit, walking, and cycling might be achieved to reduce congestion and increase accessibility. It provides recommendations on infrastructure improvements as well as planning and design elements of interchanges and payment systems.

"Access Across America: Auto 2016"

The [Accessibility Observatory](#) at the [University of Minnesota](#) released its annual [Access Across America study](#), which measures accessibility and congestion impact values for the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The report includes census-block level accessibility maps, focusing on population density, job availability, road networks,

traffic management, and multimodal options. State and local agencies can use this data to support performance goals and project prioritization.



Innovation

USDOT Announces Participants in National Drone Testing Program

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao recently announced the first 10 participants in the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT's) [Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\) Integration Pilot Program](#). This three-year test program, led by the *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*, will test drones in conditions in which they are currently forbidden from operating, such as at night, to understand how communities can best gain the safety and economic benefits of this emerging technology. Three of the 10 participants are State Departments of Transportation, which intend to use the drones for health- and safety-related efforts including distributing medical supplies and mitigating risks for road workers during infrastructure inspections.

"Bike Share in the U.S.: 2017"

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)* has issued a nationwide assessment of the state of the bike share industry. The report, "[Bike Share in the U.S.: 2017](#)," states that 35 million bike share trips were taken in 2017, a 25 percent increase from 2016. The number of suppliers of bike share equipment has increased from three major companies to ten, including five major dockless bike share systems. Bike share has increased in cities nationwide, but four systems-in Boston, Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C.-make up 74 percent of all rides. Dockless bike systems make up 44 percent of the number of bicycles but only four percent of the rides. Almost one-third of systems now have an income-based discount program.



Accountability

"Tools and Strategies for Eliminating Assaults Against Transit Operators"

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB's) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) published Research Report 193, titled "Tools and Strategies for Eliminating Assaults Against Transit Operators, [Volume 1: Research Overview](#)," which provide the materials and methodology used to produce potential countermeasures and strategies to prevent or mitigate assaults against transit operators. The [Volume 2: User Guide](#) includes an operator assault risk management toolbox developed to support transit agencies in their efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to assaults against operators. The User Guide also provides transit agencies with guidance in the use and deployment of the vulnerability self-assessment tool and the route-based risk calculator, and includes supportive checklists, guidelines, and methodologies.