

Human Environment Digest

April 6, 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

Identification of High Pedestrian Crash Locations

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a report, titled "[Identification of High Pedestrian Crash Locations](#) ." This report summarizes the research efforts to develop a five-step process to assist State and local agencies in identifying high pedestrian crash locations such as intersections (points), segments, facilities, and areas.

Safety in Numbers: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Activity and Safety in Minneapolis

The Center for Transportation Studies at the *University of Minnesota* has released a report titled "[Safety in Numbers: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Activity and Safety in Minneapolis](#)" that evaluates whether the Safety in Numbers (SIN) effect is observable in Minneapolis, MN. SIN is a terminology that refers to the phenomenon that pedestrian safety is positively correlated with increased pedestrian traffic in a given area.



Infrastructure

The Best Complete Streets Initiatives of 2017

The *National Complete Streets Coalition* released a new report, titled "[The Best Complete Streets Initiatives of 2017](#)." The report highlights 12 communities, selected through an open nomination, which made stronger commitments to implementation in their Complete Streets projects and programs. This year's competition marked the first round in which communities' nominations were graded using a new and improved framework for grading Complete Streets policies.

AARP Community Challenge 2018

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) announced the launch of the [2018 AARP Community Challenge](#). The challenge funds projects that build momentum for local change to improve livability for all residents. For the 2018 cycle, AARP will prioritize projects that aim to deliver a range of transportation and mobility options in the community through permanent or temporary solutions that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and/or access to public and private transit.

Study: Cycling Pumped \$137 Million in Benefits to Northwest Arkansas in 2017

The *Walton Family Foundation* has invested \$74 million to build 163 miles of bike trails in Benton and Washington Counties over the last decade. According to a study by *PeopleForBikes*, these infrastructure investments have resulted in \$137 million worth of benefits, including \$86 million in health benefits and \$51 million in business benefits.



Innovation

TRB Accepting Proposals for 2018 Transit IDEA Funding Cycles

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) is accepting proposals for the [Transit Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis \(IDEA\) Program](#). The Transit IDEA Program provides financial support of up to \$100,000 for the early stage development and testing of innovative and unproven concepts and methods for advancing transit practice. The due dates for submitting Transit IDEA proposals for the two 2018 funding cycles are: May 1 and November 1.

TRB "Snap Search" Series: Rural Transportation and Workforce Issues

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) has released [new Snap Searches](#) exploring rural transportation research and workforce issues. Produced by TRB's Library, Snap Searches provide a summary of underway and published TRB research reports, upcoming events, and ongoing committees that cover specified topics.



Accountability

Rural Workshop Proceedings Released

The *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* published new workshop proceedings, titled "[Achieving Rural Health Equity and Well-Being](#)." The document includes summaries of the presentations and discussions from a recent workshop that explored the impacts of economic, demographic, and social issues in rural communities with a focus on asset-based approaches to addressing the associated challenges. The workshop took place on June 13, 2017. The role of transportation is a major theme in the proceedings.