



Human Environment Digest

March 22, 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

Presentations Available from Texas Livability Workshop

On March 5, 2018, the *Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization (KTMPO)* in partnership with the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*, *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*, and *Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*, hosted a livability workshop. [Presentations from the workshop](#) are now available, under Environment & Health.

Preserving the Mobility and Safety of Older Americans

TRIP-National Transportation Research Group, a private nonprofit organization that researches, evaluates, and distributes data on surface transportation issues, published a new report, titled ["Preserving the Mobility and Safety of Older Americans."](#) The report explores mobility and safety issues for older adults and presents a set of recommendations for implementing a transportation system that can better serve the needs of this population.



Infrastructure

USDOT Awards \$500 Million in TIGER Grants

On March 15, the *U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)* announced that [41 recipients will receive approximately \\$500 million](#) in discretionary grant funding for road, transit, maritime, and rail projects through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. Several projects selected for 2018 TIGER grants address quality of life in rural and urban communities.

Benefits of Multimodal Roadway Design and Gray and Green Infrastructure

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* released a new compilation, titled ["Case Studies in Realizing Co-Benefits of Multimodal Roadway Design and Gray and Green Infrastructure."](#) This resource highlights case studies of projects that contribute to safe and connected pedestrian and bicycle networks in States and communities throughout the nation, while providing resiliency, and green and gray infrastructure benefits that promote resiliency and relieve burdens on stormwater systems.

White Paper: Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* published a new white paper, titled ["Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience."](#) The white paper is meant to inform an upcoming round of regional peer exchanges on nature-based solutions. It contributes toward developing an implementation guide for using nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal highways to extreme events and sea level rise.

Assessing the Environmental Justice Effects of Toll Implementation or Rate Changes: Guidebook and Toolbox

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 860: Assessing the Environmental Justice Effects of Toll Implementation or Rate Changes: Guidebook and Toolbox*; and companion resource, [Web-Only Document 237: Environmental Justice Analyses When Considering Toll Implementation or](#)

Rate Changes - Final Report. The report provides a set of tools to enable analysis and measurement of the impacts of toll pricing, toll payment, toll collection technology, and other aspects of toll implementation and rate changes on low-income and minority populations. The web-only document summarizes the technical research and presents a technical memorandum that documents the literature review, existing case studies, resource documents, and other reports compiled. The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) will conduct an accompanying webinar on Wednesday, April 4.

MUTCD Issues Interim Approval for Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons at Crosswalks

The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) issued an Interim Approval for the optional use of Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at pedestrian crossings. RRFBs are used to supplement standard pedestrian and school crossing warning signs to improve safety.



Innovation

FHWA Public Involvement Reference Tool Update

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released an update of its Public Involvement Reference Tool (PIRT). The PIRT is a comprehensive database of public involvement resources and references organized to assist State transportation agencies to improve their transparency, efficiency, and accountability in transportation decision making. The updated PIRT provides information on Public Involvement Plans from every State DOT including information on environmental justice policies, Title VI plans, limited English proficiency resources, Tribal consultation, and public involvement strategies during the NEPA process.

"Promoting Opportunity through Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (eTOD): Navigating Federal Transportation Policy"

Enterprise Community Partners released a new report, titled "Promoting Opportunity through Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (eTOD): Navigating Federal Transportation Policy." The report is meant to help stakeholders who are involved in achieving eTOD guidance on understanding and benefiting from Federal transportation policies and programs.

Google Launches Wheelchair Accessible Routes in Transit Navigation

Google Maps recently introduced wheelchair accessible routes in transit navigation, to make getting around easier for those with mobility needs. Now, when finding directions using public transportation, Google Maps users can select "wheelchair accessible" as a new route type within the app's options. The feature is currently rolling out starting in London, New York, Tokyo, Mexico City, Boston, and Sydney.

Apple Maps Adds Bikeshare Locations

Apple recently partnered with *Ito World* to add bikeshare station locations to its Apple Maps app. Users can now access a feature to view both municipally-owned and private bikeshare companies in their areas. The feature currently works on maps from 179 cities in 36 countries, and *Apple* plans to expand coverage.

AllTransit Gap Finder

The *Center for Neighborhood Technology* (CNT), an innovations laboratory for urban sustainability, recently released a new software tool, called the AllTransit Gap Finder. AllTransit contains station, stop, and frequency data for bus, rail, and ferry service for all major agencies in regions with populations greater than 100,000, as well as for many smaller agencies. The software tool reveals locations where transit improvements could make a large impact in the quality of life of underserved communities.



Accountability

"Integrating Economic Resilience in Performance-Based Transportation Planning"

The *National Association of Development Organizations* (NADO) released a new report, titled "Integrating Economic Resilience in Performance-Based Transportation Planning." The report develops a new definition of economic impacts through transportation and its related planning efforts. The guide introduces concepts of measuring progress in economic development, vitality, and resilience as they relate to transportation planning.