

## Human Environment Digest

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**March 8, 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.

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### Safety

#### Study Aims to Improve Street Safety for Vulnerable Users

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials* (NACTO) launched [a new project](#) that will develop best practices for two technologies that can help truck drivers avoid or mitigate collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists. The project aims to make streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users. NACTO is pooling funds from Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; and Washington, D.C. to support the project.

#### "Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State"

The *Governors Highway Safety Administration* released a new report titled, "[Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State.](#)" The report includes preliminary 2017 data comparing the number of annual pedestrian fatalities to previous years. The report found that the number of pedestrian fatalities increased 27 percent from 2007 to 2016, while at the same time, all other traffic deaths decreased by 14 percent.

#### Health and Transportation Podcast

*Transportation Radio* posted [a new podcast](#) in its *Institute of Transportation Engineers* (ITE) Talks Transportation podcast series. This episode discusses the relationship between health, transportation, and Vision Zero initiatives.

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### Infrastructure

#### "Guidebook for Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently published the "[Guidebook for Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity.](#)" The guidebook focuses on pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity and provides information on incorporating connectivity analysis into State, metropolitan, and local transportation planning processes. It also includes references and illustrations of current practices, including materials from five case studies conducted as part of the research process.

#### "Context Sensitive Solutions and Design: State of the Practice Assessment"

On February 21, 2018, the *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA's) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty hosted a webinar, titled "[Context Sensitive Solutions and Design: State of the Practice Assessment.](#)" The webinar highlighted the results from a national state of the practice assessment of how context sensitive solutions (CSS) and design principles are integrated in transportation decision making to achieve better outcomes and accelerate project delivery. A webinar recording is now available.

#### Secretary Chao Delivers Remarks at National Bike Summit

The *League of American Bicyclists' National Bike Summit* took place on March 5-7, 2018, in Washington, D.C. *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) Secretary Elaine L. Chao delivered remarks at the event, and a [transcript](#) is now available. In her remarks, Secretary Chao emphasized USDOT's commitment to improving bicyclist safety, especially as bicycling becomes a more popular mode for commuting.

## **AARP Publishes Article on Pedestrian Islands**

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) published a new article, titled "[How to Get a Pedestrian Island Installed.](#)" The article explores ways in which pedestrian islands can help create more walkable communities, particularly for older adults.

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## **Innovation**

### **HEP Quarterly Research Newsletter Now Available**

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA's) Office of Planning, Environment and Realty (HEP) recently published its [Winter 2018 research newsletter](#). The newsletter includes topics from the 2018 *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) Annual Meeting, as well as reports and research highlights.

### **"Preparing Communities for Autonomous Vehicles"**

The *American Planning Association* (APA) published a new report, titled "[Preparing Communities for Autonomous Vehicles.](#)" The report summarizes the findings of a symposium and research on the implications of autonomous vehicles for cities and regions. It is intended for planners and local government officials involved in land-use planning, urban design and transportation. Readers will learn about the need to plan for the potential benefits and negative impacts of autonomous vehicles and what steps they can take now to prepare their communities.