

Human Environment Digest

February 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.



Safety

USDOT's Safety for All Users Report

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently released the "[Safety for All Users Report](#)," which identifies eight multimodal policy and program areas that can be implemented to help improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users. The report provides examples from States and was developed to satisfy Section 1442 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.



Infrastructure

FHWA Updates "Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) has released an [update to the "Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book"](#). The book provides an overview of transportation planning for government officials, decisionmakers, planning board members, transportation service providers, stakeholders, and the public. The book replaces the 2015 version of the same title and has been updated to reflect recent changes in Federal legislation concerning transportation planning at the metropolitan, statewide, and nonmetropolitan levels.

Contribution of Road Transport to Economic Development

The *World Road Association* (AIPCR) has released a [request for proposals](#) to highlight the socioeconomic advantages of road transportation in order to identify indicators that contribute to the economic development of countries. The deadline to submit proposals is February 28, 2018.

"Ex-Post Economic Evaluation of National Road Investment Programs"

The *Australian Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics* released a two-part report, titled "[Ex-Post Economic Evaluation of National Road Investment Projects](#)." The report evaluates the impacts of road investment projects in Australia; the first part is a synthesis report, and the second part highlights case studies about the investment projects.



Innovation

2018-2019 Pilot Program: Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) seeks to partner with State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, Federal Lands Management Agencies, and Tribes to address areas related to [deploying resilience solutions to current and future extreme weather events](#). The three areas of interest include integrating resilience and durability into agency practices; using available tools and resources to assess the vulnerability and risk of transportation projects or systems; and deploying a resilience solution and monitoring performance. Letters of interest are due to FHWA by February 9, 2018.

AASHTO Accepting Proposals for TERI Database

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials'* (AASHTO's) Center for Environmental Excellence is accepting research proposals that seek to further the state of practice for transportation and the environment. The [Transportation and Environmental Research Ideas \(TERI\) Database](#) is a central storehouse for tracking and sharing new transportation and environmental research ideas. The Center for Environmental Excellence maintains TERI and keeps all content current. Suggestions for new ideas are welcome from practitioners across the transportation and environmental community. Proposals are due by May 8, 2018.

"Building Confidence: Improving Travel for People with Mental Impairments"

The Centre for Transport Studies at *University College London* has released a new report, titled "[Building Confidence: Improving Travel for People with Mental Impairments](#) ." The report outlines interventions needed for making travel easier for people with mental impairments. The report assesses the ease of various modes of travel for people with disabilities, including walking, taking the bus, ride hailing, and rail.

"Microtransit" May Fill Gaps in Access

The *Washington Post* reports that declines in public transportation ridership are pushing transportation agencies to incorporate on-demand, shared rides - called "[microtransit](#)" - into their services. Proponents of microtransit say such systems can increase the reach of public transportation by extending travel options to underserved areas and into off-hour travel times when bus service is not frequent.