

## Human Environment Digest

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January 25, 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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### Infrastructure

#### **NCHRP Seeks Oversight Panel Nominations for Environment and Sustainability Tasks**

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) is seeking individuals with relevant expertise to serve on [oversight panels for five upcoming research tasks](#) for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Committee on Environment and Sustainability, formerly the Standing Committee on the Environment. One task includes "Context-Sensitive Design Options for Workhorse Bridges in Rural Historic Districts". Panel nominations will close on March 15, 2018.

#### **BTS Releases Updated National Transit Map**

The *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released version two of the [National Transit Map](#), a geospatial database containing information from hundreds of transit agencies that provides open, machine-readable data about their stops, routes, and schedules. The national, openly available map of fixed-guideway and fixed-route transit service allows USDOT and local partners to identify and address gaps in access to public transportation. The map also supports research, planning and analysis on the benefits of transit, such as the benefits of transit on a community's economic development.

#### **Podcast Explores Building Better Communities with Transit**

[TODresources.org](#), an initiative of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has launched a monthly podcast series, titled "[Building Better Communities with Transit](#)." Podcast host Jeff Wood will be talking to transit-oriented development (TOD) experts each month about how communities of all sizes can encourage development around transit stations and along transit corridors.

#### **Infra Eco Network Europe Extends Call for Abstracts**

Infra Eco Network Europe is a network of experts who work within various aspects of transportation, infrastructure, and ecology. The organization has [extended the submission deadline for abstracts](#) for oral presentations, poster presentations, and workshops for its 2018 conference, which will take place in the Netherlands from September 11-14, 2018. The conference will address various topics in transportation infrastructure. The deadline to submit abstracts is February 1, 2018.

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### Innovation

#### **"Travel Behavior: Shared Mobility and Transportation Equity"**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a new report, titled "[Travel Behavior: Shared Mobility and Transportation Equity](#) ." Shared mobility - the shared use of a motor vehicle, bicycle, or other low-speed transportation mode that allows users to obtain short-term access to transportation on an as-needed basis - has the potential to help address transportation equity challenges. This report proposes a "STEPS to Transportation Equity" framework, which includes Spatial, Temporal, Economic, Physiological, and Social barriers.

#### **Automated Driving Systems**

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) issued a [Federal Register notice on Automated Driving Systems](#) (ADS). ADS are increasingly being tested and introduced onto public roadways. FHWA is interested in hearing from the public on a range of issues related to assessing the impacts of ADS on other motorized and non-motorized users of public roadways. The deadline to submit comments is March 5, 2018.

### **TRB Releases New Report on Environmental Justice Considerations in Tolls**

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published a new web-only document, titled "[Environmental Justice Analyses When Considering Toll Implementation or Rate Changes - Final Report](#)." The report presents information gathered in the development of a prior report, titled "[Assessing the Environmental Justice Effects of Toll Implementation or Rate Changes: Guidebook and Toolbox](#)."

### **Electric-Assist Bicycles May Facilitate Active Transportation**

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) [reports that electric-assist bicycles](#), or e-bikes, may make bicycling a more practical transportation option for older adults. E-bikes can provide a boost to ascend hills or enable older adults to take breaks from pedaling, which may encourage them to bike for longer or to farther locations.