

Human Environment Digest

December 28, 2017

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.

Brenda Kragh Retiring

On January 3, 2018, Brenda Kragh will be retiring after 41 years of service to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As a Social Science Analyst in the FHWA Office of Planning, Environment & Realty, Brenda has provided invaluable leadership ensuring that the impacts of transportation projects were evaluated and addressed. Brenda led the creation of the Community Impact Assessment process to evaluate the effects of transportation investments on communities and their quality of life. She developed "Community Impact Assessment: A Quick Reference for Transportation" and associated training, technical assistance, and publications that have advanced the state of the practice for over 20 years. Brenda has contributed to the success of numerous resources over the years, including the establishment and publication of the Human Environment Digest. Her thoughtful dedication to the consideration of all people has improved transportation decision-making across the country.



Safety

Road to Zero Coalition's 2018 Safe Systems Innovations Grants

The *Road to Zero Coalition's 2018 Safe System Innovation Grants cycle* is now open until the end of January 2018. The organization aims to advance the deployment of its Proven Safety Countermeasures, targeting local and rural roads through this grant program. State departments of transportation, local and municipal transportation agencies, and others are eligible to apply. Applicants must be Road to Zero Coalition Members (there is no fee for membership). The deadline to submit applications is January 26, 2018.

Low Income Kids Walk and Bike More

The *Safe Routes to School National Partnership reports* that low-income kids are twice as likely to walk to school as higher income kids, but they may be walking and biking in dangerous conditions. For example, 90 percent of high income communities have sidewalks while just 49 percent of low income communities do.



Infrastructure

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

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* seeks *Resilience Pilot projects* that integrate resilience into agency practices, use available tools and resources to assess the vulnerability and risk of transportation projects or systems, or deploy a resilience solution and monitor performance. FHWA aims to partner with State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, Federal lands management agencies, and Tribes to deploy resilience and durability solutions to current and future extreme weather events. FHWA will hold an *informational webinar* on January 4. Agencies interested in participating in the pilot program should submit a letter of interest to FHWA by February 9, 2018.

"Improving the Resilience of Transit Systems Threatened by Natural Disasters"

The Transit Cooperative Research Program of the *Transportation Research Board* published a volume of three reports, titled "Improving the Resilience of Transit Systems Threatened by Natural Disasters." [Volume 1](#) is a Guide, [Volume 2](#) is a Research Overview, and [Volume 3](#) consists of Literature Reviews and Case Studies.

Metro Areas Building More and Better Bicycling and Walking Projects

Transportation for America, in conjunction with the American Public Health Association, has worked with MPOs across the country to collect and document stories about how they are planning, funding, and building more and better walking and bicycling projects in communities. They published a guide titled "[Building Healthy and Prosperous Communities: How Metro Areas are Building More and Better Bicycling and Walking Projects](#)." The guide includes eight strategies to allow more people to more easily walk or bike as well as examples from MPOs that have changed policies, developed plans, directed funding, and designed projects.

Wisburn Walking Path Named Corps Network's Project of the Year

The *Corps Network* named the Wisburn Walking Path in Los Angeles, CA, the [2018 project of the year](#). The 0.7-mile path was designed to confront concerns around the lack of public outdoor exercise and fitness options within Los Angeles County. Los Angeles Conservation Corps Corpsmembers carried out the project.

Infra Eco Network Europe Issues Call for Abstracts for 2018 Conference

Infra Eco Network Europe is a network of experts who work within various aspects of transportation, infrastructure, and ecology. The organization is [seeking abstracts](#) for oral presentations, poster presentations, and workshops for its 2018 conference, which will take place in the Netherlands in from September 11-14, 2018. The conference will address various topics in transportation infrastructure. The deadline to submit abstracts is January 15, 2018.



Innovation

"Public Transportation, Volume 1: Urban and Rural Bus Service"

The *Transportation Research Board* published Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2647: "[Public Transportation, Volume 1: Urban and Rural Bus Service](#)." The journal consists of 17 papers that explore bus services in urban and rural settings. Topics include estimating bus dwell time, regional characteristics on injury severity, real-time passenger information signs, and more.