

Human Environment Digest

December 14, 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.



Safety

The Next Generation of North American Bike Facilities

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) released a new guidance, titled "[Designing for All Ages & Abilities: Contextual Guidance for High-Comfort Bicycle Facilities](#)." The guidance focuses on two key safety factors, vehicle speeds and traffic volumes, to give cities the tools they need to decide what street treatments will most improve bicycle safety.



Infrastructure

California's Approach to Balancing Infrastructure and Stewardship

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Successes in Stewardship newsletter highlights environmental streamlining and stewardship practices from across the country. The November 2017 edition of the newsletter is titled, "[California's North Coast Corridor Program Balances Infrastructure Demands and Environmental Stewardship](#)." The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and other stakeholders developed a 40-year, \$6 billion program to address the needs of the North Coast Corridor aiming to improve quality of life for residents, promote regional economic growth, and protect and enhance the coastal environment.

TRB Bicycle Transportation Research Papers

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) published a compilation of 19 [research papers](#) on bicycle transportation. Topics covered by the papers include bicycle travel in rural areas, travel patterns of bikeshare users, and the impact of bicycle facilities on residential properties.



Innovation

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5th Annual AARP Livable Communities National Conference

The [2017 American Association of Retired Persons \(AARP\) Livable Communities National Conference](#), which took place on November 15, 2017, was an opportunity for elected officials, planning professionals, local leaders, and community advocates from throughout the nation to share ideas and innovative solutions for making communities more livable for people of all ages. Videotaped presentations and panels from the event are publicly available.



Accountability

Advancement of Performance-Based Scenario Planning for Regional Planning and Decision-Making: A Synthesis Report

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a [report](#) on performance-based scenario planning. This report synthesizes key content and outcomes identified as the result of a scenario planning workshop, interviews with regional planning organizations, and subsequent research. This document explores how regional planning organizations utilize scenario planning in their work, what tools they are using, and how more agencies can adopt scenario planning approaches.