

Human Environment Digest

November 16, 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 accelerated project delivery, technology and design innovation, and community revitalization.

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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Bicycle/Pedestrian



Fitness Apps Help Planners Understand Pedestrian and Bicycle Behavior

CityLab reports that [popular social networking apps provide useful data](#) about pedestrian and bicyclist behavior for transportation planners. *CityLab* specifically referenced Strava, a social network for athletes, whose interactive map shows over 1 billion journeys undertaken by its users. Strava has produced a data toolkit called Strava Metro, which is used by planners at several State departments of transportation.

NHTSA Publishes "Traffic Safety Facts" Research Note

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) published a new research note titled, "Traffic Safety Facts: [A Comparative Analysis of State Traffic Safety Countermeasures and Implications for Progress 'Toward Zero Deaths' in the United States.](#)" The research note provides a summary of statistical findings related to traffic safety countermeasures, including bicycle and Complete Streets countermeasures.

Economic Development



"Access to Jobs by Transit Increases in Many U.S. Cities"

The Accessibility Observatory at the *University of Minnesota* released research showing that in several U.S. cities, [access to transit has increased access to jobs](#). For example, job accessibility by transit in Cincinnati, OH, and Charlotte, NC, improved more than 11 percent. The new rankings, which are part of a national pooled-fund study that began in 2013, focus on accessibility, examining both land use and transportation systems.

"Made in Place: Small-Scale Manufacturing & Neighborhood Revitalization"

Smart Growth America published a new report titled, "[Made in Place: Small-Scale Manufacturing & Neighborhood Revitalization](#)." The report makes the case for why economic development practitioners should think about working with small-scale manufacturers, how to grow the sector, and synergies that exist when businesses are located in downtowns and mixed-use centers.

Environmental Justice



EPA Announces Selections for 2017 Environmental Justice Small Grants

The *Environmental Protection Agency's* (EPA's) Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) provide critical support to organizations that otherwise lack the funding and resources to address environmental challenges in their communities. EPA recently announced the [projects selected for 2017](#), which will focus on reducing exposure to lead and other water pollutants; developing green infrastructure and sustainable agriculture projects; implementing basic energy efficiency measures in low-income households; and increasing overall community resiliency.

Livability



Recreational Trails Program Funding Opportunities

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) posted two grant opportunities related to the Recreational Trails Program. The application deadline for [Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development](#) is January 8, 2018. The application deadline for [National Trails System Information, Corridor Protection, and Training](#) is January 9, 2018.

"Strategic Approaches to Policy Development and Engaging Diverse Communities"

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recorded [a series of videos](#) in October 2017 featuring information about how the *Massachusetts Department of Transportation* (MassDOT) and the *Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority* (MBTA) reviewed their internal processes and structures to consider long-range issues and trends to implement strategic change in their agencies. The videos are available at no cost.