

## Human Environment Digest

November 2, 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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## Announcements

### USDOT Seeks Public Comment on Draft Strategic Plan

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (DOT) invites the public to comment on the [draft DOT Strategic Plan for FY 2018-2022](#). The draft reflects Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao's priorities for achieving DOT's mission through safety, infrastructure investment, innovation, and accountability. The deadline to submit comments is Monday, November 13, 2017.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian



### "Accessible Shared Streets: Notable Practices and Considerations for Accommodating Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a new report, titled "[Accessible Shared Streets: Notable Practices and Considerations for Accommodating Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities](#)." The report discusses strategies for designing streets that improve accessibility for pedestrians with vision disabilities, particularly on streets in which pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles are intended to mix in the same space.

### America Walks Announces Community Change Grants

*America Walks* will award up to \$1,500 each in [Community Change Grants](#) to help catalyze small-scale, low-cost projects and programs that focus on walking. Winning projects will increase the prevalence of walking, expand the diversity of people and organizations working to advance walkability, and help to make walking safer, easier, and more fun for all community members. The application deadline is November 10, 2017.

### Walk Friendly Communities Awards Eight Walk Friendly Designations

The *Walk Friendly Communities* program [recognized eight communities](#) with new and renewed Walk Friendly Designations. The recognition indicates that these communities have made a commitment to prioritize pedestrians by creating safe, inviting places to walk. The recognized communities include Washington, DC; Columbus, OH; Long Beach, CA; Redwood City, CA; Essex Junction, VT; Gainesville, FL; Northampton, MA; and Sitka, AK.

### Call for Completed Bike Infrastructure

The *Rethinking Streets Project* is [soliciting examples of completed street or intersection retrofits](#) for possible inclusion in a new book project, "Rethinking Streets for Bikes." This project builds on the success of the original effort, "[Rethinking Streets: An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations](#)." The new book will be available for free download.

## Economic Development

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### ITED Conference Issues Call for Abstracts

The *International Transportation and Economic Development (ITED) Conference* program committee announced a [call for abstracts](#) under the theme "Relationships between Multimodal Transportation and Economic Development: Policy, Infrastructure, and Technology," for its quadrennial conference, which will take place on June 6-8, 2018, in Washington, DC. This international forum highlights approaches and research to integrate mobility with progress toward development of sustainable economies. Conference organizers are accepting abstracts for papers, presentations, and poster sessions. The deadline for submission has been extended to November 30, 2017.

## Livability

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### ITE Talks Transportation Podcast: Smart Communities

The *Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)* [released the latest episode](#) of its ITE Talks Transportation series. The episode focuses on a discussion about smart communities efforts with the City of Austin (Texas) Transportation Department Assistant Director Jim Dale.