

## Human Environment Digest

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October 19, 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

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#### "How to Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released a revised guide titled, "[How to Develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan.](#)" The purpose of this revised guide is to assist agencies in developing and implementing a safety action plan to improve conditions for bicycling and walking. This version builds on the original guide, which was developed in 2006 and released in 2009. The plan lays out a vision for examining existing conditions and using a data-driven approach to match safety programs and improvements with demonstrated safety concerns.

#### NHTSA Releases 2016 Fatal Traffic Crash Data

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) released [fatal traffic crash data](#) for calendar year 2016. According to NHTSA data, which was collected from all 50 States and the District of Columbia, 37,461 lives were lost on U.S. roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6 percent from the previous calendar year.

#### "Racial Bias in Driver Yielding Behavior at Crosswalks: Understanding the Effect"

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* (NITC) published a study on racial bias at crosswalks in 2014. NITC recently published the next phase of this research, titled "[Racial Bias in Drivers' Yielding Behavior at Crosswalks: Understanding the Effect.](#)" The updated report includes more comprehensive findings on driver behavior and bias at crosswalks.

#### "Roadway Behavior: It All Depends on Perception"

The *National Institute for Transportation and Communities* (NITC) published a policy brief, titled "[Roadway Behavior: It All Depends on Perception.](#)" The publication explores the social-psychological roots of roadway interactions between drivers and bicyclists.

#### TRB Publishes 14 Papers on Pedestrians

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recently published *Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2661: "[Pedestrians.](#)" The journal consists of 14 papers that explore pedestrian issues, such as walkability assessments, an evaluation of a child pedestrian safety curriculum, and addressing challenges of visually impaired pedestrians.

## Economic Development

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### "Autonomous Vehicles: Driving Employment for People with Disabilities"

The *U.S. Department of Labor's* Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) released a new online dialogue through its ePolicyWorks initiative, titled "[Autonomous Vehicles: Driving Employment for People with Disabilities.](#)" This online dialogue explores how autonomous vehicles can be leveraged to expand access to competitive, integrated jobs for people with disabilities and what issues policymakers should consider when developing legislation, regulations, or other policies that govern autonomous vehicles.

## Livability

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### "Public Transportation's Impact on Rural and Small Towns"

The *American Public Transportation Association* (APTA) recently published a new report, titled "[Public Transportation's Impact on Rural and Small Towns.](#)" The report shows that small-town and rural public-transit ridership increased 7.8% from 2007 to 2015. The report also indicates that older individuals, veterans, and people with disabilities have the highest public-transit use in these areas.

### "Exploring the Link Between Green Infrastructure and Air Quality"

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) published a recording from a recent webinar titled "[Exploring the Link Between Green Infrastructure and Air Quality.](#)" The webinar explores the many uses of green infrastructure, such as managing stormwater, and using vegetated systems to improve air quality and reduce urban heat-island effects. The webinar was originally presented on August 9, 2017.

### "How Transit Use Could Rise in Rural America"

*CityLab* published a new article, titled "[How Transit Use Could Rise in Rural America.](#)" The article explores the opportunities that exist to promote transit ridership in small and rural towns, particularly since rural communities increasingly reflect a group of people who do not drive.