

Human Environment Digest

July 27, 2017

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment weekly 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.

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



FHWA Issues Interim Approval for Two-Stage Bicycle Turn Boxes

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) issued an [Interim Approval for the optional use of two-stage bicycle turn boxes](#) through the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD). A two-stage bicycle turn box is an area designated for bicyclists to queue to turn at a signalized intersection outside of the traveled path of motor vehicles and other bicycles. Two-stage bicycle turn boxes reduce conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians and separate queued bicycles from bicyclists moving straight through a green light.

"Traffic Impacts of Bicycle Facilities"

The *Minnesota Department of Transportation* (MNDOT) published a new report titled "[Traffic Impacts of Bicycle Facilities](#)." The report explores interactions between vehicles and bicyclists to facilitate the safe, efficient design of transportation systems. The report includes a review of bicycle facility design guidelines and impacts of different types of bicycle facilities.

Environmental Justice



"EJ Screening Tools Peer Network Summary Report"

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently published the "[EJ Screening Tools Peer Network Summary Report](#)." The purpose of the FHWA Environmental Justice (EJ) Tools Peer Network is to improve efficiency in transportation decision making and accelerate project delivery through information sharing on EJ analysis tools. The report details State DOT and MPOs' experiences using EJ tools.

Health



"Transportation and Land Use as Social Determinants of Health: Analysis of Exposure to Traffic in the Denver Metropolitan Region"

The *Mountain-Plains Consortium* published a new report titled "[Transportation and Land Use and Social Determinants of Health: Analysis of Exposure to Traffic in the Denver Metropolitan Region](#)." The report examines residential exposure to traffic at the regional and neighborhood levels while incorporating the impacts of race and socioeconomic status. The study focused on how transportation and land use may influence residents' exposure to traffic and adverse health outcomes.

Livability



May-June Edition of TR News

The [May-June Edition of TR News](#) is now available. The newsletter of the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) explores the role of transportation in economic development. Articles feature information about benefit-cost analysis, freight production models, transportation satellite accounts, and right sizing strategies.

"Social Economic, Sustainability, and Human Factors in Transit"

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recently published Journal of the Transportation Research Board No. 2671: "[Social Economic, Sustainability, and Human Factors in Transit](#)." The journal contains eight papers that explore various issues in transit, such as market research of low-income commuters, a transit corridor livability, and scenario analyses of social equity implications in transit planning.

TransForm Reports Address Equity in Mobility Options

TransForm released two reports to provide solutions for making mobility equitable and accessible for all. "[A Framework for Equity in New Mobility](#)," addresses the impacts of bike share, car share, and ride-hailing services on low-income communities. "[OakMob 101: A Case Study in Expanding Access to Shared Mobility](#)" highlights the development of Oakland Mobility 101 to understand resident perceptions of bike and car share programs in Oakland, CA.

"What Artificial Intelligence Reveals About Urban Change"

Citylab recently published an article titled "[What Artificial Intelligence Reveals About Urban Change](#)." The article describes the research of a team of Harvard and MIT researchers who questioned why some neighborhoods improve while others decline, with particular focus on the impacts of infrastructure.