

Human Environment Digest

July 13, 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



Iowa Data Bike

The *Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization* (MPO), in partnership with the *Iowa Department of Public Health* and *Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation*, recently deployed the [Iowa Data Bike](#). The Data Bike is a proof-of-concept initiative that generates data scores about trail condition. This data will help inform a long-term maintenance strategy for Central Iowa's trail network.

"Evaluation Study of the Bike Share Program in Fargo, North Dakota"

The *Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute* at North Dakota State University (NDSU) published a new report, titled "[Evaluation Study of the Bike Share Program in Fargo, North Dakota.](#)" The research examines user opinions on and demand for the Great Rides Bike Share program, and analyzes the community quality-of-life benefits from the bike share program.

Two New Studies Share Insights on Road Design and Pedestrian Safety

Two recent studies support the notion that more pedestrians and well-connected networks of local streets contribute to the safety of roadway users. In "[Evaluating the Safety in Numbers Effect for Pedestrians at Urban Intersections,](#)" which was published in *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, researchers found that crash risk decreases as pedestrian volume increases. "[Urban Street Structure and Traffic Safety,](#)" published in the *Journal of Safety Research*, highlights roadway design features to contribute to safety for pedestrians.

Economic Development



EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The *Economic Development Administration* (EDA) announced that the [application period is open](#) for its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. Through the Public Works program, EDA provides investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance economic development goals. Assistance to Coal Communities projects can include those that support the creation of new businesses and jobs in the transportation sector. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new notice of funding availability. City or township, county, State, and federally recognized tribal governments are eligible to apply.

Health



"Incorporating Health into Long-Range Transportation Planning in North Central Texas"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) has published a new resource, titled "[Incorporating Health into Long-Range Transportation Planning in North Central Texas](#)." The publication explores the *North Central Texas Council of Governments'* (NCTCOG's) initiatives to better integrate health into its transportation planning process, such as those relating to safety and air quality. NCTCOG is also using health data to assess the health of counties today and to measure changes in the future.

Livability



July 2017 FHWA Livable Communities Newsletter Now Available

The July 2017 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) [Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter](#) is now available. The newsletter provides transportation professionals with real-world examples of ways in which transportation investments promote livability, such as providing access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safer roads.

Livable Communities Regional Planning Forum Summary Available

The Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division of the *American Planning Association* (APA) and the *Ford Foundation* hosted a [Livable Communities Regional Planning Forum](#) on May 5, 2017, in New York, NY. Participants included representatives from the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA), APA, and 35 metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of government. Attendees shared best practices, lessons learned, and emerging issues on regional livability. The FHWA staff shared information on FHWA's livability resources, recent and upcoming research, and other available tools and references to help improve quality-of-life at the regional level.

Application Period Open for Accelerating Practical Solutions Program

The *Governors' Institute on Community Design* (GICD) will offer staff from six State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) the opportunity to attend a 1-day workshop to further each agency's practical design implementation through its [Accelerating Practical Solutions program](#). GICD developed the "Accelerating Practical Solutions" program to help transportation agencies better define transportation challenges and then identify the most cost-effective solutions to those challenges. The application deadline is August 1, 2017.

"Public Transportation Guidebook for Small- and Medium-Sized Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)"

The *Transit Cooperative Research Program* (TCRP) of the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published Research Report 191: "[Public Transportation Guidebook for Small- and Medium-Sized Public-Private Partnerships \(P3s\)](#)." The report is a resource to explore, evaluate, initiate, plan, and implement small- and medium-sized public-private partnership initiatives.

New Database Quantifies Value of Green Spaces

The *Nature Conservancy*, the *Trust for Public Land*, and the *Conservation Fund* launched the [Greenprint Resource Hub](#), a database to help quantify the benefits of parks and green spaces, so that proponents can better communicate their value to policymakers. The database includes case studies of how cities and their surrounding regions have incorporated green spaces into planning. It is targeted toward practitioners, policymakers, and community members hoping to better incorporate parks into their economic and social goals.

