

Human Environment Digest

June 29, 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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Economic Development



USDA Offers Rural Development Housing Preservation Grants

The *United States Department of Agriculture's* (USDA's) Rural Housing Service is [soliciting applications](#) under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program provides grants to qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities to assist low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. The application deadline is July 17, 2017.

Livability



Transportation Alternatives Annual Report Released

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently released the [Transportation Alternatives \(TA\) Annual Report](#). The "TA Set-Aside" authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. Examples of these projects include on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for enhancing mobility, and community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management.

"Decision-Making Toolbox to Plan and Manage Park-and-Ride Facilities for Public Transportation"

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published two new research reports titled, "Decision-Making Toolbox to Plan and Manage Park-and-Ride Facilities for Public Transportation." One publication is a ["Guidebook for Planning and Managing Park-and-Ride,"](#) and the other is a ["Research Report and Transit Agency Case Studies,"](#) which is meant to supplement the guidebook. Design, implementation, operations, and maintenance are key themes of the reports.

TRB Publishes Two Research Records on Planning

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published two new research records. "[Journal of the Transportation Research Board No. 2654: Planning](#)" includes eight papers that explore transportation planning topics, such as multimodal

planning and transit accessibility. "[Journal of the Transportation Research Board No. 2653: Planning Applications](#)" includes 11 papers that explore transportation planning applications, such as Safe Routes to School projects and incorporating equity in municipal planning.

National Complete Streets Coalition Announces Safe Streets Academy

The *National Complete Streets Coalition* announced the launch of its [Safe Streets Academy](#), a program designed to help jurisdictions transform their commitment to traffic safety into practice. The year-long Academy will bring together engineers, planners, and related professionals from three jurisdictions for an intensive, hands-on training on interventions to address traffic safety. Any unit or subdivision of local, tribal or regional government with a population of at least 100,000 is eligible to apply. The application deadline is July 16, 2017.

Application Period Open for Partners for Places Program

The Funders Network, in partnership the *Urban Sustainability Directors Network*, announced that the application period is open for the [Partners for Places grant program](#). Partners for Places is a matching grant program for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. The program provides partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for 1-year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for 2-year projects, with one-to-one match required by one or more local foundations. The application deadline is July 31, 2017.

Public Involvement



"Green Infrastructure in Parks: A Playbook for Collaboration, Funding, and Community Engagement"

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) recently published a new guide, titled "[Green Infrastructure in Parks: A Guide to Collaboration, Funding, and Community Engagement](#)." The guide is meant to encourage partnerships between park agencies and stormwater agencies that promote the use of green infrastructure on park lands, including trails, walkways, and roads.