

Human Environment Digest

May 18, 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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Announcements

Trump Signs Bill Nullifying MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform Rule

On May 12, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into law [Senate Bill 496](#), which nullifies the rule issued by the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* and *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* titled, "Metropolitan Planning Organization and Planning Area Reform."

Bicycle/Pedestrian



STEP Program Promotes Key Safety Countermeasures

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) [Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian](#) (STEP) Program is the Every Day Counts (EDC-4) Innovation of the Month. The program highlights five proven countermeasures to allow pedestrians to safely cross the road at uncontrolled locations. These countermeasures include road diets, pedestrian hybrid beacons, pedestrian refuge islands, raised crosswalks, and crosswalk visibility enhancements.

NHTSA Releases Annual Traffic Safety Facts for Bicyclists

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) released the [national fatalities and estimated injuries](#) for bicyclists involved in traffic related crashes with motorized vehicles on U.S. public roadways in 2015 (the latest data available). Findings show that 818 bicyclists were killed, an increase from 729 in 2014, and accounted for 2.3 percent of all traffic fatalities during the year.

National Bike to School Day

May 10, 2017, was [National Bike to School Day](#). Communities across the United States came together to celebrate safe, active transportation and call attention to needed changes that would allow more people to safely bicycle.

Digital Benchmarking Report on Biking and Walking

The *American Public Health Association (APHA)* and the *Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)*, in partnership with the *League of American Bicyclists*, have created an interactive [Benchmarking Report website](#) based on "[Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2016 Benchmarking Report](#)." *The Benchmarking Report website provides user-friendly tools for analyzing data on bicycling and walking from all 50 States.*

"Physical Activity: Built Environment Approaches Combining Transportation System Interventions with Land Use and Environmental Design"

The *Community Preventative Services Task Force* released a new report, titled "[Physical Activity: Built Environment Approaches to Combining Transportation System Interventions with Land Use and Environmental Design.](#)" The report investigates the effectiveness of built environment approaches used to improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation systems.

Livability



2017 Transportation Planning Excellence Award Winners Announced

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) announced the [2017 Transportation Planning Excellence Award \(TPEA\) winners](#). Co-sponsored by FHWA and the *American Public Transportation Association* (APTA), the TPEAs recognize and celebrate outstanding transportation planning practices performed by planners and decision makers in communities across the Country.

FTA Accepting Applications for Excellence in Environmental Documentation Preparation

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) is accepting applications for its [Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in Environmental Documentation Preparation](#), covering documents signed from June 15, 2015 to June 14, 2017. The biennial award recognizes environmental assessments and environmental impact statements that exemplify best practices for a well-managed environmental documentation process, comply with prevailing requirements and expectations, and achieve the objective of paperwork reduction. The application deadline is June 30, 2017.

"Guide for Integrating Goods and Services Movement by Commercial Vehicles in Smart Growth Environments"

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) of the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recently published a new report titled, "[Guide for Integrating Good and Services Movement by Commercial Vehicles in Smart Growth Environments.](#)" The report describes policy, planning, design, and operations practices considering the coexistence of moving goods and services in smart growth environments.

A Survey to Make Cities More Resilient

EY and *100 Resilient Cities* are conducting a multi-market study of resilient infrastructure projects to explore how stakeholders incorporate concerns of urban resilience into infrastructure projects, as well as how the government and the private sector can better collaborate to implement such projects. *EY* and *100 Resilient Cities* [launched a survey](#) to compile information about how urban resilience relates to infrastructure projects.

AARP Publishes Road Diets Fact Sheet

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) published a new [fact sheet on road diets](#). The fact sheet can be used by policy makers, transportation planners, community leaders and citizen activists to educate themselves and others about the neighborhood benefits of having narrower roadways.