

## Human Environment Digest

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**May 4, 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

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### Notice of Funding Opportunity for Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Program

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently published a new Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [FY17 Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives \(STSFA\) program](#). The purpose of the STSFA program is to provide States with grants to demonstrate user-based alternative revenue mechanisms that utilize a user fee structure to maintain the long-term solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Each funded project must address certain issues, including equity concerns. The application deadline is June 12, 2017.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### Ten Communities Receive Walk Friendly Designation

*Walk Friendly Cities* announced that [10 communities have received Walk Friendly Designation](#), which indicates that the communities have taken robust efforts to expand opportunities for walking and improve pedestrian safety across a wide range of programs and activities. New cities that were designated include New York, NY; Lawrence, KS; Fayetteville, AR; Fergus Falls, MN; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Kenmore, WA; and Mt. Lebanon, PA. Designation was renewed for the communities of Eugene, OR; Cary, NC; and Forest Park, IL.

## Health

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### Joint Podcast on Health and Transportation

The *Institute of Transportation Engineers* (ITE) and the *Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation* (CIHT) recently collaborated to launch a ["Joint Podcast on Health and Transportation."](#) In the podcast, representatives of the *Greater*

London Authority, Transport for London, and the City of Vancouver, BC, discuss strategies for implementing health and transportation initiatives in their respective cities.

## **New CDC Tool Maps Chronic Disease at the Neighborhood Level**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is helping public health professionals identify chronic health issues and identify emerging health issues at a very local level with its new [500 Cities Website](#). This tool provides a way to view and explore city- and neighborhood-level health data for the Country's 500 largest cities.

## **Livability**

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### **2017 Environmental Excellence Award Winners**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced the [2017 Environmental Excellence Award \(EEA\) winners](#). Since 1995, the EEAs have recognized leaders across the Country who make outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and partnerships above and beyond traditional transportation project outcomes. Eighteen organizations from across the Country received EEA recognition.

### **FTA Announces \$55 Million in Funding Through Low- or No-Emission Bus Program**

On April 27, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced the opportunity](#) to apply for up to \$55 million in competitive grant funds through FTA's Low- or No-Emission (Low-No) Bus Program. The *Low-No Program* supports projects sponsored by local transit agencies to bring advanced, American-made bus technologies into service nationwide. The application deadline is June 26, 2017.

### **Apply for a Cultural Corridor Consortium Grant**

*Transportation for America*, a program of *Smart Growth America*, will offer [Cultural Corridor Consortium](#) grants of \$50,000 to each of three cities working to integrate creative placemaking with transportation investments. The program is focused on funding collaborative projects that expand transportation opportunities for communities that have experienced disproportionate disinvestment. The application deadline is June 2, 2017.

### **Smart Growth America Releases Three Toolkits Designed for Rural Areas**

*Smart Growth America* recently launched three new toolkits designed specifically to facilitate planning in rural areas. The [Community Facilities Location Policy](#) toolkit helps communities make the most of new facilities, such as hospitals or post offices. The [Well-Placed Affordable Housing](#) toolkit focuses on creating centrally-located housing infrastructure. Finally, the [Fiscal Impact Analysis](#) toolkit focuses on how local government can better understand the long-term financial implications of decisions about new development.