

Human Environment Digest

March 23, 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

Advanced Training Course on Environmental Justice

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) and the *National Transit Institute* (NTI) will offer an invitation-only [advanced training course on Environmental Justice \(EJ\)](#) on April 26-27, 2017, in Washington, D.C. The course will incorporate case study-based discussions and activities to help participants consider new approaches to apply EJ best practices in their communities. To be considered for the course, fill out the [application questionnaire](#) by April 3, 2017.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



"Regional Cooperation and Bike/Ped and Transit Connections"

On March 15, 2017, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a new peer exchange report, titled "[Regional Cooperation and Bike/Ped and Transit Connections](#) ." This report highlights key themes identified at the "Regional Cooperation and Bike/Ped and Transit Connections" peer exchange, which took place on October 24, 2016, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Regional Models of Cooperation Initiative were funded by FHWA.

"Consensus Recommendations for Pedestrian Injury Surveillance"

In March 2017, the *Safe States Alliance* published a report titled "[Consensus Recommendations for Pedestrian Injury Surveillance](#)." The *Safe States Alliance's* Injury Surveillance Workgroup 8, a multidisciplinary group of experts convened to recommend improvements to important public health injury surveillance practices, collaboratively developed the report. The report was partially funded by the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA).

AARP's Walk Audit Tool Kit

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) released the [AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit](#) to help individuals, groups, and local leaders assess the walkability of sidewalks and streets in their community. The downloadable tool kit provides step-by-step instructions and checklists for examining intersections, sidewalks, driver behavior, public safety, and other factors.

Economic Development



USDOT Names Small Business Innovation Research Program Awards Recipients

On March 20, 2017, the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) announced that 14 U.S. Small Businesses will receive over \$1.9 million in Small Business Innovative Research Program (SBIR) awards. SBIR is a congressionally-mandated program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development opportunities that have potential for commercialization. The program helps bring innovative solutions to communities that need them.

Health



EPA Accepting Applications for Healthy Communities Grant Program

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) is accepting applications for its Healthy Communities Grant Program. This program funds projects that will reduce environmental risks, protect and improve human health, and improve quality of life, particularly for vulnerable communities. Applications are due by April 7, 2017.

Livability



"The U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge and the Federal Transit Administration's Mobility on Demand Sandbox: Advancing Multimodal Mobility and Best Practices Workshop"

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) E-Circular 219: "The U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge and the Federal Transit Administration's Mobility on Demand Sandbox: Advancing Multimodal Mobility and Best Practices Workshop." features presentations and dialogue from a workshop that took place at the 2017 TRB Annual Meeting. The workshop explored the roles of public transit, shared mobility, and advanced technology in advancing multimodal mobility as well as next steps for researching pilot projects and documenting best practices.

"Access Scores—Measuring The Why, Where, and How of Accessibility"

On February 23, 2017, *Citilabs* published an article titled "Access Scores – Measuring the Why, Where, and How of Accessibility." The article introduces Access Scores, which are standards that planners can use to better evaluate the livability of communities and determine how to improve communities so that they better support daily life. *Citilabs* will host a free webinar on this topic on March 30, 2017.

UCL Releases Street Mobility Toolkit

University College London (UCL) recently released the UCL Street Mobility Toolkit, which is meant to assess community severance, or the "barrier effect" of busy roads. The toolkit, which includes case studies and additional information about the project, is available for free download. The website also includes other publications and conference presentations.