

## Human Environment Digest

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January 26, 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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### 'Fostering Innovation in Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Pooled Fund Study'

On January 11, 2017, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a new solicitation for the "[Fostering Innovation in Pedestrian and Transportation Pooled Fund Study](#)." The study will supplement existing research venues and fill an important gap by emphasizing practical research on issues immediately relevant to practitioners. It will address National goals and priorities identified through input from local, State, and National partners in FHWA's [Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation](#).

### FTA's Shared Mobility Online Dialogue Closes January 27

The *Federal Transit Administration's* (FTA) [Shared Mobility Online Dialogue](#) officially closes on Friday, January 27, 2017. FTA established the dialogue to provide a space for transit agency staff and the public to offer suggestions for guidance, best practices, and other ways in which FTA can support the public transportation industry's efforts to explore shared-use mobility options—such as bike sharing and demand-response ride services—that improve and expand transit service.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### Transportation Research Board Releases "Pedestrians" Journal

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recently released a journal, titled "[Pedestrians](#)," a collection of 14 papers that explore issues relating to pedestrians, such as road-use behavior at pedestrian hybrid beacons and human factors considerations in pedestrian crossing behavior.

### "Dangerous By Design 2016"

"[Dangerous By Design 2016](#)." The report discusses where fatal collisions happened between 2005 and 2014 as well as the people who are most vulnerable to be in a fatal pedestrian collision.

## Environmental Justice

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## **FTA Announces Availability of Public Transportation on Indian Reservation Program Grants**

On January 19, 2017, the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) [announced the availability](#) of approximately \$5 million in funding provided by the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program (TTP)) for fiscal year 2017 projects. The purpose of these grants is to support planning, capital, and operating assistance for Tribal public transit services. The application deadline is March 20, 2017.

## **Livability**

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### **"The How and Why of Measuring Access to Opportunity"**

On January 17, 2017, *Smart Growth America* published a new guide titled "[The How and Why of Measuring Access to Opportunity: A Guide to Performance Management](#)." The guide includes data, tools, and methodologies that transportation officials need to measure access to opportunity as well as how to integrate such measurements into planning and investment decisions. The guide is based on research supported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### **New Report Reveals Need for \$926 Billion in Infrastructure Investment**

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) jointly released a new report to Congress, titled, "[2015 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance](#)." The report is intended to provide decision makers with an objective appraisal of the physical conditions, operational performance, and financing mechanisms of highways, bridges, and transit systems based on both their current state and their projected future state under a set of alternative future investment scenarios. A complete chapter of the report is devoted to pedestrian and bicycle transportation. The report estimates that the backlog of needed highway and transit infrastructure projects has reached \$926 billion.

### **DOT Releases 5-Year Research, Development, and Technology Strategic Plan**

In January 2017, The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) released its collaborative [Research, Development, and Technology \(RD&T\) Strategic Plan](#), which presents USDOT's research priorities through fiscal year 2021. The release of this plan comes after a period of public comment and stakeholder input. The plan highlights four critical transportation topic areas to be addressed over the next 5 years: promoting safety, improving mobility, improving infrastructure, and preserving the environment.

### **January 2017 Transportation Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter Now Available**

The January 2017 edition of the [Transportation Safety and Oversight \(TSO\) Spotlight Newsletter](#) is now available. The TSO Spotlight is the *Federal Transit Administration's* (FTA) monthly newsletter about safety and oversight topics, events, training, and guidance that are relevant to the public transportation industry.

### **"Strong Cities, Strong Communities" Final Report Released**

In January 2017, the "[Strong Cities, Strong Communities](#)" final report was released. Since 2012, 19 Federal agencies have collaborated with city leaders through SC2 to implement locally-driven economic decisions.