

Human Environment Digest

December 15, 2016

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

"Every Place Counts: Leadership Academy" Transportation Toolkit

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) launched the "Every Place Counts: Leadership Academy" to help demystify the transportation process for planners, community leaders, and the public at large. [Several new "Leadership Academy" resources](#), including a Transportation Toolkit, Quick Guide, and Facilitator Guide, are now available for download. These resources are meant to provide interested individuals with the resources to host Leadership Academies in their own communities.

Application Period Open for Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx [recently announced a solicitation](#) for applicants to be designated as USDOT Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers. These centers will be recognized as forward-thinking and influential institutions that are capable of driving solutions to the challenges identified in "[Beyond Traffic](#)" through research, curriculum, outreach, and other activities. Applications are due by December 21, 2016.

USDOT Announces University Transportation Center Grant Recipients

On December 5, 2016, *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx [announced the recipients](#) of over \$300 million in 5-year grants to 32 University Transportation Centers (UTCs). For almost 30 years, the UTC program has funded critical academic research on issues vital to the long-term safety and vitality of the Nation's transportation system. This was the most competitive application year in the program's history; a total of 212 proposals were submitted for UTC grants.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



"Applying Performance-Based Practical Design Methods to Complete Streets"

On December 14, 2016, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published, "Applying Performance-Based Practical Design Methods to Complete Streets: A Primer on Employing Performance-Based Practical Design and Transportation Systems Management and Operations to Enhance the Design of Complete Streets." The Primer explains how the application of performance-based practical design principles combined with transportation system management and

operations strategies can promote the consideration and application of Complete Street design principles to a wider range of contexts.

"Development of Crash Modification Factors for Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing Treatments"

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)* released a pre-publication version of "[Report 841: Development of Crash Modification Factors for Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing Treatments.](#)" The report analyzes the safety benefits of four types of pedestrian crossing treatments – (1) rectangular rapid flashing beacons, (2) pedestrian hybrid beacons, (3) pedestrian refuge islands, and (4) advance yield or STOP markings and signs – and presents a crash modification factor for each treatment type. This information is meant to improve safety by helping agencies choose appropriate crossing treatments for uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.

Environmental Justice



Abstracts Sought for National Environmental Justice Conference

Organizers of the 2017 [National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program \(NEJC\)](#) are seeking abstracts related to environmental justice for its upcoming event, "Enhancing Communities through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance." The conference will bring together leaders from multiple sectors to engage of 3 days of information sharing on innovative approaches to achieving environmental justice. Abstracts are due by December 16, 2016.

Health



EPA Seeks Applications for Research on Pollution and Health

The *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* recently released a request for applications for its new funding opportunity, titled "[Using a Total Environmental Framework \(Built, Natural, Social Environments\) to Assess Life-long Health Effects of Chemical Exposures.](#)" Through its "Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program," EPA seeks applications for research on how pollution affects human health in the context of built, natural, and social environments. Applications are due by March 2, 2017.

Livability



New INVEST Case Studies Published

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* [recently published three new case studies](#) highlighting ways in which transportation agencies throughout the Country have used its Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST) to evaluate and improve the sustainability of long-range planning efforts, operations, and maintenance activities. INVEST is a web-based self-evaluation tool comprised of voluntary sustainability best practices, called criteria, which cover the full lifecycle of transportation services, including system planning, project planning, design, and construction; and continuing through operations and maintenance. The new case studies highlight sustainability-focused projects in Arizona, Texas, and California.

FTA Announces Recipients of Transit-Oriented Development Support

On December 12, 2016, the *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* [announced that five new cities](#)—Birmingham, AL; Charlotte, NC; Albuquerque, NM; Omaha, NE; and Tacoma, WA—will receive support in planning development near transit systems as part of the second round of FTA's [Transit-Oriented Development \(TOD\) Technical Assistance Initiative](#). The initiative supports efforts to create mixed-use, walkable communities near transit with a focus on economically disadvantaged populations.

FTA Releases Shared Mobility Frequently Asked Questions

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) recently published [comprehensive sets of frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) in response to increasing interest from transit practitioners in partnering with on-demand shared mobility services. These FAQs are meant to clarify requirements for shared mobility alternatives regarding funding eligibility under Federal public transportation law for FTA grant programs and compliance with Federal requirements, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Access Exchange International Releases "Accessible Transportation Around the World"

Access Exchange International (AEI) recently released the year-end edition of its newsletter, "[Accessible Transportation Around the World.](#)" AEI is a non-governmental organization that promotes accessible public transport for persons with disabilities and seniors throughout the globe, and particularly in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The January 2017 edition of the newsletter highlights Bus Rapid Transit lines throughout Mexico.

American Trails Extends Symposium Proposal Deadline

Due to popular demand, *American Trails* has [extended the deadline](#) to submit presentation proposals for its upcoming Symposium, "Trails Take Flight: Connecting People, Places, and Possibilities." The Symposium will take place in May 2017 in Dayton, OH. The deadline for proposals to be submitted is now December 16, 2016.