

Human Environment Digest

December 1, 2016

Welcome to the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* Office of Human Environment biweekly 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

FTA Announces Zero Emission Research Opportunity

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* announced its new [Zero Emission Research Opportunity \(ZERO\)](#). The funding opportunity is meant for nonprofit organizations that are interested in creating and leading research, demonstration, testing, and evaluation of zero greenhouse gas emission projects and related technology for public transportation. The deadline to apply is February 21, 2017.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



'Public Roads' Magazine Highlights Midtown Greenway

The November/December 2016 edition of the *Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA)* "Public Roads" Magazine [highlights the Midtown Greenway](#), a bicycle/pedestrian path that spans the heart of Minneapolis, MN. The Midtown Greenway was originally built as a freight corridor, but it began to blight the neighborhood when trains stopped running in the 1990s. Now, the Midtown Greenway is a vibrant and accessible transportation route.

Columbia University Study on Cost Effectiveness of Bike Lanes Released

Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health recently [released a study which analyzed the cost effectiveness](#) of a traffic curbing project in New York City which was funded through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Safe Routes to School Program. The project involved sidewalk widening, bike-lane construction, and improving the pedestrian-friendliness of traffic lights. The researchers found that the project, which cost \$10 million, yielded approximately \$230 million in net societal benefit.

Environmental Justice



EPA Solicits Student Abstracts for Climate Justice Initiative

The Educate, Motivate, Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice Initiative of the *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) [issued a call for abstracts](#) for student projects that emphasize the relationships between climate change and the following: public health, cultural and traditional practices, economic development, and environmental justice communities. The EMI Committee will use these abstracts to select students to participate in the EMI Workshop at the 2017 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. Applications are due by December 31, 2016.

Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship Application Open

The application period is now open for the [Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship](#), which supports visionary leaders by providing them with resources to transform an inspired social justice idea into a world-changing reality. The Fellowship will award three individuals up to \$150,000 each to pursue an innovative project that seeks to address a challenge related to climate change or inequality, or within the intersection of these two major issues. Applications are due by December 12, 2016.

Health



USDA Offers Solid Waste Management Grants

The *U.S. Department of Agriculture* (USDA) recently released applications for [Solid Waste Management Grants](#). This program helps reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources through funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Most State and local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, federally-recognized tribes, and academic institutions are eligible to apply. Applications are due by December 31, 2016.

Livability



Fall 2016 FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty's Research Newsletter Now Available

The [Fall 2016 edition](#) of the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty's Research Newsletter is now available. This edition of the research newsletter highlights the continued and expanded use of programmatic agreements, which help projects to be reviewed more quickly. Programmatic agreements have been highly effective in helping multiple organizations and agencies work together.

FTA Releases Draft Programmatic Assessment on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transit Projects

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) recently released a report titled, "[Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transit Projects: Programmatic Assessment](#) ." The assessment (1) reports on whether certain types of proposed transit projects merit detailed analysis of their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the project-level and (2) provides reference material for FTA and its grantees for future environmental documents.

Summary Materials from Complete Streets Conference Now Available

On November 15, 2016, the first-ever *National Complete Streets Coalition* conference was held in Sacramento, CA. "Street Lights 2016" provided an opportunity for leaders from across the Nation to share ideas and calls for actions on *Complete Streets* initiatives, particularly as they relate to equity and implementation. [Read the Street Lights conference wrap-up](#) to learn more about what was discussed at the event.

National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted until January 17, 2017, for the *National Forest Foundation* (NFF) [Matching Awards Program \(MAP\)](#). MAP provides funding for projects that enhance forest health and outdoor experiences on National Forests and Grasslands. MAP supports the implementation of on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on the National Forest System.

Healthy Corridors Project Improves Livability in Four U.S. Cities

[The Health Corridors Project](#) of the *Urban Lands Institute* (ULI) works to improve public health by improving the built environment. Demonstration programs focusing on auto-centric commercial corridors have taken place in Los Angeles, CA; Denver, CO; and Nashville, TN, and there is also a model healthy corridor in Shoreline, WA. The initiative aims to improve access to bicycle and pedestrian lanes as well as healthy food stores.

CTAA Releases Research on Small MPO Public Involvement Practices

In January 2016, the *Community Transportation Association of America* (CTAA) conducted a scan of 274 MPOs for small metropolitan areas. The research focused on agencies with planning responsibilities for urbanized areas under 200,000 in population. CTAA has [recently published the results](#) of the MPOs' successful and potentially replicable strategies for engaging with low-income and minority communities.