

## Human Environment Digest

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November 3, 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

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### USDOT Will Award \$850 Million in Fastlane Grants

On October 28, 2016, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that the USDOT's Build America Bureau is [soliciting project applications for up to \\$850 million](#) in Fastlane grants. The name is an acronym that stands for "Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies." The program will use money set aside in the Highway Trust Fund under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to help pay for high-priority freight and highway projects across the Country. Applications are due by December 15, 2016.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### Pennsylvania DOT Awards \$40 Million in Multimodal Grants

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently awarded [\\$40 million to 37 highway, bridge, bike, and pedestrian projects](#) from the State's Multimodal Transportation Fund. PennDOT evaluated 251 grant applications that sought more than \$282 million in funding, and made final award selections based on safety benefits, regional economic conditions, technical and financial feasibility, job creation, energy efficiency, and operational sustainability.

## Economic Development

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**"Cool & Connected" Fall 2016 Application Closes Soon**

"Cool & Connected" is a planning program that uses broadband service to revitalize main streets and promote economic development. The program is sponsored by the *U.S. Department of Agriculture's* (USDA) Rural Utilities Service, the *Appalachian Regional Commission* (ARC), and the *Environmental Protection Agency's* (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities. Through "Cool & Connected," a team of experts will help community members develop strategies and an action plan for using broadband service to promote smart, sustainable community development. Applications are due by November 6, 2016.

## Environmental Justice

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### EPA Releases "EJ 2020 Action Agenda"

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) recently released the "[EJ 2020 Action Agenda](#)". The EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020) is the EPA's strategic plan for environmental justice for 2016-2020. EJ 2020 will build on the foundation established by EPA's previous plan, [Plan EJ 2014](#), as well as decades of significant environmental justice practice by the Agency, communities, and EPA's partners.

### EPA's EJSCREEN User Impact Survey Closes November 8

The *Environmental Protection Agency's* (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) recently launched the [EJSCREEN User Impact Survey](#). The information collected through the survey will be used to catalog the diverse ways in which people use EJSCREEN to support their analyses of environmental justice concerns in their personal and professional lives. Survey responses will also help EPA identify opportunities to continue developing and improving this tool. The survey is open until November 8, 2016.

## Health

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### "Healthy Places for Healthy People" Application Closes November 6

"[Healthy Places for Healthy People](#)" is a pilot program sponsored by the *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) and the *Appalachian Regional Commission* (ARC). The pilot program helps communities create walkable, healthy, and economically vibrant places by engaging with their healthcare facility partners, such as community health centers, nonprofit hospitals, and other health care facilities. Through technical assistance, "Healthy Places for Healthy People" will provide selected communities with expert planning assistance that centers around a 2-day community workshop. Applications for the technical assistance are due by November 6, 2016.

## Livability

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### "Local Foods, Local Places" 2016-2017 Application Closes November 6

"[Local Foods, Local Places](#)" is supported by the *U.S. Department of Agriculture* (USDA), the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA), the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC), the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT), the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD), the *Appalachian Regional Commission* (ARC), and the *Delta Regional Authority* (DRA). The program helps communities create more livable neighborhoods by promoting local foods. Communities are invited to apply for planning assistance from "Local Foods, Local Places." The application deadline is November 6, 2016.

### TRB's "Improving Transportation in Tribal Communities" Webinar Recordings are Available

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) recorded a [series of presentations](#) in July and August 2016 that provide guidance for State agencies and tribal leaders in effective crash reporting, based on research in "NCHRP Report 788: Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting." These recordings explore why and how the crash report guidebook was

developed, and how State agencies and tribal leaders can use it effectively. The videos are available on-demand at no cost.

### **American Trails Seeks Applicants Ages 21-25 for "Future Trail Stewards" Scholarships**

Through funds provided by generous sponsors and partners, *American Trails* will offer up to 16 scholarships for the [Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program](#) to young adults between the ages of 21-25 to attend the 23rd International Trails Symposium that will take place in Dayton, Ohio, on May 7-10, 2017, at the Dayton Convention Center. Applications are due by December 1, 2016.