

Human Environment Digest

October 20, 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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Bicycle/Pedestrian



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



FTA Announces \$14.7 Million for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Pilot Program

On October 11, 2016, the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) announced that \$14.7 million in grants will be distributed among 16 organizations around the Country to support comprehensive planning projects that improve access to public transit. The funds are made available through FTA's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program for communities that are developing new or expanded

Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice Peer Exchange Summary Report Now Available

In December 2015, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) held a Regional Models of Cooperation peer exchange workshop titled "Regional Cooperation and Environmental Justice in Transportation Planning in Ohio." A [summary report](#) from the event is now available. Regional Models of Cooperation is part of FHWA's [Every Day Counts](#) initiative.

OMB Seeks Public Comment on Race and Ethnicity Data

On September 30, the *Office of Management and Budget* (OMB) within the Executive Office of the President published a *Federal Register* Notice soliciting public comments on the "[Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity](#)." The docket number is OMB-2016-0002-0001. Comments may be submitted via mail or electronically and are due by October 31, 2016.

Transportation Research Board Publishes "Socioeconomics, Sustainability, and Human Factors" Record

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published a new Transportation Research Record titled, "[Socioeconomics, Sustainability, Health, and Human Factors](#)." This record consists of 14 papers that explore socioeconomic issues in the transportation sector, such as health and environmental justice concerns.

Health



USDOT Awards \$1 Million in Community Safety Grants

On October 11, 2016, the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT) *Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration* (PHMSA) announced it awarded \$1 million to two nonprofit organizations as part of its new [Community Safety Grant program](#). The new program provides funding to nonprofit organizations to conduct national outreach and training programs to assist communities to enforce hazardous materials regulations, and prepare and respond to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

EPA Solicits Nominations for Clean Air Act Advisory Committee

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) is currently soliciting nominations for the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC), a Federal advisory committee. The CAAAC provides advice, information, and recommendations on policy and technical issues associated with implementation of the Clean Air Act (CAA) as requested by EPA. More information, including the nomination form, the list of required supporting information, the deadline, and where to submit applications, is available on the [CAAAC website](#).

Livability



USDOT and National Safety Council Unveil "Road to Zero Coalition" to End Roadway Deaths

The *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT's) *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA), *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA), and *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration* (FMCSA) partnered with the *National Safety Council* (NSC) to launch the "[Road to Zero Coalition](#)," with a goal to end roadway fatalities within the next 30 years. USDOT has committed \$1 million in grants per year for the next 3 years to organizations working on lifesaving programs.

2016 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released the "[2016 Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\) Annual Report](#)." This report documents how States use RTP funds, highlights program funding, administration, and the RTP Database; and illustrates eligible project types along with project examples. Visit FHWA's Recreational Trails Program website for more [publications](#) and [resources](#).

National Trails Training Partnership

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) awarded a cooperative agreement to *American Trails* to continue the [National Trails Training Partnership](#). *American Trails* will provide technical assistance to enhance trail planning, design,

construction, maintenance, and management on all kinds of trails on Federal, State, local, and private lands. Primary tasks include operating a trails training website, identifying and enhancing trail training opportunities nationwide, convening and coordinating training on trails accessibility and trail assessments, and developing and assisting statewide trails training programs.

Off Highway Vehicle User Ethics and Safety and Access Programs

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) awarded a cooperative agreement to *Tread Lightly!, Inc.* with its partner, the *National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council* (NOHVCC) to perform Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) User Ethics Training and OHV Safety and Access Programs. *Tread Lightly!, Inc.* and NOHVCC will provide technical assistance and support for OHV safety and access training and product development for Federal and State agencies and the general public. They will develop materials to educate the public about safe OHV use and promote environmental protection and economic sustainability.

FHWA Launches Snowmobile Safety and Access Programs

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) awarded a cooperative agreement to the *American Council of Snowmobile Associations* (ACSA) to perform Snowmobile Safety and Access Programs. ACSA will provide technical assistance and support for snowmobile safety and access training and product development for Federal and State agencies as well as the general public. Snowmobile safety training and related products will improve the safety and accessibility of snow trails to improve environmental and economic sustainability.