

Human Environment Digest

August 11, 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.

Contents:

- [Announcements](#)
- [Bicycle/Pedestrian](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)

Announcements

FHWA Seeks 2017 Environmental Excellence Award Nominations

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) biennial [Environmental Excellence Awards \(EEA\) program](#) recognizes outstanding initiatives that incorporate environmental stewardship into the project planning and development processes. The 2017 EEA program will honor agencies and individuals that exceed required environmental compliance for transportation projects; facilitate partnerships to promote environmental stewardship; and develop environmentally sensitive transportation innovations. The 2017 EEA Categories are found [here](#); and the nomination period is from August 1, 2016 to September 15, 2016.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



NYCDOT Publishes "DON'T CUT CORNERS: Left Turn Pedestrian & Bicyclist Crash Study"

The *New York City Department of Transportation* (NYCDOT) published a [report](#) studying left turn pedestrian and bicycle crashes as part of NYC's Vision Zero initiative. In 2016, Mayor DeBlasio prioritized the reduction of failure to yield crashes; as left turns account for more than twice as many pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities as right turns; and over three times as many serious injuries, and fatalities.

Arup Publishes Cities Alive: Towards a Walking World

Arup published a [report](#) highlighting the significant social, economic, environmental, and political benefits of walking. The report is based on Arup's work worldwide; includes 50 benefits of walking explored through 16 distinct themes; and lists 40 actions that can help improve walking policy, strategy, and design.

Environmental Justice



EJ Access and Awareness Webinar Series Announced

The *Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG)* is launching a [monthly webinar](#) series to increase awareness of Federal agency environmental justice strategies and holistic community-based solutions. The first webinar is August 11, titled "[Federal Agencies and Environmental Justice: Connecting Communities to Green Space, Healthcare, and Jobs](#)," from 1-2:30 PM ET, and you must register in advance. Other upcoming webinar topics include awareness of Federal grant and resource opportunities, creating safe and healthy environments for children, and lessons from collaborative place-based initiatives. Registration is required for each webinar.

Health



Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning

The *United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT)* Transportation and Health Working Group developed a "[Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning](#)." The Framework provides action-oriented information and step-by-step tools transportation practitioners need, to incorporate health into their corridor planning process. The [recording of the webinar](#) held on the Framework in March is now available.

Livability



FHWA Publishes Two New Livability Case Studies

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* published two case studies, featuring the [South Memphis, TN](#) and [South Park, WA](#). The South Memphis case study highlights transportation investments in South Memphis that were informed by the grassroots "South Memphis Revitalization Action Plan." The South Park case study highlights the South Park Bridge replacement, which restored a critical road connection and renewed the surrounding community's ability to access the resources necessary to carry out their daily tasks of living.

FHWA Selects Pilot Projects Under Strategic Initiative on Nature-Based Solutions

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* is funding five [pilot projects](#) that will analyze the potential for nature-based solutions to protect coastal roads from climate change impacts such as sea level rise and storm surge flooding. The agencies selected for the pilot include the *Departments of Transportation (DOTs)* in Mississippi, Delaware, Oregon, New Hampshire, and Maine, as well as the *United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)* in New Jersey.

Road Diets Featured as August's Every-Day-Counts Innovation of the Month

The Every-Day-Counts innovation for the month of August is road diets, a safety-focused alternative that reconfigures a road cross-section to accommodate all users, increase mobility, cut crashes, and improve a community's quality of life. For more information on road diets, including webinars, FAQs, and case studies, see the *Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA)* EveryDay-Counts-Road Diet [website](#).

HUD Publishes the Renewable Energy Toolkit for Affordable Housing

The *Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* published the [Renewable Energy Toolkit for Affordable Housing](#). This toolkit provides information for recipients of HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) grants to integrate renewable energies into their various affordable housing development programs.

Quantifying the Socio-Economic Benefits of Transport: Roundtable Summary and Conclusions

The *International Transport Forum* published a summary report of its roundtable on "[Quantifying the Socio-Economic Benefits of Transportation](#)." The paper discusses efforts to improve the socio-economic cost-benefit analysis (CBA) as it relates to transportation. The report is a summary of a 2015 roundtable meeting of 30 experts held in Paris in 2015.