

Human Environment Digest

June 30, 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

USDOT Announces Columbus as Winner of Smart City Challenge

On June 13th, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that [Columbus, Ohio, was selected as the winner](#) of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Smart City Challenge. USDOT has pledged \$40 million to help Columbus become the Country's first city to fully integrate innovative technologies that seamlessly improve livability into its transportation network.

"Every Place Counts" Design Challenge

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) has selected four cities to receive technical assistance through the [Every Place Counts Design Challenge](#). USDOT will work with these cities to improve infrastructure development and placement issues, and help to reconnect divided communities.

FHWA Announces New "Every Day Counts" Innovations

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) announced that 11 technologies and practices are included in the [fourth round of Every Day Counts](#) (EDC-4), FHWA's State-based initiative to deploy proven innovations to shorten and enhance project delivery. EDC-4 innovations related to livability include Community Connections and Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP).

Secretaries of Transportation, Education, and Housing and Urban Development Pen Joint Letter for Stronger Collaboration

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx joined U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro and U.S. Education Secretary John King to write a [joint letter](#) for stronger collaboration among Federal agencies to promote opportunity and diversity in communities across the Country.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



Mayors' Challenge for "Safer People, Safer Streets" Nomination Period is Live

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) is now accepting nominations for the [Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets Awards program](#). The Mayors' Challenge encourages city leaders to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in their cities.

New Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements Added to PlanWorks

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) has added new bicycle and pedestrian enhancements to the [PlanWorks: Better Planning, Better Projects](#) tool. The enhancements include a new [Bicycles and Pedestrians Application](#) as well as updated links to our latest references and tools that support collaboration related to bicycle and pedestrian planning and project development.

USDOT "Safer People, Safer Streets" Initiative

A [recent article](#) in the *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) *Public Roads Magazine* highlights the many activities that have taken place within the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) "Safer People, Safer Streets" initiative, such as bicycle and pedestrian safety assessments, countermeasure selection systems, and an updated safety guide for residents.

New York Governor Launches \$110 Million to Keep Pedestrians Safe

On June 20, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced [the State's first-ever, comprehensive pedestrian safety plan](#), an initiative that provides \$110 million for pedestrian safety improvements across upstate New York and Long Island for the next 5 years.

Economic Development



"Amazing Place" Report Released

On June 28, *Smart Growth America* released a new report titled "[Amazing Place: How Six Cities are Using the New Recipe for Economic Development](#)."

Smart Growth America Offers More Technical Assistance to Communities

Smart Growth America has added new [technical assistance offerings](#) to help communities revitalize successfully and capture benefits from the revitalization process for families of all income levels. *Smart Growth America* worked with the *PNC Foundation* to fund this initial round of offerings.

Health



Communicating the Connection: Transportation and Public Health

For its 10th annual competition, the Planning and Environment Group of the *Transportation Research Board* is seeking [best practices in communicating the connection between transportation and public health](#) to the public. Entries are due by July 25, and winners will be notified in early October.

New Study Explores Spatial Centrality in School-Neighborhood Settings

A [recent study](#) published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* examines the relationship between a school's spatial centrality and children's frequency in walking to or from school (WTS) in urban, suburban, and rural settings. The study found that centrally-located schools are likely to have higher proportions of WTS in surrounding neighborhoods.

Livability



Newtown Pike Extension Project Videos Now Available

Videos of the Newtown Pike Extension Project are now available on the *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) Livability website. The two videos show how effective transportation planning, project development, and design preserved and enhanced the quality of life in the Davis Park Community in Lexington, KY.

EPA to Help Six Communities Develop Sustainable Design Strategies

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) will work with six partner communities in 2016 to develop sustainable design strategies through its Greening America's Communities program, an initiative to help cities and towns develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods.

HUD Launches Effort to Close Out Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grants

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) is launching a concerted effort to close out Neighborhood Stabilization Program grants for grantees who have met the grant closeout criteria. These guidelines were established in the Notice of NSP Closeout Requirements and Recapture and the Closeout Instructions for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs Grants .

Seven Ways to Make Communities More Livable for People with Vision or Hearing Impairments

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) published 7 Ways to Make Communities More Livable for People with Vision or Hearing Impairments, which includes innovative roadway design, pedestrian traffic signals, and wheelchair-friendly street cars.