Livability

Human Environment Digest

June 16, 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 $8 Million for New "Mobility on Demand" Solutions

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) announced the availability of $8 million for a new demonstration program to demonstrate and evaluate innovative approaches to integrated "Mobility on Demand Sandbox Solutions" within a public transportation network. Proposals are due by July 5, 2016.

Smart Cities Challenge Finalists Make Final Pitch

On June 9, the Mayors of the seven finalist cities in the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT) Smart City Challenge made final pitches for why their cities should win the competition.

USDOT Releases Transportation Dictionary

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) released an online dictionary of over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation which were obtained from various public and private transportation publications and databases.

Planning Rule Webinar Recording Available

On June 14, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) jointly hosted a webinar on the recently issued Planning Final Rule. A recording of the webinar is now available, and there will be a second webinar on the same material on Wednesday, July 13.

Round Nine of Partners for Places Now Open

In partnership with the *Urban Sustainability Directors Network*, the *Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities* announced the opening of Round Nine of Partners for Places, a grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. Applications are due by July 25.

Communicating the Connection: Transportation and Public Health

For its 10th annual competition, the Planning and Environment Group of the *Transportation Research Board* is seeking out 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.

Call for Session Proposals for New Partners for Smart Growth Conference Issued

The *Local Government Commission* (LGC) has issued [a call for session proposals](#) for its 2017 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, which will take place in St. Louis, MO, on Feburary 2-4, 2017. Applications for session proposals are due by June 30, 2016.

Abstracts Due for 9th Annual Urban Design Conference

The abstract submission period is now open for the [9th International Urban Design Conference](#), which will take place in Canberra, Australia on November 7-9, 2016. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and are due on July 25.

Bicycle/Pedestrian

Bike Network Mapping Idea Book

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) recently e-published the [Bike Network Mapping Idea Book](#), which highlights the various ways in which different cities have mapped their existing and proposed bicycle networks.

Protecting Pedestrians with Connected Vehicle Technology

In a recent Fastlane blog, *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) [Secretary Anthony Foxx reiterated that pedestrian and bicycle safety are top priorities](#) for the USDOT and discussed connections to the deployment of connected vehicle technology.

Safe Routes to School National Conference Presentations Available

[Presentations](#) from the April 2016 Safe Routes to School National Conference are now available online. The presentations highlight common challenges and best practices from across the Country for providing safe pedestrian and bicycle routes to school for children.

NHTSA Primer on Advancing Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Available

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) released a new publication, titled "[Advancing Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: A Primer for Highway Safety Professionals](#)," to illustrate infrastructure treatments and behavioral programs for addressing specific bicycle and pedestrian issues.

Smart Growth America releases "Foot Traffic Ahead 2016"

On June 14, *Smart Growth America* released a new report titled "[Foot Traffic Ahead 2016](#)" which provides insights on which cities will be well-positioned to address a growing demand for walkable neighborhoods.

Environmental Justice

EPA announces Latest Version of EJSCREEN

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) announced the release of the latest version of [EJSCREEN](#), an environmental justice screening and mapping tool.

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Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program

Last September, the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) selected three connected vehicle deployment sites as participants in the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment program. Deployment plans for these pilots include improvements to pedestrian safety in major cities and should be available this summer.

HUD Announces $58 Million Available for Community Compass Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) integrated technical assistance and capacity building program, Community Compass, is designed to help HUD's customers navigate housing and community development challenges with the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems to implement HUD programs and policies successfully. Applications are due by July 19.

2014 Community Development Block Grant Reports Now Available

National and individual grantee reports for the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's* (HUD) Community Development Block Grants program from Program Year 2014 are now available on the HUD Exchange.

Three Federal Departments Partner to Increase Diversity in Schools

On June 8, the *U.S. Education Department* (ED), *Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD), and *Department of Transportation* (USDOT) jointly hosted a listening session to discuss ways to help State and local leaders increase diversity in schools and communities and narrow opportunity gaps.

USDA Toolkit Assesses Economic Impact of Local Foods

The *United States Department of Agriculture* released a new toolkit titled "The Economics of Local Food Systems " to help communities measure the economic benefits of local food investments.

New GSA Tool Shows Location of GSA Properties

The U.S. *General Services Administration* (GSA) recently launched a new tool that shows the locations of all GSA-owned and -leased properties around the Country.

Recreational Trails Program Annual Achievement Awards

The *Coalition for Recreation Trails* recognized 10 trail projects as well as a State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee as recipients of its 2016 Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards for outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Trust for Public Land releases "City Parks, Clean Water"

The Trust for Public Land released a new report titled "City Parks, Clean Water: Making Great Places Using Green Infrastructure." The report explores the intersection of green infrastructure and parks.

Red Stag Fulfillment releases "The Future of Distribution"

Red Stag Fulfillment released an articled titled "The Future of Distribution," which focuses on the role the distribution system plays in an economic system. The role of a functioning distribution system is to identify customers who need particular products and ensure that they have access and the ability to buy them if desired.

New STAR Community Rating System Planning Guide

The *Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities* (STAR) Community Rating System released a new planning guide   to provide guidance on how to use the STAR rating system to develop targets and assessments, and track implementation and progress toward achieving community development goals.