

Human Environment Digest

April 21, 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](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)

Announcements

Help Shape USDOT's Strategic Vision for Research

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requests your input as the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology begins to develop a multi-modal, 5-year Research, Development, and Technology Strategic Plan for the Department, as directed by the FAST Act. FTA invites input by April 29 on the [Request for Information](#) published in the Federal Register.

Application Period for Round 7 of SHRP2's Implementation Assistance Program Closes Friday, April 29

The purpose of the [Implementation Assistance Program](#) is to help State departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other interested organizations deploy SHRP2 Solutions.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



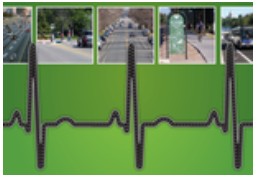
Bike-Share Stations Gaining in Popularity, Previewing the Future of Transportation

According to a new report released February 2016, there are 46 bike-share systems in the United States offering over 2,500 bike-share stations. These figures help preview [the future of multi-modal transportation](#).

Chicago Plans to Build 50 Miles of 'Better Bike Lanes'

Through this [extensive bike effort](#), Chicago hopes to "strengthen the connectivity of [its] bike network" by constructing protected bike lanes and greenways as well as upgrading existing bike lanes.

Health



Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge

The *Aetna Foundation*, the *American Public Health Association*, and the *National Association of Counties* partnered to develop the [Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge](#). The challenge will award over \$1.5 million in prizes to cities, counties, and Federally recognized tribes to show measurable changes in health and wellness. Apply by May 31, 2016.

Livability



USDOT Announces Projects Selected to Receive \$22.5 Million in Grants for Clean Buses, Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the [latest project selections](#) for the Low- and No-Emission Vehicle Deployment Program, known as Low-No. Seven transit providers in five States will receive a share of \$22.5 million toward transit buses and related facilities that utilize battery-electric, fuel cell, and other innovative technologies to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and improve operating efficiency.

USDOT Announces \$20.5 Million to Improve Access to Transit in Communities Around the Country

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that [\\$20.5 million in competitive grant funds are available](#) to support planning efforts that improve access to public transit in communities across the Country, provided through FTA's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program.

New NITC Report on Integrating Freight into Livable Planning

The National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) released a new report, "[Integrating Freight into Livable Communities](#)," that uses case studies to illustrate various approaches to meeting both freight and community needs.

National Park Service Offers Technical Assistance for Community-Led Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Projects

The National Park Service (NPS) [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#) extends the benefits of the NPS to communities throughout the Nation. Apply by June 30 to be considered for 2017 technical assistance for your community-led conservation and outdoor recreation project.

Smart Growth America releases The Best Complete Streets Policies of 2015

Smart Growth America released a new report on "[The Best Complete Streets Policies of 2015](#) ," its annual ranking which highlights best practices across the Country.

Another Round of Match Funding is offered by ioby to Rider-Led Projects at Transit Hubs

The Transit Center and ioby are thrilled to announce the second round of [Trick Out My Trip](#). Proposals are being requested from neighborhood leaders for ideas to improve commuting. To be eligible, groups must apply by May 20.