

## Human Environment Digest

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April 7, 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

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### USDOT Extends Mayors' Challenge

In addition to announcing the Mayors' Challenge Awards, Secretary Foxx recently [extended the current Mayors' Challenge until September 2016](#) to allow current participating and new cities the opportunity to take full advantage of the Challenge.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### FHWA Released Guidebook on Developing Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published the "[Guidebook on Developing Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures](#)." The report helps agencies fully integrate bicycle and pedestrian planning into ongoing performance management activities. The Guidebook provides example measures and goals, and identifies the necessary data to develop and use the measures.

### Safe Routes to School Report Looks at Broad Safety Benefits of the Program

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA's) Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program has made significant strides in promoting safe walking and bicycling practices for children in its 10 years of existence. The report, "[Advancing Safe Walking and Bicycling for Youth: Approaches from the Federal Safe Routes to School Program that Support Broad Safety Benefits for Youth](#)," explores five ways in which SRTS can promote safety beyond the trip to school.

### NHTSA Published Two Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Resources

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released two bicycle and pedestrian safety publications. The "[Advancing Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: A Primer for Highway Safety Professionals](#)" summarizes infrastructure treatments and behavioral programs to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in communities. The second publication, "[Effect of Electronic Device Use on Pedestrian Safety: A Literature Review](#)," examines pedestrian distraction, driver distraction, and pedestrian-vehicle interaction due to electronic devices.

## Mineta Institute Published Bikesharing Safety Report

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* (MTI) published a report that analyzed the safety data of bikeshare riders in the United States. The "[Bikesharing and Bicycle Safety](#)" study found that collision and injury reports are lower than benchmarks for personal biking. Researchers found that rider behavior and bicycle design may be contributing factors to those results.

## TRB Research on Bicycles and Motorcycles 2015

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) published 19 papers that cover various research topics related to bicycles and motorcycles. The "[Journal of the Transportation Research Board No. 2520](#)" includes papers that study bicycle roadway design, bicycle commuting, and bicyclist behavior at traffic signals.

## Economic Development

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### Nine Communities Awarded Technical Assistance for Transit-Oriented Development Projects

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA), in partnership with *Smart Growth America*, [selected nine communities to receive technical assistance](#) for their planned or existing transit projects. The technical assistance will help the communities plan for and manage economic development near transit. The selected communities are: Stamford, CT; Honolulu, HI; Moline, IL; Louisville, KY; Kansas City, MO; Oklahoma City, OK; San Antonio, TX; Richmond, VA; and Lynwood, WA.

## Environmental Justice

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### Great Urban Parks Campaign Application Period Now Open

The *National Recreation and Park Association* (NRPA) is now accepting applications for its competitive grant program, the [Great Urban Parks Campaign](#). The Campaign focuses on improving access to recreational opportunities and environmental quality for low-income communities and communities of color. Applications are due on April 29th.

## Health

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### FTA Announced New Grant Funding is Available to Improve Access to Healthcare

New competitive grant funding is available to improve public transportation options that increase access to healthcare. The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) will be administering the [\\$5.3 million available under the grant program](#). The grants will focus on communities demonstrating mobility management, technological solutions, and effective partnerships.

## Livability

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### FHWA Update on Improving Pollinator Habitat

On March 26, *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) Administrator Gregory Nadeau released a memorandum providing updated information on improving pollinator habitat, as outlined in the recently enacted Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The memorandum is available on the FHWA's dedicated website to ecosystem and vegetation management.

### **FTA Announced New Grant Funding Available for Bus Programs Nationwide**

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) announced the opportunity to apply for approximately \$266 million in competitive grant funding for bus programs. The grant consists of \$211 million for buses and bus facility projects, while the remaining \$55 million is available for the FTA's Low and No Emission (Low-No) bus program.

### **APTA Researched Shared Mobility and the Transformation of Public Transit**

The *American Public Transportation Association* (APTA) published a research analysis that explores the relationship between public transit and shared modes; such as bikesharing, carsharing, and ridesourcing services. The report, "Shared Mobility and the Transformation of Public Transit," found that shared modes can complement public transit and, therefore, enhance urban mobility.