



## Human Environment Digest

March 24, 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 Fast Lane Blog Tracks LadderSTEP Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has provided [updates](#) on Secretary Foxx's Transportation Empowerment Pilot Program, LadderSTEP, in Fast Lane, the official DOT blog. The LadderSTEP program has assisted projects in [Baton Rouge, LA](#); [West Baltimore, MD](#); [Seattle, WA](#); [Richmond, VA](#); [Atlanta, GA](#); and [South Phoenix, AZ](#).

### 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.

### USDOT Announces Mayors' Challenge Awards

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the [Mayors' Challenge Awards](#) to highlight the great work cities participating in the Challenge are doing and stimulate further action on improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. Awards will be considered for work relating to the [seven Challenge Activities](#), [Ladders of Opportunity](#), and for active engagement in Challenge events. Applications will open on June 1 and will close on July 15, 2016.

### FHWA Publishes HSIP and Safety PM Final Rules

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published the [Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) and the [Safety Performance Management Measures \(Safety PM\)](#) Final Rules in the Federal Register. Together, these rules will enhance a data-driven approach to making safety decisions, improve collaboration across a wide range of safety partners, and provide transparency for the American public as States set and report on safety targets and, most importantly, save lives. FHWA will host a webinar to provide specific information on the details of the Final Rules on April 1, 2016, at 11:30 A.M. Eastern Time. [Registration](#) is now open to the public.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian



## FHWA Publishes TAP Performance Management Guidebook

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published "[Transportation Alternatives Program Performance Management Guidebook](#)," which is intended to help transportation program managers implement a performance-based approach to ensure program goals are understood and program actions are making progress towards achieving those goals. The guidebook includes an overview of the principles of performance-based planning and management; an introduction to FHWA's performance-based planning framework; a discussion of how to implement performance management with limited resources; and a step-by-step roadmap for creating a tailored performance-based planning and programming approach.

## FHWA Opens Round 7 SHRP2 IAP Applications

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) will begin accepting applications for Round 7 of the Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) for the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) on April 1, 2016. The application period will close April 29, 2016. One product being featured as part of Round 7 is [PlanWorks](#), which is a systematic Web-based resource that supports collaborative decisionmaking to deliver projects that meet environmental, community, and mobility needs. PlanWorks can help planners fully integrate pedestrian and bicycle planning and design into the formal transportation planning process. A report discussing highlights from SHRP2 implementation in 2015 [is now available](#).

## Environmental Justice

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### FHWA and AASHTO Host EJ Peer Exchange

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) Office of Human Environment and the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) Center for Environmental Excellence (CEE) co-hosted an Environmental Justice Peer Exchange on February 17 and 18, 2016. Participants discussed best practices and lessons learned, which will inform an Environmental Justice Roadmap. The Roadmap, which will be published in 2016, will include: future national research and training; improvement initiatives for transportation decisionmaking; and best practices for utilizing analytical tools to address environmental justice data needs. The presentations from the exchange [are now available](#).

### USDOT Distributes Civil Rights Symposium Materials

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) [posted all session presentations, recordings, and speaker biographies](#) from the USDOT 2016 Civil Rights Symposium online. The Symposium, called "Speaking with One Voice: Accelerating Access to Opportunity," was a three-day virtual event held on March 8-10, 2016, that connected stakeholders and perspectives across the civil rights transportation community.

## Health

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### FHWA Publishes Health in Transportation Framework Test Case Studies

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published [five case studies](#) that highlight how transportation agencies have applied the "[Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning](#)" to their corridor planning processes. The case studies explore how each agency incorporated health into these processes and the resulting outcomes.

### TRB Accepts Abstracts for Health Care and Transportation Workshop and Webcast

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are holding a workshop and webcast on June 6-7, 2016 in Washington, D.C. that will explore the interface of health care and transportation. The event will showcase local examples of health care and transportation partnerships; explore how data can approximate the value of transportation to health care; examine performance measures for transportation services and health care outcomes; and, discuss how to calculate the return on investment of health outcomes. [Abstracts are due by](#) April 17, 2016.

### Social Determinants of Health Conference Opens Call for Abstracts

The *UT Health Science Center* has opened a [call for abstracts](#) for the [3rd Annual Cultural Inclusion Institute: Relating Cultural Inclusiveness to Social Determinants of Health](#) on April 21-22, 2016. The conference will discuss current knowledge and expertise in addressing the social determinants of health: economic stability, education, health and healthcare, neighborhood and the built environment, and social and community context.

## Livability

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### **FHWA Releases Updated Guidance and Tools on Noise Barrier Acceptance Criteria**

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released updated guidance and suggestions on how to analyze and evaluate feasibility and reasonableness factors when considering noise barriers as an abatement measure. The report "[Noise Barrier Acceptance Criteria: Analysis](#)" examines the feasibility and reasonableness factors in the 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 772. Several [tools were developed](#) to evaluate the effects of policy changes on the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement for the factors described in the regulation.

## Public Involvement

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### **USDOT Announces Public Hearings on Automated Vehicles**

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) will hold two public hearings - one, April 8, in Washington, DC, and one, TBD, in California - to hear directly from the public about how to best integrate the safe operation of automated vehicles. Secretary Foxx discussed the importance of public input and continuing research efforts related to moving the Country forward on automated vehicle technology and deployment in a recent [Fast Lane blog post](#).