

Human Environment Digest

March 10, 2016

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment bi-weekly 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

Applications for Eighth Round of TIGER Funding Now Open

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx [announced the opening](#) of the eighth round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants. For this round, \$500 million is available to fund capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. Applications are due April 29th.

"Celebrating the Cities - Hack the Last Mile" Hackathon Winner Announced

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) and *Uber* [co-sponsored a hackathon](#), where participants built mobile phone apps, websites, and data visualizations that could help solve the mobility challenges of Baltimore and Washington, DC, residents. The winning team developed a tool to help residents find affordable rental housing that not only looked at cost of rental payments, but also included commute time and travel to work costs.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



FHWA Published New Report on Incorporating Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published the report, "[Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects](#) ." The publication outlines recommendations for roadway agencies to efficiently and cost-effectively integrate bicycle facilities into resurfacing programs.

Alliance for Biking and Walking's 2016 Benchmarking Report Available Online

The Alliance for Biking and Walking released its biannual [benchmarking report](#) that breaks down the U.S. nonmotorized mode share. Boston and Washington, DC, tied for highest share of commuters bicycling or walking to work with, 16.7 percent.

Health



FHWA Released a "Health in Transportation Corridor Planning Framework"

The "[Health in Transportation Corridor Planning Framework](#)," by the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA), helps support transportation agencies incorporate health into corridor planning studies. The framework identifies steps that agencies can use to better incorporate health into their existing planning process.

TRB Published Report on "Use of Taxis in Public Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults"

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) *Transit Cooperative Research Program* (TCRP) published [Synthesis 119](#), "Use of Taxis in Public Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults." This report explored how public transportation agencies are using taxis and the advantages and challenges of that use.

Study Examined Transportation Accessibility to Health Care Among Vermont's Rural Seniors

"[Exploring Transportation Accessibility to Health Care Among Vermont's Rural Seniors](#)" was published in the *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) *Transportation Research Record: Socioeconomic, Sustainability, Health and Human Factors*. The study found that health care accessibility varied among seniors based on local health care supply, transportation options, and individual resources.

Livability



Best Practice Publication on Use of the FHWA Traffic Noise Model Available Online

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published "[Recommended Best Practices for the Use of the FHWA Traffic Noise Model \(TNM\)](#)." The study provides TNM users with recommended data inputs and information sources as well as ways to improve the accuracy of the tool.

U.S. DOT Provided Update on the LadderSTEP Initiative

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) launched the Ladders of Opportunities Transportation Empowerment Pilot (LadderSTEP) in 2015 in seven U.S. cities. The LadderSTEP communities have been providing updates on the [USDOT Fastlane Blog](#). The mayors in each city shared their communities' progress toward building and restoring connections, workforce capacity, and neighborhood revitalization over the last year.

Florida DOT Released Report on Evaluating Intermodal Connections Between Public Transit and Trails

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) published a report detailing a methodology for evaluating intermodal connections between public transportation and public trails. "[Methodology for Linking Greenways and Trail with Public Transportation in Florida](#)" explains how those intermodal connections can improve the livability of communities in Florida.