

## Human Environment Digest

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January 28, 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.

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## Announcements

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### Smart City Challenge Deadline on February 4, 2016

In December 2015, the *US Department of Transportation* (DOT) launched the [Smart City Challenge](#) to encourage cities to use technology to connect their transportation assets into one interactive network. The winning [mid-sized city](#) will receive up to \$40 million in Federal funding; up to \$10 million from [Vulcan](#), a private investment firm, to support deployment of electric vehicles and other carbon emission reduction strategies; and fleet-wide installation of [Mobileye](#) technology aboard transit buses. Applications are due by February 4, 2016. Email [smartcitychallenge@dot.gov](mailto:smartcitychallenge@dot.gov) for more information or read about the initiative on the [DOT Fast Lane Blog](#).

### FHWA Freight Office Solicits Talking Freight Webinar Topic Submissions

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) Freight Office is identifying topics for the 2016 "Talking Freight" webinars. The Freight Office would like to hear suggestions for potential topics and speakers. Submit ideas, including descriptions and contact information, to Chip Millard ([chip.millard@dot.gov](mailto:chip.millard@dot.gov)) and Nicole Coene ([nicole.l.coene@leidos.com](mailto:nicole.l.coene@leidos.com)). Visit the [Talking Freight webinar webpage](#) for information on the 2015 webinars.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### FHWA Releases Summary of Pedestrian and Bicycle Research and Program Activities

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) developed a [summary report](#) for the 2016 *Transportation Research Board* annual meeting that describes recent, ongoing, and upcoming pedestrian and bicycle research efforts and related activities for FHWA. The research efforts and activities are listed under the lead office, though collaboration and coordination occurs among offices.

### SRTS Launches Safe Routes Learning Center

The *Safe Routes to School National Partnership* (SRTS) launched the Safe Routes Learning Center, a new [online catalog of SRTS workshops and training](#). Topics include safe routes to school, shared use, active transportation, transportation finance, and community engagement. The catalog includes course descriptions, suggested lengths and formats, and a menu of suggested course pairings. To learn more or to schedule a workshop or training, contact Michelle Lieberman at [michelle@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:michelle@saferoutespartnership.org).

## ALR Releases Summary of Active Travel Health Benefits

*Active Living Research* (ALR), a non-profit research and education center run by the *University of California, San Diego School of Medicine*, released a [research summary](#) that discusses evidence on the health benefits and safety of active travel. The summary also examines policies and programs that can help increase active travel.

## Transportation Alternatives Releases Report on Bicycle and Driver Collisions and Criminal Charges

*Transportation Alternatives*, a New York City bicycling advocacy organization, released a [new report](#) that showed fewer than 1 percent of the drivers involved in roughly 4,000 hit-and-run crashes resulting in injury or death were charged with a crime. The report provides recommendations for the public and city officials to use to achieve the goals of [Vision Zero](#), the city's plan to end traffic deaths and injuries.

## Economic Development

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## Brookings Analysis Shows Metropolitan Inequality is on the Rise

The *Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program* released an [updated and extended analysis](#) on the state of [local inequality](#) in the US. The analysis says that comprehensive strategies to address the effects of gaps between rich and poor households should engage regional, as well as local, actors and institutions around issues such as education and workforce development, transportation, and minimum and living wages.

## Livability

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## White House Releases Fact Sheet on US Conference of Mayors' Member Activities

President Obama hosted over 250 bipartisan mayors at the White House during their annual US Conference of Mayors (USCM) Winter Meeting in Washington, DC, on January 21, 2016. The White House [released a fact sheet](#) detailing the ways mayors are working with President Obama to make cities nationwide more livable. The fact sheet includes information on the President's goals for expanding "Ladders of Opportunity" through infrastructure initiatives as well as the *US Department of Transportation's* ["Smart City Challenge."](#)

## HUD Awards \$1 Billion Through national Disaster Resilience Competition

The *US Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) and the *Rockefeller Foundation* [announced the winners](#) of the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). Through NDRC, HUD will provide funding for resilient housing and infrastructure projects to States and communities that were impacted by major disasters between 2011 and 2013. Eight States and five cities/counties were selected. A [summary of the grantee recipients](#) is now available online.

## Regional Livable Communities Forum Will be Held on April 1, 2016

The Regional Livable Communities Forum will be held on April 1, 2016, at the *Maricopa Association of Governments* in downtown Phoenix, the day before the 2016 National APA Conference begins. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate the exchange of information and concepts concerning Regional Livable Communities. Agencies with such programs are encouraged to attend and share best practices and ideas with agencies that are interested in starting their own programs. Contact Lee Schoenecker at [leeschoenecker@aol.com](mailto:leeschoenecker@aol.com) with questions.