

## Human Environment Digest

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**November 19, 2015**

Welcome to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Human Environment 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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### Bicycle/Pedestrian

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#### League of American Bicyclists Announces New and Renewed Bicycle Friendly Communities

The *League of American Bicyclists* announced 55 new and renewing [Bicycle Friendly Communities](#) (BFC). The BFC program provides a roadmap for building a Bicycle Friendly Community. Since the program's inception, more than 800 distinct communities have applied; and the five levels of the award - Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze - provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve.

#### New Report Quantifies Emissions and Costs Savings of Shifting to More Urban Cycling

A new report by the *Institute for Transportation & Development Policy* and the *University of California-Davis* shows that cycling and e-biking can cut energy use and CO2 emissions of urban transport by up to 10 percent by 2050 compared to current estimations, while saving society trillions of dollars. "[A Global High Shift Cycling Scenario](#)" is the first report that quantifies the potential CO2 and cost savings associated with a world-wide shift toward much greater use of cycling in urban areas.

#### Community Cycling Organization Studies Barriers Between Minorities and Bicycling

Recently, *Cycles for Change*, a non-profit organization in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, implemented a Community Conversations project, where more than 75 residents from its neighborhoods and programs provided input into the key priorities of the organization. The report, "[Diverse Bicyclists, Diverse Needs: Cycles for Change Community Conversations](#)," indicates that people of color experience serious barriers to biking, including affordability, access, and lack of education on rules of the road.

#### WalkBoston Reports on Strategies to Improve School Campuses' Pedestrian Accessibility

Through working with communities throughout Massachusetts, *WalkBoston* has discovered that the design of school campuses provides only limited support for walkers and too often favors vehicles over walkers in the site layout. The draft report, "[Walk to School? But How Do I Find the Front Door? Strategies for Improving Pedestrian Safety Through Walkable Campus Design](#)" describes strategies that communities and schools can use to make their campuses more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly. You can sign-up to be sent a pdf of the final, when available.

### Environmental Justice

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## **FHWA Will Host EJ and Title VI Data Webinar Series**

The *Federal Highway Administration's Office of Planning, Environment, & Realty* will host the first in a two-part webinar series on Environmental Justice (EJ) and Title VI Data Collection and Analysis on December 7, 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET. Part one will provide information on the importance of EJ and Title VI data collection and analysis in transportation planning and project development. Part two will be held in late January and will highlight practical approaches and tools for EJ and Title VI data collection and analysis.

## **Health**

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### **TR News Features Health and Transportation Article**

The feature article in the [September-October 2015 edition](#) of *TR News* examines the impacts of transportation on public health in terms of safety, air quality, physical activity, equitable access to opportunities, and noise. The article also explores potential societal benefits of focusing on public health when investing in active transportation options like walking, biking, and public transit.

### **NCVHS Publishes Report on How to Use Health Data**

The *National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics* (NCVHS), the *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'* (HHS) statutory public advisory body, published "[Toolkit for Communities Using Health Data](#) ." The tool kit is designed to support communities that are using data by promoting good stewardship and helping them avoid the missteps and potential harm that can result when data users do not follow sound data stewardship practices. The Toolkit introduces each principle of data stewardship, provides broad background information, and offers tips for data users. Descriptions of stewardship principles and checklists for each principle are provided.

## **Public Involvement**

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### **FHWA Accepting Comments on Revision of Thirteen Controlling Criteria for Design**

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) is revisiting its 13 controlling criteria for roadway design and is requesting comment on a proposal to eliminate all but two (Design Speed and Structural Capacity) for NHS roadways under 50 mph. [Comments may be submitted](#) on the proposal until December 7, 2015.