

## Human Environment Digest

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November 5, 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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## Announcements

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### Citizens' Institute on Rural Design Program is Now Accepting Applications

The *Citizens' Institute on Rural Design* (CIRD) program is a leadership initiative of the *National Endowment for the Arts*, in partnership with the *U.S. Department of Agriculture* and *Project for Public Spaces*. Rural communities are invited to apply to the CIRD program, which offers a \$10,00 cash stipend, two-and-a-half day workshop, and access to a wide range of rural design resources.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### USDOT Publishes Report on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Road Safety Assessment

In Fall 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) launched its Safer People, Safer Streets Initiative. As part of this initiative to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, the USDOT performed walk/bike safety assessments in every State. The [summary report provides](#) an overview of the assessments, identifies common barriers, and offers potential solutions.

### Complete Streets Case Studies Series

Over the last several weeks, Smart Growth America published a series of case studies looking at Complete Streets projects across the Country. From accessible bus stops in Washington, DC, to road diets in Chicago, the case studies highlight the many facets of Complete Streets projects. View the full series on the [Smart Growth America blog](#).

### Small Business Innovation Research Program Strives to Make Crossing the Street Safer

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awarded a contract to Savari Incorporated to develop a [traffic signal interface](#) application for smartphones called SmartCross. The application intends to send signals between the pedestrian's phone and the nearest traffic signal box to alert the pedestrian when it is safe to cross.

## Environmental Justice

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## **TIGER Awards Announced**

On October 29, the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) announced the [39 selected TIGER](#) projects. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program received 627 eligible applications requesting a total of \$10.1 billion, 20 times more than the available \$500 million.

## **Health**

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### **USDOT Releases New Online Tool to Promote Health through Transportation**

The *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) and the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) partnered to create a new online tool that profiles how transportation may be affecting human health in each State and region. It aims to provide transportation decisionmakers and health officials a [single site for information](#) on how their transportation system may affect health.

### **NHTSA Publishes 2013 Traffic Safety Facts on Older Population**

The *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) released "[Traffic Safety Facts](#)" about the older population in 2013. It was found that older people, defined as 65 years and older and comprises 14 percent of the population, made up 17 percent of all traffic fatalities and 10 percent of all people injured in traffic crashes during 2013.

## **Livability**

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### **FHWA Published the October Issue of Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter**

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released its October issue of "[Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter](#)." The newsletter highlights transportation projects across the Country that promote livability. This issue discusses projects like community-backed transportation improvements in New Jersey as a result of damage from Tropical Storm Irene and sustainability initiatives in small towns in Colorado.

### **October Edition Now Available of the Active Living Research Newsletter**

*Active Living Research* published its [October newsletter](#). The newsletter provides resources related to active transportation that help promote walking and biking within communities.