

Human Environment Digest

October 22, 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

FHWA and NHI Promote Pedestrian Safety Month

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and the *National Highway Institute* (NHI) recognize October as Pedestrian Safety Month. Practitioners can sharpen their knowledge on engineering, enforcement, and safety strategies to improve the physical environment for walking and biking in local communities across the Country by enrolling in one of these Instructor-led Training (ILT) courses:

- [142045 Pedestrian Facility Design](#)
- [380089 Designing for Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [380090 Developing a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#)
- [380091 Planning and Designing for Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [380096 Modern Roundabouts: Intersections Designed for Safety](#)
- [380075 New Approaches to Highway Safety Analysis](#)

Proposals for SRTS National Conference Are Due

Proposals for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Conference are due by 5:00 PM ET on October 31. Breakout sessions may discuss health, safety, partnerships, sustainability, policy, or equity topics within engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation tracks. Sessions can be delivered as a panel, round table, individual, presentation, or poster session. Other presentation delivery styles are also welcome.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



Safe Routes to School Releases 10-Year Report

The National Center for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) released "[Creating Healthier Generations: A Look at 10 Years of the Federal Safe Routes to School Program](#)," a report that examines the accomplishments of the Federal Safe Routes

to School Program over the past decade. The report highlights the program's data and features stories of SRTS-funded projects that show the accomplishments and change the program has had on communities nationwide.

PBIC Names Two New Walk Friendly Communities

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announced two new [Walk Friendly Communities](#) (WFC): Springfield, MO, and Columbia, SC. Decatur, GA, was also recognized for continuing its commitment to pedestrian safety. The WFC title means a city or town is being recognized for its success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort.

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Provides Guidance on Bicycle Parking Fixtures

The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals released "[Essentials of Bike Parking; Selecting and installing bicycle parking that works,](#)" a report that provides guidance for purchasing and planning for bicycle parking fixtures, both for short-term and long-term parking.

Portland State University Report Analyzes Destination Choice Behaviors of Pedestrians

The National Institute of Transportation and Communities at Portland State University [released a report that analyzes the destination choice behaviors of pedestrians](#) within the Portland, OR, region. The researchers developed a pedestrian modeling framework for use in four-step travel demand models, and the results suggest important behavioral influences on walking. Distance was a significant deterrent to pedestrian destination choice, and people in carless or childless households were less sensitive to distance for some purposes.

Environmental Justice



FHWA Publishes 2013 EJ Transportation Profiles

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published Census Transportation Planning Products (CTTP) [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) profile sheets](#) for U.S. counties and States. The CTTP sheets are designed to provide an overview that a planner could use as a quick reference on EJ-related data. These profile sheets use data from the 2009 to 2013 American Community Survey (ACS).

MAP-21 Quarterly Research Newsletter Features EJ Reference Guide

This quarter's edition of the research newsletter highlights the *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Reference Guide](#). The Office of Human Environment, along with an interdisciplinary workgroup, developed the Guide to provide FHWA practitioners with a single reference document to help ensure compliance with EJ requirements when engaging in transportation planning; developing and evaluating FHWA projects; developing or revising FHWA policies, guidance, and rulemakings; and creating and implementing FHWA programs.

EPA Announces 2015 Environmental Justice Small Grants Recipients

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) announced nearly \$1.2 million in [competitive grants](#) awarded to 40 non-profit and tribal organizations working to address environmental justice issues nationwide. The grants enable these organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in minority and low-income communities overburdened by harmful pollution.

EPA Solicits Proposals to Advance Water Quality and EJ Goals

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that will [advance EPA's water quality and environmental justice goals](#). Proposed projects will address urban runoff pollution through diverse partnerships that produce multiple community benefits, with emphasis on underserved communities. Applications are due by November 20, 2015.

USFS Announces Funding for National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grants

The *U.S. Forest Service* (USFS) announced funding for the art, science, and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems on public lands in and around cities, suburbs, and towns through the [2016 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program](#). The funding is expected to promote initiatives in underserved and low-income communities. Applications are due by November 23, 2015.

Health



CDC Releases Report on Assessment Techniques for Monitoring Active Transportation Mode Use

The *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) has released a [report that assesses the prevalence and mode of Americans' use of active transportation for their commutes to work](#). Active transportation prevalence is assessed in various ways by five national surveillance systems. The report discusses the strengths, limitations, and lack of comparability of these active transportation assessment techniques and suggests ways practitioners can use these surveillance systems to identify where active transportation programs do or will have the greatest effect.

Livability



FHWA Promotes Design Flexibility for Stronger Communities

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) [is proposing to revise current policies](#) to encourage road design that is better tailored to community needs. FHWA announced in the U.S. *Department of Transportation* (DOT) *Fast Lane* blog that the agency prepared a [Federal Register Notice for public comment](#) outlining the policy changes it is proposing on roads with speed limits of less than 50 miles per hour. FHWA will also publish a final rule updating the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) design standards to be adhered to on National Highway System projects. Lastly, FHWA released [updated guidance on Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions](#) of Federal Transportation Legislation.

FHWA Releases New "Planning Menu" Tool

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released "[Planning Menu](#)," a new search tool that will help practitioners find technical assistance, training, and peer exchange offerings available in the transportation planning discipline. It also includes related offerings on air quality, civil rights, environment, freight, operations, performance management, and safety. "Environmental justice" and "sustainability/livability" are among the topics listed in the tool.

APA Announces List of "15 Great Places for 2015"

The *American Planning Association* (APA) announced the Country's "[15 Great Places for 2015](#)" through the organization's national program, "Great Places in America." "Great Places in America" recognizes unique and exemplary streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces, celebrating places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow.

Funders' Network Announces Call for Nominations for Nicholas P. Bollman Award

The *Funders' Network* opened a call for nominations for the [Nicholas P. Bollman Award](#), which honors the memory of *Funders' Network* co-founder, Nick Bollman, who died in 2007. The award recognizes leaders who inspire others through a commitment to building strong, sustainable, and equitable communities, and who continue Nick's legacy of advancing thoughtful and progressive solutions to a variety of contemporary problems.