

## Human Environment Digest

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September 24, 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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### USDOT Will Host *Beyond Traffic* Forums in 11 Cities

Throughout September and October, the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT) will host forums in 11 cities where discussing the goals and ideas in *Beyond Traffic* is crucial. Each of these cities is a part of the Country's 11 mega-regions, which are networks of urban clusters connected to each other through transportation infrastructure, and economic, social, cultural relationships. USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx [wrote a post about this effort](#) on the USDOT "Fast Lane" blog, and more specific information about the forums can be found on [transportation.gov](#).

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### USDOT Releases Fact Sheet on Vehicle-to-Pedestrian Research Efforts

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) published the fact sheet "[Connected Vehicles: Vehicle-to-Pedestrian Communications](#)," which provides an update on the research that the USDOT has been conducting in the areas of connected and automated vehicle research, particularly with regard to their interactions with pedestrians. The fact sheet provides details on vehicle-to-pedestrian devices and applications that USDOT has tested or plans to test as part of its connected and automated vehicles program.

### FHWA and PBIC Announce Free "Countermeasure Strategies for Pedestrian Safety" Webinar Series

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announced a free, 12-part webinar series entitled "[Countermeasure Strategies for Pedestrian Safety](#)." The series will be delivered between October 2015 and January 2016. This series will provide participants with an in-depth exploration of some of the countermeasures and design strategies that can be implemented to improve pedestrian safety. Each of the sessions will feature detailed information about countermeasures and design strategies, supporting research and guidance, as well as case studies highlighting examples of implementation from around the country.

### FHWA Releases Revised List of Potential Eligibility Requirements for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) revised its [list of potential eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle projects](#) under FHWA and Federal transit programs to incorporate programs authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The updated list, which appears in a table format, provides a summary of which funding programs can be used to implement various bicycle and pedestrian activities such as installing bike lanes, retrofitting sidewalks, and promoting helmet use among cyclists.

### **FHWA's Innovator Features Road Diet Article**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published "[Boost Safety by Going on a Road Diet](#)," in the September/October 2015 issue of "The Innovator." The article describes how communities can use a cost-effective road diet to increase safety and mobility on streets, and it features implementation success stories from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Seattle, Washington.

### **TRB Publishes Legal Research Digest on the "Liability Aspects of Pedestrian Facilities"**

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) published "[Legal Research Digest 65](#)" under NCHRP Project 20-6, "Legal Problems Arising Out of Highway Programs." This Digest addresses legal claims that relate to pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks and crosswalks, and focuses on lawsuits alleging that a government agency has neglected to maintain its facilities. The Digest is written for State and local transportation agencies that are tasked with the construction and maintenance of pedestrian facilities. It concludes that in order to maintain a reasonably safe pedestrian transportation system, agencies must be vigilant in inspecting and maintaining their property and take steps to improve the safety of the system whenever possible.

## **Environmental Justice**

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### **National Community Land Trust Network Conference will Feature Transportation and EJ Track**

The Lexington Community Land Trust, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Kentucky Department of Transportation (KYTC) will host "[Intersections 2015](#)," this year's National Community Land Trust Network Conference, on October 19-22, 2015 in Lexington, Kentucky. A special transportation track will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, to highlight best practices and environmental justice strategies for transportation professionals. Registration is now open, and a special Tuesday-only price is now available.

### **GIS Methods Help Identify Equity of Access to Bike Infrastructure**

The League of American Bicyclists developed a new methodology that looks at how well a bike network serves youth, older adults, people who do not own cars, low-income households, and members of minority racial or ethnic groups. A corresponding report, "[Equity of Access to Bicycle Infrastructure: GIS Methods for Investigating the Equity of Access to Bike Infrastructure](#)," includes a step-by-step tutorial on how to use the methods described in the report to conduct an analysis.

## **Health**

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### **CDC Sponsors JPAH Supplement on Walking and Walkability**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored an [18-article, open-access supplement](#) on the benefits of walking and walkability in the "Journal of Physical Activity and Health." The supplement, called "Walking and Walkability: Approaches to Increase Physical Activity and Improve Health," features topics ranging from assessments of rural neighborhood walkability to the effectiveness of social media campaigns used to promote walking.

## **Livability**

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## **FHWA and FTA Publish Updated Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Office of Planning and Environment have updated the "[Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book: Key Issues for Transportation Decisionmakers, Officials, and Staff](#)." It includes enhanced sections on performance-based planning, regional transportation planning organizations, transportation equity, and public transportation operators. The updated book is available on the [FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Capacity Building](#) and the [FHWA Office of Planning](#) websites.

## **FHWA Releases Second "Seek, Simplify, Solve through Research" Video**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty launched the [second video](#) in the series, "[Seek, Simplify, Solve through Research](#)," that highlights FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty research activities. The video features the [Transportation Secure Data Center](#), which provides practitioners with access to secure travel data on the web.

## **Public Involvement**

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## **TRB Posts Stakeholder Engagement Strategies Webinar Slides**

Information from the September 16, 2015, Transportation Research Board (TRB) webinar titled "[Multimodality in Major Cities: Urban Success Stories](#)" is now available. This includes slides that discuss [stakeholder engagement strategies](#) for successful urban projects.

## **Smart Growth America Announces Free Technical Assistance Workshops**

Smart Growth America (SGA) annually offers a limited number of [free technical assistance workshops](#) to assist practitioners with creating more walkable neighborhoods through better public outreach. SGA's staff will work with communities to help them understand local planning goals, show how development strategies can help achieve those goals, and provide ideas about how to make it happen. Applications are now open for the 2016 free technical assistance workshops. Applications are due by Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 5:00 PM ET.