

Human Environment Digest

August 27, 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

Federal Assistance Available for Sustainable Communities

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* is accepting applications for a new round of the [Local Foods, Local Places](#) grants program. The Local Foods, Local Places grant program helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems. The program is supported by *EPA*, the *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, the *U.S. Department of Transportation*, the *Appalachian Regional Commission*, the *Delta Regional Authority*, and the *White House Rural Council*. The deadline is September 15, 2015.

Third Round of the Rockefeller Foundation's "100 Resilient Cities Challenge" Is Open

The *Rockefeller Foundation* is seeking 33 more cities to join its [network of resilient cities](#). The Challenge assists cities in building resilience to social, economic, and physical challenges through eligibility to receive grant funds, technical support, and access to innovative platforms and the "100 Resilient Cities" network. Applications are due November 24, 2015.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



FHWA Report Clarifies Common Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding, Design, and Environmental Review Misconceptions

The *Federal Highway Administration* published "[Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding, Design, and Environmental Review: Addressing Common Misconceptions](#)," to clarify common misconceptions about Federal funding, street design, and the Environmental Review process. This list of misconceptions was collected through discussions that have taken place via the *US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safer People, Safer Streets Initiative*, which was launched in 2014. USDOT summarized the report on the [Fast Lane blog](#) earlier this month.

FHWA Releases Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Project Information

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) launched the [Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Project](#), which is a research and technology deployment effort to identify organizational and technical capacity needs at MPOs, develop resources for addressing these needs, and transfer lessons learned across the country. FHWA has posted resources related to the project and to bicycle and pedestrian data collection, and will continue to post new materials as they become available.

PBIC White Paper Series Examines Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, Design, and Benefits

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center* published a [series of white papers](#) that discuss design and safety innovations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, along with tools for collecting accurate counts and forecasting, and the positive health effects associated with walking and cycling. There are currently six white papers available in the series.

GHSA Report Summarizes Current Pedestrian Safety Data and Research

The *Governors Highway Safety Association* (GHSA) released "[Everyone Walks. Understanding & Addressing Pedestrian Safety](#)," a report that provides an overview of current pedestrian safety data and research. The report discusses how States are using engineering, education, and enforcement to improve pedestrian safety; and it is designed to help States, safety advocates, and other transportation practitioners improve the behavioral aspects of pedestrian safety. Throughout the report are 21 key takeaways that States can consider when examining their current pedestrian safety programs, policies, and practices.

Environmental Justice



Federal EJ Interagency Working Group Seeks Comment on Draft Framework

The *Federal Interaagency Working Group on Environmental Justice* (EJ IWG), [seeks public comment](#) on the draft [EJ IWG Action Agenda Framework](#), which is the *EJ IWG's* three-year strategic plan to advance environmental justice. The Framework seeks to advance greater Federal agency collaboration to improve the quality of life and to expand economic opportunity in overburdened and under-resourced communities. The public comment period is open from August 25, 2015, to September 25, 2015. Stakeholders and the public can review the Framework and submit comments to ejstrategy@epa.gov.

Webinar Examines Biking and Walking through Racial Justice Lens

The *Alliance for Biking & Walking* [published a summary and video recording](#) of the recent Distance Learning Webinar "Examining Biking and Walking through a Racial Justice Lens." The webinar discusses the fundamental underpinnings and terms around racial justice to help bicycle-pedestrian organizations start and sustain productive conversations about race and ultimately improve bicycle-pedestrian equity.

Health



Conservation Fund and CSX Call for 2015 Transporting Healthy Food Grant Applications

The *Conservation Fund* and transportation company *CSX* are now accepting applications for the [2015 Grant Program for Transporting Healthy Food](#). The program offers grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to local government and nonprofit entities that distribute fresh, local foods in 22 states where CSX operates. The purpose of the program is to improve the transportation and distribution of fresh, healthy food to communities in need. [Applications](#) are due by September 18, 2015.

Livability



Project for Public Spaces Calls for Heart of the Community Grant Program Applications

The *Project for Public Spaces* (PPS) is accepting applications for the 2016 Southwest Airlines [Heart of the Community](#) grant program. Heart of the Community is designed to encourage more connections among residents and a greater feeling of ownership in the places they share. Communities interested in submitting an application should request application materials from PPS, and submit an application by October 16, 2015.

CNCS Announces Resilience AmeriCorps Cities

The *Corporation for National Community Service* (CNCS) and Federal partners, along with *The Rockefeller Foundation* and *Cities of Service*, today announced the selection of [10 Resilience AmeriCorps cities](#). The 2-year pilot program will recruit, train, and embed AmeriCorps VISTA members in ten communities across the Country to increase civic engagement and community resilience in low-income areas, and help those communities develop plans for becoming more resilient to extreme weather events.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



Institute for Sustainable Communities Report Describes PSC Successes Nationwide

The *Institute for Sustainable Communities* published "[Better Plans for Better Places; How the Sustainable Communities Initiative changed the way the country plans for a prosperous future](#) ." This report describes the ways that the [Sustainable Communities Initiative](#) helped communities develop collaborative planning processes that promote vibrant neighborhoods nationwide. The Sustainable Communities Initiative is a \$250 million interagency collaboration among the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*, and the *U.S. Department of Transportation*.