

## Human Environment Digest

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**August 13, 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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### 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.

### Winners Announced for "Our Town" Grants

The National Endowment for the Arts provides grants for arts-based community development projects that contribute to the livability of communities. The ["Our Town" grant program](#) awarded 69 grants in 2015 totaling almost \$5 million.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### Implementation Study of Minnesota's Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative

*Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)* is implementing three projects to foster non-motorized traffic monitoring. This [implementation study reports](#) the results of MnDOT's second project, installing and validating automated sensors. A variety of automated sensors such as inductive loops, passive infrared, pneumatic tubes, and radio beams were installed both permanently and for a short-duration in a diverse array of locations. All sensors produced reasonably accurate measures, however, a future major challenge will be data management of bicycle and pedestrian traffic data.

## Economic Development

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## TIGER Grant Demand Greater Than Available Funds

In his blog, USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx [discussed the high demand](#) for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. Since 2009, TIGER has provided a total of \$4.1 billion to 342 projects that cover all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. During the same time period, USDOT received over 6,000 applications requesting over \$124 billion. TIGER helps communities complete large infrastructure projects that would otherwise not have received funding to construct.

## Livability

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### Funding Compromises for a Sustainable Transportation System

The *National Center for Sustainable Transportation* (NCST) and the *Institute of Transportation Studies at University of California Davis* (ICT) [published a report](#) exploring how well recent transportation funding proposals incorporate funding sustainability, environmental sustainability, and social justice. The report, "A Funding Compromise Can Set Transportation on Path Toward Sustainability," proposes a set a of funding recommendations to assist States in moving toward a more sustainable transportation system.

## Partnership for Sustainable Communities

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### Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance Application Now Open

"[Local Foods, Local Places](#)" is a technical assistance program supported by several governmental entities including the USDOT. The program provides direct technical assistance to help community members develop plans to support healthy families and communities as well as neighborhood revitalization and downtown access. The application is due by 11:59 PM ET on September 15, 2015

## Public Involvement

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### Submit Innovative Public Involvement Projects

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program (TPCB) is [soliciting submissions](#) on unconventional and unique public involvement practices. Email [TPCB@dot.gov](mailto:TPCB@dot.gov) with a one paragraph description of your activity for inclusion in a new compendium TPCB is creating.

### Virginia Center for Transportation Report on Improving Collaboration and Consensus Building in Corridor Planning

The Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR) [released a report titled](#) , "Improving Collaboration and Consensus Building in the Coordination of Access Management and Land Use in Corridor Planning." In Virginia, *Virginia Department of Transportation* (VDOT) has control of access management and municipal governments have control of land use. With this arrangement, coordination is crucial to successful corridor planning. This study examines how VDOT could increase collaboration to improve coordination and consensus building.