

Human Environment Digest

July 2, 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

USDA Housing Preservation Grants Open

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program is [now accepting applications](#) for its *Housing Preservation Grants* program. Applications are due on July 6, 2015.

Global Green Technical Assistance

Global Green is [accepting applications](#) for no-cost technical assistance that can help communities create greener, more equitable, and more vibrant neighborhoods. This free assistance is being provided under a grant to Global Green from United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities' *Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program*. Eligible applicants are local and tribal governments. The deadline for applications is July 17, 2015.

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance

Supporting local food production can improve economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, and give residents better access to healthy, fresh food. [Apply](#) for *Local Foods, Local Places* technical assistance to create healthy, vibrant neighborhoods by promoting local foods. The application deadline is September 15, 2015.

Partners for Places Proposal Deadline Extended

[Partners for Places](#) is a successful matching-grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. The deadline for proposals is August 10, 2015.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



2015 Copenhagenize Index of Bicycle Friendly Cities

The Copenhagenize Design Company released its 2015 list of [top 20 bicycle friendly cities](#).

Economic Development



Smart Growth America Releases, Core Values: Why American Companies are Moving Downtown

Smart Growth America released a [report](#) that examines the characteristics, motives, and preferences of companies that have either relocated, opened new offices, or expanded in walkable downtowns between 2010 and 2015.

Environmental Justice



EPA's New EJSCREEN Tool

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new tool called [EJSCREEN](#). EJSCREEN is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. The tool uses maps and reports to generate environmental indicators, demographic indicators, and environmental justice indices.

Livability



Safe Routes to Parks Fact Sheet

The American Planning Association's (APA's) Planning and Community Health Center released a fact sheet on [Safe Routes to Parks](#), with a particular focus on the role of planners.

New EPA Reports Illustrate How "Green Infrastructure" Can Improve Communities

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four reports from the *Greening America's Capitals Program*. *Greening America's Capitals* helps State capitals develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative, "green infrastructure" strategies. Reports are available for [Lansing, MI](#); [Madison, WI](#); [Montpelier, VT](#); and [Olympia, WA](#).

HUD Selects Finalists for National Disaster Resilience Competition

United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro announced that 40 States and local communities will compete in the second and final phase of HUD's [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) (NDRC). HUD's competition is designed to help States and local communities recover from disasters while improving their ability to withstand extreme events through strategic community investments.

NPS Accepting Applications for Community Assistance in Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting proposals for its [Community Assistance in Conservation and Outdoor Recreation](#) program. Project applicants may be State and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, or citizen groups. National Parks and other Federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2015.

Public Involvement



FHWA's 2015 "Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decisionmaking"

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the 2015 update of its "[Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decisionmaking](#)" guidebook.