

## Human Environment Digest

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**May 21, 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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### FHWA Office of Human Environment Fact Sheet Available Online

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a fact sheet about research within the Office of Human Environment.

### TRB's RFP for Tools for a Sustainable Transit Agency

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) issued a [request for proposals](#) (RFP) to address how environmental, economic, and social sustainability objectives can be implemented by transit agencies. Proposals are due July 14, 2015.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### FHWA's Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) released the "[Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide](#)" on May 8th. This guide outlines planning considerations for separated bike lanes and provides design options and lessons learned for practitioners. FHWA will [host a public webinar](#) on June 2 from 1:00-2:00 PM ET to discuss the guide in more detail with partners.

### Mayor's Challenge Communities Celebrate National Bike Month

Participants from the Mayor's Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, an initiative launched earlier this year by Transportation Secretary Foxx, shared some of their National Bike Month programs. The City of Bellevue, WA, started a Bike to Work competition and the mayor of Burlington, VT, held his Fourth Annual Multi-Modal Tour of the City. [Read the Secretary's blog](#) for more stories.

### USDOT Participates in Bike to Work Day 2015

As part of National Bike Month, May 15th was [Bike to Work Day](#) (B2WD). US Department of Transportation (USDOT) employees participated in B2WD, and the Secretary of Transportation wrote about it in his blog. Bike commuting has been growing around the Country, and B2WD allows many riders, who might otherwise drive or ride transit, learn that bicycling to work is a reasonable option.

### PBIC Announced Five New Walk Friendly Communities

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center* (PBIC) announced five new [Walk Friendly Communities](#). Walk Friendly Communities are towns or cities recognized for success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking. Evanston, IL; Somerville, MA; Sandpoint, ID; Arcata, CA; and Saratoga Springs, NY, were all added to the [Walk Friendly Community list](#). Additionally, Lee's Summit, MO, was recognized for jumping from Bronze to Silver level.

### **NHTSA Publishes Bicycle Traffic Safety Facts**

Using data collected in 2013, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration released "[Traffic Safety Facts on Bicyclists and Other Cyclists](#)." In 2013, 743 cyclists were killed and an additional estimated 48,000 cyclists were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This was a one percent increase in cyclist fatalities since 2012.

### **NACTO's Research on Creating an Equitable Bike Share System**

The *National Association of City Transportation Officials* (NACTO) analyzed bike share system design data to better understand how cities can [create equitable bike share systems](#). Among other conclusions, NACTO found that ridership increases exponentially with the number of stations that are in close proximity, suggesting that riders primarily use bike share services based on convenience.

### **University of Minnesota Study Ranks Cities for Accessibility to Jobs by Walking**

The Center for Transportation Studies at the *University of Minnesota* published a new report that ranked accessibility to jobs by walking in the 50 largest (by population) metropolitan areas. The report, "[Access Across America: Walking 2014](#)", ranked New York City as the metropolitan area with the highest walking accessibility to work.

## **Livability**

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### **EPA's New Community Resource Website**

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) launched a new website to provide communities information for improving the environment, public health, and quality of life. The [Community Resources website](#) shares resources that span a wide range of local concerns, including a section on sustainable transportation.

### **AARP's Toolkit for Evaluating Complete Streets Projects**

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) and the *National Complete Streets Coalition* [released a new toolkit](#) for measuring the performance of Complete Streets projects. Practitioners can use the toolkit during the transportation planning process; and it can support work with elected officials, transportation agencies, coalition partners, and other stakeholders.