

## Human Environment Digest

April 23, 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

### 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards

The Federal Highway Administration recently announced the 2015 [Environmental Excellence Award](#) recipients. The projects recognized span a wide range of professional disciplines, from historic preservation and water quality improvements to wetlands and habitat restoration.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian



### FHWA's New Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program

As part of the Secretary's Mayor's Challenge, the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) is helping communities generate bicycle and pedestrian data by providing grants to 10 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The new [Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program](#) will provide MPOs with the equipment and technical assistance to build robust data collection systems.

### FHWA Livability Case Study: Connecting Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks in Billings, MT

A new *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) case study was published last week [highlighting the effort in Billings, MT](#) to develop an extensive bicycle and pedestrian network. The City of Billings used a range of funding sources to build 35 miles of multi-use trails, 8 miles of "Connector" trails, and 11.5 miles of on-street bicycle lanes.

### Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Along Existing Roads - ActiveTrans Priority Tool Guidebook

The *Transportation Research Board* (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) [Report 803](#) gives [readers](#) a tool and guidance to prioritize improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. This information can be used together or separately as part of a Complete Streets evaluation.

### How to Engage More Women in Bicycling

The *American League of Bicyclists* released a report titled, "[Engaging More Women in Bicycling](#) ." This report informs readers on how to create better women's bicycling outreach and encouragement initiatives in their communities.

## 2015's Most Walkable U.S. Cities by Walk Score

*Walk Score* published its ranking of the [most walkable U.S. cities in 2015](#). New York City topped the list followed by San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia. Walk Score only looked at cities with populations over 300,000 and used the Street Smart Walk Score algorithm to calculate the scores.

## Economic Development

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### The Case for Parklets

The *University City District* published a briefing on "[The Case for Parklets: Measuring the Impact on Sidewalk Vitality and Neighborhood Businesses](#)." This publication examines the economic benefits of converting parking spaces into temporary inviting public spaces with seating and bicycle racks.

## Environmental Justice

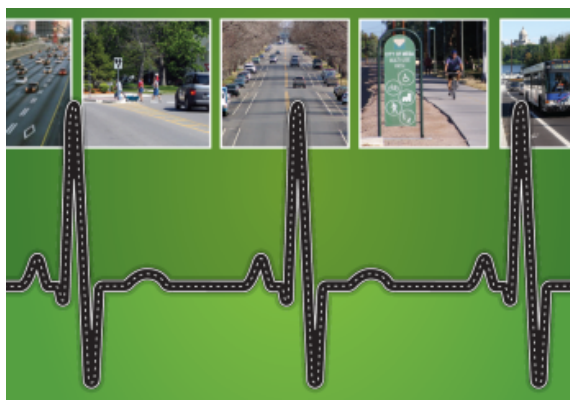
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The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published an [Environmental Justice Reference Guide](#) on April 17th. This guide provides practitioners with a single reference to ensure compliance with environmental justice requirements when developing and evaluating FHWA projects. The guide does not establish any new requirements.

## Health

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### USDOT's Health in Transportation Working Group: 2014 Annual Report

The *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (USDOT) [Health in Transportation Working Group](#) released its annual report to outline its accomplishments in 2014 and discuss next steps for 2015. In 2014, the working group increased coordination with the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) and created a "[Strategic Initiative Framework for Health in Corridor Transportation Planning](#)."

## Livability

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### FHWA's April 2015 Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) "[Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter](#)" April edition examines several communities' efforts to incorporate livability into transportation projects. This month looks at the Aloha-Reedville Study and Livable Community Plan as well as Hot Springs, Arkansas's revamped Complete Streets policy.

### **Successes in Stewardship Newsletter April 2015**

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) "[April 2015 Successes in Stewardship](#)" Newsletter is now available. This edition highlighted a report that quantified the benefits and costs of specific programmatic agreements. The Everyday Counts Day Initiative features programmatic agreements as an innovation. FHWA compiled this [data and success stories into a report](#).

### **AASHTO Showcases Sustainable State DOT Programs for Earth Day**

The *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) created a [video that highlights programs](#) led by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) that promote livability and sustainability. The video includes Utah, Michigan, Tennessee, and Missouri DOTs.