

## Human Environment Digest

March 26, 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

### FHWA/FTA Soliciting Comments on Revised Environmental Review Process

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) revised Section 139 Environmental Review Process guidance to reflect changes made in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The FHWA and FTA are [requesting public comments](#) on the proposed guidance. Comments must be received by May 12, 2015.

### Mayors' Challenge Kicks-off with Summit

On March 13th, the *Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets* kicked-off with a [Mayors Summit in Washington, DC](#). Over 180 communities across the Country are signed up and committed to improving the streets for all users.

## Bicycle/Pedestrian



### New FHWA Livability Case Study: Counting Pedestrians and Bicycling in Minnesota

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) published a new [livability case study](#) titled, "Counting Pedestrians and Bicyclists to Better Manage the Transportation System: A Case Study from Minnesota." This case study examines the methods used by *Minnesota Department of Transportation* to accurately collect data on bicyclists and pedestrians.

### FHWA's Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund Includes Pedestrian Projects

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) awarded \$8.5 million for 94 projects in [Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund](#) (TTPSF). The TTPSF was created under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) to improve highway safety on tribal roads and other transportation facilities. This funding round, several selected projects addressed pedestrian safety; such as the installation of traffic signals and warning lights.

### Smart Growth America Report on Safer Streets, Stronger Economies

Smart Growth America recently published a report, "[Safer Streets, Stronger Economies](#)," that examines the economic benefits of investing in bicycle and pedestrian safety. The report analyzes 37 Complete Streets projects and found that, compared to conventional transportation projects, these projects were more affordable and may lead to higher employment and property values.

## Economic Development

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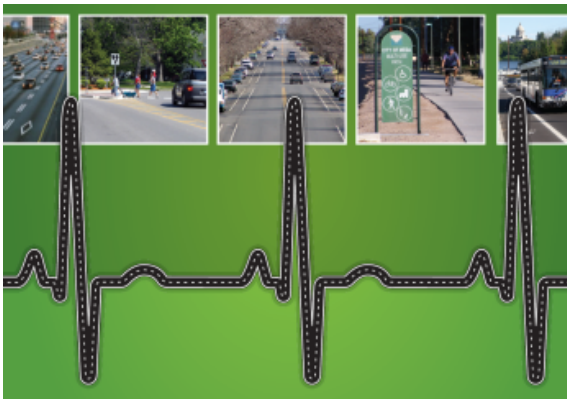


## Proceedings of the 2014 International Transportation Economic Development Conference

The 2014 International Transportation Economic Development (ITED) Conference, primarily organized by the *Transportation Research Board* (TRB), was held April 9-11 in Dallas, Texas. The [proceedings are now available](#) on the FHWA website. The conference discussed both the policy and technical sides of economic development and transportation issues.

## Health

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## Community Health Status Indicators 2015

The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) released an interactive web application called the [Community Health Status Indicators](#) (CHSI) 2015. This tool produces health profiles for all 3,143 counties in the United States. The profile describes the county's population health status and factors that have potentially influenced health outcomes.

## Livability

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## HUD Report on Green Infrastructure and the Sustainable Communities Initiative

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) published a report outlining how the [use of green infrastructure](#) can support Sustainable Communities Initiative grantees achieve their goals. The publication outlines green infrastructure benefits, best practices, and case studies.

## TRB Report on Practices of Establishing ADA Paratransit Eligibility Assessment Facilities

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) [Synthesis 116](#) looks at practices transit agencies use to determine if a user is eligible for paratransit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The document summarizes findings of in-person interviews and functional assessments of processes, facilities, equipment, and tools used by transit agencies.

## HUD's New Sustainable Communities Initiative Resource Library

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) released a [new online resource library](#) for its Sustainable Communities Initiative. The library contains a wide range of planning documents, reports, case studies, and other Sustainable Communities Initiative products.

## EPA's New Smart Growth Website

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) debuted a new website for its [Smart Growth Program](#). The website provides access to background information, Smart Growth topics, and various resources.