

Human Environment Digest

March 12, 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

HUD Extends Deadline for National Disaster Resilience Competition

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) [extended the deadline](#) for the [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) (NDRC) from March 16 to March 27, 2015.

Bicycle/Pedestrian



PeopleForBikes Releases "Building Equity" Report

PeopleForBikes and the *Alliance for Biking & Walking* released "[Building Equity: Race, Ethnicity, Class and Protected Bike Lanes](#)," a 36-page "idea book for fairer cities." The book includes three main sections, including: profiles of different people of color advocating for protected bike lanes; international, data-rich case studies that discuss the role of protected bike lanes; and a collection of statistics about the intersections of race, ethnicity, income, biking habits, and bike infrastructure.

Economic Development



TRB Publishes Research Record on Socioeconomic, Health, and Human Factors

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) latest "Transportation Research Record" [consists of 14 articles](#) that examine socio-economic, health, and human factors. The following topics are explored: the impact of highway investment on the economy and employment across U.S. industrial sectors; the evolving connection of transit, agglomeration, and growth of high-technology business clusters; an analysis of socio-economically disaggregated longitudinal employer-household

dynamics data to understand commuting, job clusters, and travel burdens; the effect of accessibility on property prices; and the impact of bus rapid transit and metro rail on property values in Guangzhou, China.

Environmental Justice



Safe Routes to School "Ladders of Opportunity" Webinar Recording Now Available

A [recording](#) of the "Safe Routes to School activities in support of Ladders of Opportunity - MPO and State program approaches" webinar is now available. This webinar discusses why effective transportation in disadvantaged communities is important to the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (USDOT), and it highlights key aspects of the *Safe Routes to School* (SRTS) program that may differ from typical Federal transportation programs.

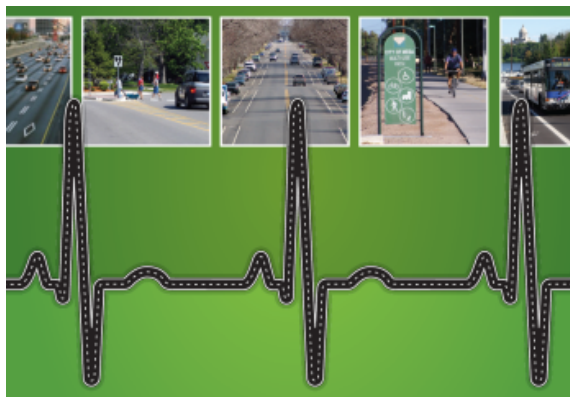
FTA Updates Environmental Justice Q&A Fact Sheet

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) recently updated its "Environmental Justice Frequently Asked Questions" document. The [new version](#) includes answers to 38 questions, covering topics such as legislative requirements, important definitions, and data questions.

TPCB Releases Peer Exchange Report Regarding Disadvantaged Businesses

The *U.S. Department of Transportation's* (DOT) *Transportation Planning Capacity Building* (TPCB) program hosted a peer exchange to discuss industry best practices that will help funding recipient agencies develop business development programs (BDPs). The peer exchange developed a list of suggestions and practical tips for developing BDPs that ultimately increase disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) participation. This [report](#) highlights key recommendations and best practices identified at the peer exchange, which the *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) will use to provide support to recipient agencies.

Health



TRB Health & Transportation Subcommittee Discusses Tools to Support Planning and Analysis

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) [Health & Transportation Subcommittee](#) hosted a workshop that focused on a variety of tools that practitioners, researchers, and analysts could find useful when exploring the intersection of health and transportation. The meeting participants discussed 12 tools, which are summarized in this [workshop working plan document](#).

AARP Releases Report on the ACA's Implications for Older Adults' Transportation Options

The *AARP* released "[Expanding Specialized Transportation: New Opportunities Under the Affordable Care Act](#)," which analyzes how States and communities can better address the transportation needs of older adults and others by using funding options under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This *AARP Public Policy Institute* report, and accompanying *Community Transportation Association of America* (CTAA) [podcast](#), can help educate public transportation and human services providers about the ACA's underused, specialized transportation benefits.

Livability



SHRP2 Program Launches "Education Connection"

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) second *Strategic Highway Research Program* (SHRP2) program announced [a new initiative](#) called *Education Connection* that will help universities and colleges incorporate proven *SHRP2* innovations and technologies in transportation curricula. Approved innovations include [PlanWorks](#) and [Eco-Logical](#), which have implications for the human environment.

BTS Releases State Transportation by the Numbers Profiles

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released visually friendly, two-page transportation [fact sheets](#) for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. This collection of transportation information from BTS, Federal government agencies, and other national sources, provides data on each State's infrastructure, freight movement, passenger travel, safety, vehicles, economy, energy, and environment. The Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Fast Lane" blog provided additional information about the fact sheets in a [March blog post](#).