

Human Environment Digest

February 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

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



Secretary Foxx's Mayor's Challenge Approaching 100 Cities

In January, Transportation Secretary Foxx announced the *Mayor's Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets*. Since announcing the initiative, [86 cities have joined](#) the Challenge to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. There is still time to sign up, the Challenge officially begins March 12.

Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice 2014 Implementation Report

This report highlights [the U.S. DOT's activities and accomplishments](#) related to Environmental Justice throughout 2014. In 2014 the U.S. DOT, and each of its modal agencies, focused its efforts on Ladders of Opportunity to create economic growth and increase development in underserved communities as well as addressing climate change challenges.

EPA Seeking Nominations for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) re-opened a [request for nominations](#) to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. The EPA is seeking a diverse range of qualified candidates who can provide advice on a broad range of multi-disciplinary issues related to environmental justice. There are eight vacancies for terms through September 2017. Nominations are due March 6, 2015.

Livability



Success in Stewardship February 2015 Newsletter

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) "[Success in Stewardship](#)" newsletter is now available online. This issue highlights a new tool agencies can use to manage transportation assets vulnerable to climate change.

Obama Administration Launches "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

As part of the *National Park Service's* (NPS) upcoming centennial celebration in 2016, President Obama announced the [Every Kid in a Park initiative](#) to get kids to enjoy America's outdoors. Every fourth grade student and their families will receive free admission to all National Parks and other Federal lands for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

USDA Request for Applications for Community Food Projects Program

The *U.S. Department of Agriculture* (USDA) announced the availability of \$9 million to support the [Community Food Projects](#) program. This program assists with the food needs of low-income populations and seeks to increase the food self-reliance of low-income communities through funding for infrastructure improvements and developments. Grant applications are due March 17, 2015.

AARP Releases new Livable Communities Website

The *American Association of Retired Persons* (AARP) has a new [website devoted to livable communities](#). As part of the AARP's mission to improve the quality of life for older adults, the website provides resources for users on livable community issues; such as: land use, housing, and transportation.

Public Involvement



Coordination between State Transportation Agencies in Multi-State Metropolitan Planning Areas: A Survey of State Practice

The *Minnesota Department of Transportation* (MnDOT) released a report examining how other States address multi-State metropolitan planning organization (MPO) oversight. With Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century's (MAP-21) emphasis on performance-based planning, there is a need for [greater coordination with MPOs](#), particularly if its jurisdiction covers more than one State.