

Human Environment Digest

January 15, 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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Bicycle/Pedestrian



America Walks Announces First 2015 Webinar Series

America Walks, a national nonprofit organization, announced that "Inspiring Stories of Walkable Communities" will be the theme of its first 2015 [free webinar series](#). "Inspiring Stories" will showcase specific walkable community successes achieved by local elected officials, health care industry leaders, and seasoned campaigners. See the webinars section of this Digest for dates and times.

FHWA Releases "FHWA Works" Video on Walking and Bicycling Safety

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) [released the fourth "FHWA Works" video](#) titled "FHWA Works: How the Federal Highway Administration Makes Walking and Bicycling Safer." The video illustrates how FHWA and its partners work together to make walking and biking more accessible and an integral part of livable communities.

Economic Development



Smart Growth America Publishes Third Edition of "The Innovative DOT" Handbook

Smart Growth America has partnered with the *State Smart Transportation Initiative* to develop "The Innovative DOT" report, [a resource for State transportation officials](#). The third handbook provides 34 recommendations transportation officials can use as they position their agencies for success in the new economy. Developed with input from top transportation professionals and officials at State agencies around the Nation, the handbook documents many of the innovative approaches State leaders are using to make systems more efficient, government more effective and constituents better satisfied.

Environmental Justice



Study Suggests Ways to Spread Infrastructure Benefits Across Society

Researchers at *McGill University* analyzed the transportation plans of 18 metropolitan areas across the U.S. and Canada and found that many plans focus largely on local environmental and congestion-reduction goals. Plans mention social-equity goals but often do not turn them into measurable objectives. [The report provides recommendations](#) for how cities can establish social-equity indicators.

Livability



Secretary Foxx Previews 30-Year U.S. Transportation Framework

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx presented his plans for "Beyond Traffic," a forthcoming paper that he plans to use to "start synthesizing big trends in transportation." The final document will be published later this year, but the initial ideas that he presented at the *Transportation Research Board* 94th Annual Meeting this week can be read on the [Fast Lane blog](#) and in the [Washington Post](#).

ICOET Call for 2015 Conference Abstracts

The *International Conference on Ecology & Transportation* (ICOET) is [accepting abstracts](#) to present technical papers, posters, and organized sessions at the eighth biennial ICOET conference. The "Roads to Resilience" conference will be held September 20-24, 2015, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Abstracts are due on January 30, 2015.

New National Center Will Support Better Transportation Safety and Mobility

The *National Operations Center of Excellence* (NOCoE) is [a new, comprehensive technical services center](#) and website that will help transportation professionals utilize state-of-the-art, real-time proactive management techniques to improve safety and system reliability, combat congestion, and better serve the traveling public. The NOCoE is a collaboration of the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials*, the *Institute of Transportation Engineers*, and the *Intelligent Transportation Society of America* with support from the *Federal Highway Administration*.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



NADO RF Learns Impacts of HUD SCI Grants Through Grantee Interview Series

Since 2011, the *National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation* (NADO RF) has participated in the [Sustainable Communities Learning Network](#) as one of the capacity-building teams supporting communities and regions that received planning grants as part of the [US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative \(SCI\)](#). Each week for the next month, NADO will post a new interview with HUD SCI grantees from around the Country that have explored a range of issues through their locally-driven planning processes. The first interviews featured communities in [Maine](#) and [Minnesota](#).