

## Human Environment Digest

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January 22, 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

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#### FHWA Publishes Summary of Pedestrian and Bicycle Research and Program Activities

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [prepared a report](#) for the annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference this month that describes recent, ongoing, and upcoming pedestrian and bicycle research efforts and related activities.

#### FHWA Publishes Guide for Safer Walking and Bicycling

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published "[A Resident's Guide for Creating Safer Communities for Walking and Biking](#)," a report that provides information, ideas, and resources to help residents learn about issues that affect walking and biking conditions in their communities. The guide provides examples from communities working to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and also contains fact sheets, worksheets, and sample materials that can be distributed or adapted to meet the needs of a community.

#### Study Identifies Ways to Better Connect Cyclists to Transit

A [researcher at the University of Florida](#) found that a small percentage of transit riders in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Minnesota, ride their bicycles to access transit facilities. Using geographic information systems to quantify how road and transit hub designs affect people's travel behaviors, this research could help identify ways to improve those networks and make transportation more sustainable, by encouraging walking, bicycling, and transit use.

#### Study Shows Helmets, Weather Conditions Less Significant in Bicycle Accidents Than Car Traffic

A [study](#) published in BMJ Open, a medical journal, analyzed the relationship between the urban cycling injuries of 700 Canadians and personal, trip, route, and crash characteristics associated with their accidents. The study found that the weather conditions, the color of a cyclist's clothing, and whether or not they wore a helmet, were not significantly related to the severity of the cyclists' reported accidents. Streetsblog USA [highlighted](#) the top findings.

#### Survey Finds Eight Percent of EU Adults Prefer to Travel by Bicycle

[According to a report](#) by the European Commission, 8 percent of adults living in the European Union's 28 member countries say they prefer to use a bicycle for daily travel. The report, called the "[Eurobarometer 422a](#)," cites convenience, speed, and price as the top reasons cyclists choose bicycles over other modes.

## Economic Development

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### **NYU Studies Mobility and Economic Opportunity in New York City Neighborhoods**

The New York University Rudin Center for Transportation [released a report](#) that focuses on variations of job access by transit throughout New York City, including links between transit access and unemployment. The methodology used for ranking neighborhoods could potentially be utilized elsewhere in the U.S.

## Environmental Justice

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### **USDOT Will Host Virtual Civil Rights Symposium in February 2015**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will [host a 3-day symposium](#), February 4-6, 2015, to connect stakeholders, themes, and perspectives across the civil rights transportation community. "Speaking with One Voice: Connecting the DOTs," will bring together people and ideas from leading experts on Civil Rights topics that impact the U.S. transportation system today and into the future.

### **FHWA NHTS Brief: Mobility Challenges for Households in Poverty**

The Federal Highway Administration published "Mobility Challenges for Households in Poverty" using data from the 2009 National Household Travel Survey. The [brief](#) discusses the challenges that poor households face in trying to meet their transportation needs. For instance, they have lower than average vehicle ownership rates and spend more of their household incomes on transportation.

## Livability

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### **FHWA Publishes "Building Climate Resilient Transportation" Resources**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [released information](#) to help State and regional transportation agencies across the Country prepare for extreme weather events that damage roads and bridges and cost large sums to repair. These resources are part of an FHWA initiative to integrate climate risk considerations into the delivery and stewardship of FHWA programs.