

## Human Environment Digest

---

January 1, 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.

### Contents:

- [Bicycle/Pedestrian](#)
- [Livability](#)

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

---



### New Safety Performance Measures Mandate for Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

In the 2015 Federal funding bill, Congress [included a provision](#) that requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to establish nonmotorized safety measures for highway improvement. A final rule on those measures must be published by September 30, 2015.

### Connecticut's Webletter on Complete Streets, "Streetlights on Complete Streets"

In 2013, Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) released its first-ever complete streets report, web page, and periodic webletter, titled "[Streetlights on Complete Streets](#)." The December 2014 issue highlights CDOT's first Complete Streets policy.

### How Communities Fund Maintenance of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

*Advocacy Advance*, a partnership between the *Alliance for Biking and Walking* and the *League of American Bicyclists*, released a document titled, "[How Communities are Paying to Maintain Trails, Bike Lanes, and Sidewalks](#)." The report examines the technical and political challenges communities face in trying to fund maintenance of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks.

### Poll Finds Voters In Favor of Bicycle and Pedestrian Investments

The *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy* (RTC) engaged Republican and Democratic pollsters to [examine the attitudes of voters](#) toward bicycle and pedestrian investments. The poll found that four times as many voters favor increasing or maintaining current Federal investment in walking and biking than favor decreasing investments.

## Livability

---



### Road Fatality Rate Reaches Record Low in 2013

The 2013 [Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\) data](#) released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows a 3.1 percent decrease in the number of road deaths from 2012. Additionally, the data shows that America's highway fatality rate is at its lowest point, 1.10 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

### **Review of Transportation Services for Older Adults**

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report looking at the Federal programs that provide funding for [transportation services for older adults](#) . Specifically, the report examines whether or not coordinating these efforts could improve mobility. The report finds that while Federal agencies do coordinate efforts, this coordination would benefit from better defined desired outcomes and measures.

### **TRB Publishes Guidance on Developing a Transit Asset Management Plan**

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Report 172, "[Guidance for Developing a Transit Asset Management Plan](#) ," provides tools and strategies for improving asset management.

### **Final Guidance on Effective Use of Programmatic NEPA Reviews**

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued its final [guidance on the use of programmatic](#) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. The guidance is designed to help agencies conduct environmental reviews that are timely, informative, and useful in decisionmaking.