

Human Environment Digest

December 5, 2014

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



Bicycle Friendly Communities 2014

The League of American Bicyclists released its annual [list of Bicycle Friendly Communities](#). This list includes 55 new and renewed Bicycle Friendly Communities and extends to all 50 States. Each of these communities are striving to improve the health, safety, and quality of life by accommodating bicycling in its area.

Examining Consumer Behavior and Travel Choices

The *Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC)* published a report, "[Examining Consumer Behavior and Travel Choices](#)." (log-in information is required to download, no fee). The study found that going car free can add \$7,000 a year to the average American's discretionary spending.

Economic Development



HUD's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is proposing an [improved structure and process for grant program participants and public housing agencies](#) that are required to further the mission of the Fair Housing Act. Under this proposed rulemaking, HUD recommends a new process in which the department provides guidance, data, and an assessment template for program participants. This proposed rule encourages local governments, States, and public housing agencies to work together locally and regionally to set priorities and achieve results.

Public Transportation: Multiple Factors Influence Extent of Transit- Oriented Development

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine [transit-oriented development](#), meaning compact and walkable neighborhoods near transit with a mix of residential and commercial uses. GAO researched the impact Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocated funds has had on improving transit-oriented development as well as what factors affect the success of transit-oriented development projects.

Livability



U.S. DOT Publishes Gulf Coast Study, Phase 2 Case Study

As part of the comprehensive, multi-phase study on the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure in the Central Gulf Coast, *USDOT* published the "[Phase 2 Case Study](#)." This case study examines infrastructure impacts and potential adaptation strategies in Mobile, Alabama.

Climate Change Transportation Tool in the Southeast Region for Federal Land Management Agencies

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* partnered with the *National Park Service (NPS)* and *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)* to help Federal Land Management Agencies understand how to [manage transportation assets in the face of climate change](#). Two parks and two refuges were selected as pilots in the Southeast Region.

FHWA November and December Public Roads Newsletter

In this month's volume of *FHWA's "Public Roads,"* articles cover topics ranging from new technologies to climate change and collapsing infrastructure.

FHWA Office of Safety's Road Diet Informational Guide

FHWA's Office of Safety released a "[Road Diet Informational Guide](#)." This guide outlines safety, operational, and quality of life considerations for readers deciding whether or not road diets are a good fit for a certain corridor. Road diets were recently included in the Every Day Counts III initiative.