

Human Environment Digest

November 20, 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



Requests for Proposals: Bicyclist Facility Preferences and Effects on Increasing Bicycle Trips

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program* has issued a [request for proposals](#) (RFP). The objectives of this research is to provide guidance on the location and kinds of bicycle infrastructure that current and potential bicycle users prefer. Proposals are due by January 7, 2015.

Alliance for Biking and Walking's Streetside, November 2014 Issue

The *Alliance for Biking and Walking* released its November ["Streetside" newsletter](#). This month's edition discussed the Governor's Highway Safety Association report on bicycle safety, Federal transportation policy updates, and a list of upcoming events.

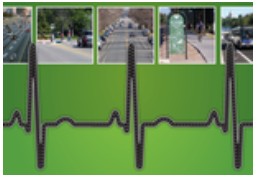
Economic Development



Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* posted a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for fiscal year 2014 [Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants](#). Approximately \$76 million is available for awards. This grant program seeks to help local governments, nonprofits, public housing authorities, and for-profit developments implement a plan to revitalize a severely distressed housing project in a distressed neighborhood.

Health



Walkable Communities Help Reduce Cognitive Decline in Older Adults

A new [University of Kansas study](#) found that communities with higher walkability scores related to higher performance on cognitive test scores over a 2-year period. The research team also found that communities with more intricate layouts might help sharpen cognition because the environment presents more mental challenges.

Livability



Secretary Foxx Talks Livability with AARP

Following up on his announcement in September of a new bicycling and pedestrian initiative, "Safer People, Safer Streets," [Secretary Foxx was interviewed](#) by the *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)* on more specifics about the effort. The Secretary expanded on why this initiative is a priority for him and how it will impact older Americans.

Apply for Free Technical Assistance on Building Livable and Sustainable Communities

The *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* grantee *Project for Public Spaces* is partnering with *Livable Solutions* to [offer free technical assistance](#) to communities interested in becoming more livable and sustainable. The assistance will help communities [understand and apply tools](#) such as walkability audits, green infrastructure valuation guides, and shared use agreements. The tools are part of the EPA's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. Applications are due January 9, 2015.

FDOT Released Report on the Effect of Age on Intersection Safety

The *Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)* published a report, "[Aging Road User Studies of Intersection Safety](#)," that examined the effect driver's age has on the ability to quickly perceive marked and unmarked crosswalks and pedestrians within the crosswalks. The study found that different crosswalk markings had no impact on driver behavior, but older drivers had significantly longer reaction time than younger drivers.

Public Involvement



FTA's Online Dialogue on Private Sector Participation

The Private Sector participation provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) require the *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* to better leverage the resources of the private sector. To implement these provisions, the FTA is conducting an [online dialogue](#) to engage grantees and other stakeholders. Registration for this online discussion closes on November 26, 2014.