

Human Environment Digest

November 13, 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



FHWA Announces the Development of a Transportation Alternatives Program Performance Management Guidebook

To align with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) national performance goals, FHWA expects to release a guidebook in the summer of 2015 on "[Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\) Performance Management](#)." Right now, interested individuals can review the Literature Review Summary and Literature Review Matrix.

Impact of the Safe Routes to School Program on Walking and Bicycling

A new study, "[The Impact of the Safe Routes to School Program on Walking and Bicycling](#)," published in the Journal of the American Planning Association examined data from 801 school districts between 2007 and 2012. The comprehensive study found that the program increased walking and bicycling to and from school.

The Demographics of Bicycling in Memphis

Memphis was identified as the 14th fastest growing city for bicycle commuting in the U.S. The *Urban Studies Journal* published an article last week, "[Behind a Bicycling Boom: Governance, Cultural Change, and Place Character in Memphis](#)," that examined the contributing factors of bicycling growth in the city. Additionally, the study looks at potential impacts and benefits the community may experience as this trend continues.

Environmental Justice



Request for Proposals: Economic and Social Equity Projects

PolicyLink and The Leadership Conference Education Fund, co-chairs of the [Transportation Equity Caucus](#), are seeking transportation project proposals that advance economic and social equity. Applicants may be awarded up to \$25,000 and must attend a 1-day conference in Washington, DC. The [Request for Proposals](#) provides more information. Applications are due November 21, 2014.

Health



Health Economic Assessment Tool for Cycling and Walking

The [Health Economic Assessment Tool \(HEAT\)](#) for cycling and walking is an online resource developed by the *World Health Organization* was recently updated. HEAT allows active transportation experts to calculate the value of reduced mortality rates from regular walking and cycling. This tool can be used when planning new walking and bicycling infrastructure, assessing current and past investments, and completing comprehensive cost-benefit analyses.

Livability



FTA Recognizes Five Outstanding Rural Transit Agencies

As part of the *Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)* annual Administrator's Awards for Outstanding Public Transportation Service in Rural Public Transportation, Acting Administrator Therese McMillan [recognized five rural transit agencies](#). North Central Regional Transit District; Streamline Transportation; Crawford Area Transportation Authority; JAUNT, Inc.; and Roaring Fork Transit Authority were each recognized for their outstanding work in enhancing mobility and access for rural residents.

FTA Awards \$3.6 Billion in Grants to Help Sandy-Struck Agencies

The [FTA awarded \\$3.6 billion](#) in grants to help areas struck by Hurricane Sandy with resilience projects. Nine applicants, covering 40 storm-resilience mitigation projects, were selected out of 10 applicants and 61 projects.

TR News September-October 2014 Issue

The latest edition of TR News is dedicated to "[Transportation in Tribal Lands: Challenges and Initiatives](#)." The unique transportation needs of the 566 Indian tribes across the U.S. present interesting challenges that require innovative solutions. The articles explore accomplishments of and lessons learned from the various programs serving tribal transportation.

Public Involvement



Summary of Transportation-Related Election Results

The *AASHTO Journal* published a [summary of transportation-related election results](#) from last week. Several transportation funding measures were on ballots in cities and States across the Country. Voters displayed mixed levels of support for the various infrastructure investment proposals.