

Human Environment Digest

November 6, 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



Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Handbook

The FHWA's Office of Planning released a new handbook designed to help State departments of transportation develop or update State pedestrian and bicycle plans. The "[Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Handbook](#)" comprehensively covers the statewide planning process, from plan inception and stakeholder outreach to data analysis and implementation.

Effects of Public Bikesharing in North America on the Industry and User

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* published a report titled, "[Public Bikesharing in North America During a Period of Rapid Expansion: Understanding Business Models, Industry Trends and User Impacts](#)." This study examines the shifts in travel behavior exhibited by users based on business models and operational environments. Through in-depth interviews and user surveys, the research team provides a comprehensive overview of user impacts and lessons learned.

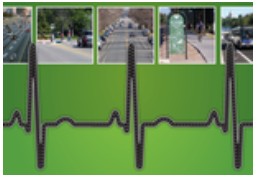
Environmental Justice



Equity-Oriented Decision Making Webinar Materials Available

PlaceMatters facilitated a webinar on "Using Tools and Data to Inform Equity-Oriented Decision Making." The webinar presented three strategies for thinking about and improving equity in regions. The [webinar materials](#) are now available online.

Health



Bicycle-Friendly City Infrastructure Significantly Improves Health in U.S.

During a poster session at the Obesity Society Annual Meeting on November 4th, new research was presented on the impacts on bicycle-friendly infrastructure on residents' health. The University of North Carolina led [this research initiative](#) looking specifically at the Minneapolis Greenway. While it is well-known that active transportation has positive health impacts, this research reinforces the need to build bicycle-friendly infrastructure in cities in the U.S.

Livability



November 2014 Successes in Stewardship Newsletter

This month's FHWA's "[Successes in Stewardship Newsletter](#)" is now available online. This edition highlights the strategy of Road Diets, a low-cost way to improve safety, livability, and health for communities. The FHWA is planning to release a Road Diet Informational Guide in the near future.

Multimodal Transportation Indicators: October 2014

The USDOT's Office of the Assistance Secretary for Research and Technology released a report displaying various multimodal transportation indicators. From safety to usage, the "[Multimodal Transportation Indicators: October 2014](#)" provides insightful summary information on each mode and their performance over the last decade.

Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 788, "[Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting](#)," outlines ways State agencies and tribal leaders can better collect and analyze crash data on tribal lands. Through these practices, States and tribes can develop more effective safety programs and countermeasures.

Linking Community Visioning and Highway Capacity Planning

TRB's second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) released a project brief investigating the application of community visioning in the transportation planning process. "[Linking Community Visioning and Highway Capacity Planning](#)" explains how visioning can support collaborative decision making processes and assist transportation agencies in integrating community values in long-term goals.

WSDOT's Handbook for Corridor Capacity Evaluation

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) annually publishes a Corridor Capacity Report analyzing system performance. WSDOT [released this handbook](#) to communicate how its congestion measurements are calculated and how its approach has changed over time. WSDOT has a holistic, multimodal approach for measuring congestion which includes transit trip analysis, accessibility evaluation, and greenhouse gas emissions.