

## Human Environment Digest

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October 30, 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

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### GHSA Examines Bicyclist Safety

The October issue of the *Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) "Spotlight on Highway Safety"* highlighted the growing problem of bicyclist safety. [The report discusses](#) the increasing popularity of bicycling and the increasing number of motor-vehicle related fatalities between 2010 and 2012. The report concludes by providing a brief outline of current efforts being undertaken by States and localities to reduce this trend.

### Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative

*Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)* and the *Humphrey School of Public Affairs* are working together to [count and monitor bicycle and pedestrian traffic](#) throughout Minnesota. The goal of this initiative is to test the accuracy of different counting technologies as well as determine the best counters for different locations. The researchers are placing counters in both urban and rural towns and on streets and trails.

## Economic Development

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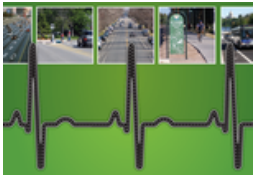


### Center for Community Progress's Technical Assistance Scholarship Program Seeking Applicants

The Center for Community Progress is requesting applications for its [Technical Assistance Scholarship Program \(TASP\)](#). Public and nonprofit entities can apply for the new, competitive program that aims to serve communities in need of technical assistance to assess, reform, develop, and implement solutions to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment. Up to three selected applicants will receive up to 2,000 hours of technical assistance. Applications are due by 4:00 PM on November 5, 2014.

## Health

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### **TRB's Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation: Assessment of Transit Agencies**

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Research Results Digest 109 discusses the potential impacts implementing the non-emergency medical transportation provision of the Affordable Care Act will have on transit agencies. "[The Impact of Non-Emergency Transportation on Transit Agencies](#)" examines the impacts on a State-by-State basis. The report demonstrates ways in which public transit agencies can share resources and integrate services with non-emergency medical transportation providers.

## Livability

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### **Every Day Counts Effort: Regional Models of Cooperation**

Regional Models of Cooperation is a new Every Day Counts (EDC) effort by the FHWA. [Regional Models of Cooperation](#) provides a framework and process for State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies to work together to improve communication, coordination, policy implementation, and performance management across agency boundaries.

### **Every Day Counts Innovation Sessions at the Regional Summits**

Every Day Counts (EDC) is holding [seven Regional Summits](#) this fall to promote the use of innovative practices that shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety, reduce congestion, and improve environmental sustainability. The Region Summits bring together transportation leaders and professionals from around the Country to discuss the use of these innovative techniques. Dates, topics, and registration information can be found on the website link above.

### **EPA's Guide on Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green Infrastructure**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a report titled, "[Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green Infrastructure](#) : A Guide to Help Communities Better Manage Stormwater while Achieving Other Environmental, Public Health, Social, and Economic Benefits." The guidebook aims to help local governments, water utilities, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders integrate green infrastructure technology to enhance stormwater management. To learn more, the EPA is holding a [webinar on November 18](#), Creating a Green Infrastructure Plan to Transform Your Community.

### **Our Town Grant Now Open for Applications**

The National Endowment for the Arts created the [Our Town grant program](#) to fund creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities. Our Town prioritizes partnerships between arts organizations, and public or private organizations striving to achieve livability goals for communities. The application deadline is December 15, 2014.

### **Clean Cities 2013 Annual Metrics Report**

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently published the "[Clean Cities 2013 Annual Metrics Report](#)." The publication summarizes activities and accomplishments of 82 Clean Cities programs. The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program is a public-private partnership that seeks to promote alternative fuels and new vehicle technologies that advance the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security.

### **What do the Current Owners of Hybrids and Non-Hybrids Think About Hybrids?**

The University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute released a report exploring the question, "What do the Current [Owners of Hybrids and Non-Hybrids](#) Think About Hybrids?" The research group surveyed over 2,000 U.S. motorists, approximately half of which owned a hybrid and half did not. Of the current hybrid owners, the main reason given for owning a hybrid is the environmental impact. Of the non-hybrid owners, the most frequently reported reasons for not getting a hybrid was the initial cost or they did not consider hybrids when purchasing.

## Public Involvement

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### **FHWA Seeking Public Comment on 2015 Guidance for Connected Vehicles**

The FHWA is asking the public for feedback on the draft "2015 Vehicle to Infrastructure (V2I) [Deployment Guidance and Products](#)" as well as on the formation of a V2I deployment coalition. USDOT is seeking comments from State and local transportation agencies, transit providers, infrastructure owners, and any other interested parties. The comment period is open through November 14, 2014.