

Human Environment Digest

October 16, 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



Report on Identifying the Risk Factors for Cyclists in the Australian Capital Territory

Monash University, in Australia, released a report studying the behavior of cyclists and interactions with drivers titled "[Naturalist Cycling Study: Identifying Risk Factors for Cyclists in the Australian Capital Territory.](#)" In studying cyclist and driver behavior through recorded video and online and in-person surveys, the report identified several strategies for improving cyclist safety.

Helmets on Heads Mini-Grants Program Accepting Applications

The *National Center for Safe Routes to School* and Schwinn's [Helmets on Heads Mini-Grants Program](#) is accepting applications until October 22. The program provides up to \$1,000 to 25 different schools across the country. The mini-grants can be used for activities planned for the second half of the 2014-2015 school year.

U.S. Cities with the Highest Share of Bicycle Commuters

New Census data shows that more Americans are cycling to work than ever before. The *League of American Bicyclists* released a [list of cities with the highest percentage of bike commuters](#). While the percentages may appear small, cycling is the fastest growing commuter mode in the last decade.

Economic Development



University of Minnesota Ranks Accessibility to Jobs by Transit in U.S.'s Largest Metropolitan Areas

The Accessibility Observatory at the *University of Minnesota* ranked 46 of the 50 largest [metropolitan areas in the U.S. for accessibility to jobs by transit](#). The results are detailed in the "Access Across America: Transit 2014" report. The study

calculates accessibility by examining both land use and transportation systems. According to the study, the number one ranked system is New York.

Health



National Physical Activity Plan Seeking Public Comment

Almost 5 years ago, the U.S. developed a [National Physical Activity Plan](#) that aimed to increase physical activity for all segments of the U.S. population. As part of the 5-year anniversary, the National Physical Activity Plan is undergoing a revision process and is seeking public comment until [October 31st through an online survey](#).

Livability



TRB Publishes Transit 2014, Volume 2: Carsharing, Taxis, and Automated Transport

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) Transportation Research Record Journal, Number 2416 published "[Transit 2014, Volume 2: Carsharing, Taxis, and Automated Transport](#)." This edition includes 11 papers about various forms of alternative transportation, from carsharing to pedicabs to more traditional transit systems.

TRB Releases SHRP2 Report on the Effect of Smart Growth Policies on Travel Demand

The *TRB's second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2)* [Report S2-C16-RR-1, the "Effect of Smart Growth Policies on Travel Demand"](#), examines the relationships among households, businesses, and travel demand. The publication includes a [regional scenario planning tool, SmartGAP](#), that evaluates the impacts of various smart growth policies.

New Green Infrastructure Collaborative Formed

The *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*, other Federal agencies (including the US Department of Transportation), non-government organizations, and private sector entities [joined together to form the Green Infrastructure Collaborative](#). The purpose of this group is to build capacity for green infrastructure implementation by providing a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, leverage joint efforts, and encourage adoption of green infrastructure technologies.

AARP Livability Fact Sheets

The *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)* partnered with the *Walkable and Livable Communities Institute* to [create 11 Livability Fact Sheets](#). The package of comprehensive fact sheets can be used by community leaders, policy makers, activists, and other interested citizens to learn more about creating livable communities for all ages.