

Human Environment Digest

October 9, 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



Annual Walk to School Day was October 8th

On October 8th "Walk to School Day 2014" took place. This annual event was first held in 1997 and has been growing every year. This year, over 4,600 registered "Walk to School Day" events took place across America. [Read here about Secretary Foxx's participation in "Walk to School Day."](#)

Empirically-Based Performance Assessment and Simulation of Pedestrian Behavior at Unsignalized Crossing

The Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development, and Education Center at the University of Florida published [a report examining pedestrian-vehicle interactions at mid-block pedestrian crossings](#). The research included developing methods to address these interactions through traffic operational analysis and microsimulation packages.

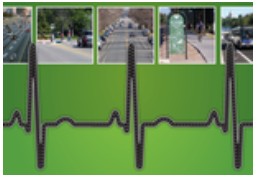
Economic Development



FHWA Published Report: The Chesapeake Megaregion Market Analysis

The FHWA published a report titled, "[The Chesapeake Megaregion Market Analysis.](#)" This report is an analysis of the effects of the Chesapeake megaregion's development pattern on the transportation system and regional economy. Megaregions are a new urbanization pattern consisting of large agglomerations of metropolitan areas. The FHWA developed a model framework for analyzing megaregions.

Health



CDC's Newsletter Vital Signs Highlights Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries: Costly but Preventable

The *Center for Disease Control's (CDC)* monthly newsletter, "[Vital Signs](#)", highlighted motor vehicle crash injuries this month. It reports that in 2012, more than 2.5 million Americans went to the emergency department for crash injuries. The report recommends interventions to increase safety and decrease medical costs. In addition, the CDC also created an interactive calculator called the [Motor Vehicle Prioritizing Interventions and Cost Calculator for States](#). This tool can assist States in selecting and prioritizing motor vehicle injury prevention techniques.

Livability



Coalition for Smarter Growth Published Report on Addressing Aging Population in DC

The *Coalition for Smarter Growth* released a report, "[Moving an Age-Friendly DC: Transportation for All Ages](#)," that focuses on ways Washington, DC can better plan for an aging population. The report provides recommendations on how to invest and coordinate services to benefit older adults and make communities more pedestrian- and transit-friendly.

FHWA's Successes in Stewardship Newsletter Released

The *FHWA's "Successes in Stewardship" October edition* is now available online. This month's newsletter showcases the East Division Street Bridge project in Chicago and how the FHWA worked with the Chicago Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Coast Guard to shorten the environmental review process.

Estimating Travel Mode Choice Model for Small and Medium MPOs

The *Center for Transportation Research at the University of Texas at Austin*, in cooperation with the *Texas Department of Transportation* and *FHWA*, published a report that develops a process and framework for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) when estimating a travel mode choice model that includes transit. The report, "[Developing a Mode Choice Model for Small and Medium MPOs](#)," also examines the results of using such a model to project mode share changes in response to demographic changes and improvements in transit service.

TRB Report on Performance-Based Analysis of Geometric Design of Highways and Streets

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB)* released *National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 785: "Performance-Based Analysis of Geometric Design of Highways and Streets."* This report presents an approach for understanding the desired outcomes of a project, selecting performance measures that align with those outcomes, evaluating the impact of alternative geometric design decision on those performance measures, and arriving at solutions that achieve the overall desired project outcomes.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



PSC's Sustainable Community Indicator Catalog

The *Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC)*, *University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Urban Research*, and the *HUD Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation* developed a [Sustainable Community Indicator Catalog](#). This catalog assists communities in identifying indicators that can measure progress toward their sustainability objectives. Researchers evaluated over 100 different community indicator initiatives across the country and identified over 1,000 metrics related the PSC's Livability Principles. This catalog helps communities efficiently identify effective indicators.

Public Involvement



Help the USDOT Identify Projects of National and Regional Significance

As part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Congress asked the *U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)* to engage with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive list of Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS). The FHWA is collecting the information through an online survey, which is currently open until November 17, 2014.