

Human Environment Digest

October 2, 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



Application Period Open for National Recreation Trail Designation

Any publicly- or privately-managed trails open to the public are [eligible for the National Recreation Trail \(NRT\) designation](#). If the trail is located on Federal land administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), applications are due by November 1. If the trail is located on other Federal land (not administered by USDA) or on State, local, or private land, applications are due by February 15.

Increasing Presence of Raised Bike Lanes in the U.S.

[More raised bicycle lanes are being constructed in U.S. cities](#), according to an article by Urbanful. While a popular design throughout Europe, the U.S. has been slower to adopt these elevated lanes. Raised bike lanes encourage drivers to stay in vehicular traffic lanes and discourage cyclists from riding on the sidewalk, increasing the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center names its 50th Walk Friendly Community

The [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center \(PBIC\) announced three new Walk Friendly Communities](#), bringing the total to 50. Bellevue, WA received silver level and Portsmouth, VA and Sisters, OR received bronze level. The Walk Friendly Communities program recognizes and celebrates the successes of towns and cities working to improve a wide range of walking-related conditions such as safety, mobility, access, and comfort.

Economic Development



Foxx Announces More Ladders of Opportunity Grants

On September 25, [U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx announced \\$100 million in competitive grants to 24 recipients in 19 states](#) to go towards significant bus service and facility improvements in urban and rural communities. The grants were provided under the *Federal Transit Administration's* (FTA) Ladders of Opportunity Initiative. This Initiative supports

the modernization and expansion of transit bus service to connect disadvantaged and low-income populations with centers of education, employment, and other vital services.

Livability



Pew Charitable Trust Publishes Report on Surface Transportation Funding

The *Pew Charitable Trust* released a report as part of its Fiscal Federalism in Action Series. The [publication, titled "Intergovernmental Challenges to Transportation Funding,"](#) examines the roles of local, State and Federal governments in funding highway and transit programs. The report identified challenges to the State, local and Federal funding mechanisms, and states changes, "are needed to maintain the network and plan for years ahead."

TRB's Transit 2014, Volume 1 Released

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) [Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2415 titled, "Transit 2014, Volume 1,"](#) was published on September 29. This journal consists of 16 papers that examine a variety of topics surrounding public transportation services.

FHWA Office of Real Estate Services Newsletter Volume 6, Number 2

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) [Office of Real Estate released its Summer 2014 newsletter this week.](#) This volume highlights the winners of the FHWA 2014 Excellence in ROW Awards as well as updates from the Office's Regional Points of Contacts.

EPA Offers Free Technical Assistance to Build Sustainable Communities

The *Environmental Protection Agency's* (EPA) [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program is accepting applications](#) for free technical assistance to communities seeking growth and development through sustainable approaches. Apply for assistance by Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 5:00 PM ET.