

## Human Environment Digest

September 25, 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



#### Performance Measures for Nonmotorized Transportation

At the May 2013 State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) Community of Practice, participants requested guidance on performance measures for bicycling and walking projects. After surveying State departments of transportation (DOTs), local agencies, national organizations, and the research literature, [SSTI developed this draft report](#), which outlines strategies used to assess the success of State and local projects.

#### Interactive Lessons on Multi-Modal School Transportation Planning

This [two-part series from the American Clearinghouse on Educational Facilities](#) explores why and how to improve school walking and cycling access, and how to communicate these benefits to school decisionmakers. Scroll down on the page to access the lessons.

#### Improving Work Zone Safety for Visually Impaired Pedestrians

This [article from the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies](#) discusses a smart phone app that helps visually impaired people navigate safely by alerting them of upcoming work zones and providing alternate route options.

### Economic Development



#### HUD Launches \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition

The [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#), a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation, is a two-phase process that will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities. The competition will help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters, hazards, and shocks.

## Health

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### **APHA Article Says: Hispanic Neighborhoods may Face the Most Air Pollution**

[This article from the American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#) features a study showing that the racial and ethnic make-up of a neighborhood is often correlated with air pollution levels. The November edition of the American Journal of Public Health will include this study and many others that relate to this year's theme for the APHA annual meeting: "Healthography: How Where You Live Affects Your Health and Well-Being."

## Livability

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### **Free Technical Assistance Workshops from Smart Growth America - Application Period Now Open!**

Smart Growth America is [offering free technical assistance](#) to help local leaders and residents make their communities more livable, sustainable, and vibrant. This technical assistance is provided with grant support from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. Applications are due by Thursday, October 23, 2014, 5:00 PM EDT.

### **Obama Administration Announces Competition to Designate Next Round of Promise Zones**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro joined U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan to announce a competition to designate a [new round of Promise Zones](#). These Promise Zones are part of the President's plan to create a new pathway to the middle class by partnering with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime. The application deadline is November 21, 2014.

### **Coordinated Stakeholder Engagement in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region Spurs Active Transportation Facilities**

[This FHWA Livability case study](#) discusses how a combination of funding strategies targeted strategies, strong public engagement, cross-community collaboration, and commitments from leaders has led to the significant growth of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth region of Texas.

### **EPA's Greening America's Capitals Program to Help Neighborhoods Implement Green Infrastructure Strategies**

Through the [Greening America's Capitals Program](#), EPA will be [providing design assistance to help five capital cities](#) develop implementable visions for specific neighborhoods that incorporate [green infrastructure](#) strategies. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater. It can also help create greener, more vibrant neighborhoods and increase resilience to climate impacts. The five selected cities are: Austin, Texas; Carson City, Nevada; Columbus, Ohio; Pierre, South Dakota; and Richmond, Virginia.

### **New Transportation Planning Capacity Building Guidebook on Performance-Based Planning**

The new guidebook [Model Long-Range Transportation Plans: A Guide for Incorporating Performance-Based Planning](#) informs State DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and regional planning organizations (RPOs), as well as their planning partners, such as transit agencies, local governments, and Federal agencies, about effective practices for incorporating performance-based planning into the development of a long-range transportation plan.