

Human Environment Digest

September 4, 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.

Contents:

- [Bicycle/Pedestrian](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)

Bicycle/Pedestrian



FHWA Public Roads Article - Clearing a Path for Pedestrians

FHWA helps States and local agencies [take the guesswork out of maintaining sidewalks, walkways, and crosswalks](#).

Infographic - The Rise of Protected Bike Lanes in the U.S.

Protected bike lanes are in 24 States and 53 cities. An additional 20 cities are working on their first right now. This infographic by *The Green Lanes Project*, a People for Bikes program, [defines the different types of protected bike lanes and shows some of the trends associated with them](#).

FHWA Public Roads Article - Why Did the Pedestrian Cross the Road?

[This article summarizes](#) a recent FHWA study that examines this question with an eye on measures to increase safety.

Economic Development



Bloomberg Philanthropies Model Aims to Provide a Method for Removing Barriers to Change

Bloomberg Philanthropies released a report called "[Transform your City through Innovation](#)," which describes their Innovation Delivery Model and the experiences of five major cities who used the model to develop and implement solutions to a variety of urban issues such as customer service, murder, homelessness, and economic development.

Registration has opened for the upcoming 2015 Race to Zero Student Design Competition

The [competition engages college students](#) across the United States and Canada, challenging participants to solve problems and develop innovative solutions in high-performance, energy efficient housing design.

Health



The Societal Costs and Benefits of Commuter Bicycling

This [article discusses some possible co-benefits](#) for health, social equity, and climate change mitigation associated with bicycle commuting and is based on research from the University of Auckland, University of Otago, and Massey University.

Livability



Video Series Developed to Entice and Educate Non-Riders on Transit Options and Benefits

The *Orange County Transportation Authority* [created the Adventure Series videos](#) to attract new riders and build enthusiasm about the transportation options available in Orange County, CA.

DOT External Sustainability Website is Now Live

USDOT's new Sustainability website is a [one-stop portal](#) that summarizes DOT's environmental/sustainability efforts.

HUD and DOT Release Location Affordability Portal Version 2

The "[Location Affordability Portal](#)," created by *HUD* and *USDOT*, is now updated to include more sophisticated statistical modeling and new housing stock and local amenities data, making the tools on the website even more effective.

FHWA and FTA Extend Comment Period

FHWA and *FTA* are extending the [comment period for a notice of proposed rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) and request for comments for the "Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning (MAP-21)", published on June 2, 2014. The new comment period ends October 2, 2014.