

Human Environment Digest

August 28, 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



FHWA Provides Bicycle-Related MUTCD Guidance

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* [identified bicycle-related signs, markings, signals, and other treatments](#) that are permitted in the 2009 version of the "[Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\)](#)." This guidance is useful for agencies seeking quick answers to any bicycle-related MUTCD questions.

Economic Development



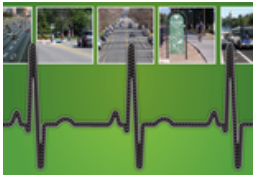
President Announces Government-Wide "Build America" Initiative

In mid-July, [President Obama announced a new policy initiative called "Build America"](#) to advance infrastructure investment and economic growth. Starting with the transportation sector, this initiative seeks to engage State and local governments and private sector investors to encourage collaboration, public-private partnerships, and the use of Federal credit programs.

FTA Releases Guidance on Joint Development

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* [published Circular 7050.1](#) to provide guidance on how FTA funds or FTA-funded real property can be used for joint development. The circular is effective October 1, 2014. This guidance tool incorporates provisions from Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and is intended to assist FTA fund recipients in managing FTA-assisted projects in complying with Federal requirements.

Health



Applications Now Open for Small Grants Program for Transporting Healthy Food

The *Conservation Fund (TCF)* and *CSX Corporation* are co-sponsoring a [small grants program to help support local transportation networks](#) to distribute fresh, healthy foods. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to local government agencies and non-profit organizations seeking to address gaps in local food distribution. The application deadline is October 1, 2014.

Technical Report on Transit Access and Health Inequities in Toronto

Toronto Public Health published a report looking at the ways in which access to public transit contributes to the health of individuals, communities, and the city as a whole. "[Next Stop Health: Transit Access and Health Inequalities in Toronto](#)" found disparities in accessibility and availability of public transit for low income individuals. The report provides strategies to address these barriers as Toronto seeks to expand its public transit system.

Livability



The National Park Service Celebrates Its 98th Birthday

The [National Park Service \(NPS\) turned 98 years old on August 25](#). All 401 national parks waived their entrance fees that day and many are offering special events throughout the week. The National Park Service preserves and protects America's culturally, historically, and naturally significant places.

FHWA Guidance on Withdrawal or De-Designation of Segments of the Interstate Highway System

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* [Frequently Asked Questions related to the withdrawal or de-designation of segments of the Interstate Highway System](#). States may withdraw or remove an Interstate segment due to livability-related reasons, such as community opposition or environmental concerns.