

Human Environment Digest

August 21, 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 and FTA Provide Table of Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Opportunities

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* and *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* created a table for practitioners to quickly identify [funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian projects](#). The table outlines different bicycle and pedestrian activities and the funding opportunities for which each may qualify.

Economic Development



FHWA White Paper: A Multi-Modal Approach to Economic Development in the Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning Process

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* published a new white paper titled, "[A Multi-Modal Approach to Economic Development in the Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning Process](#)." This paper summarizes ways in which metropolitan areas are integrating economic development into transportation planning. The white paper outlines current research and practices so transportation planners can clearly understand economic development concepts and learn how to incorporate these concepts in the metropolitan area planning process.

Brookings Report Brief on the Growth and Spread of Concentrated Poverty from 2000 to 2008-2012

A recent *Brookings* report brief updates a 2011 report, "[The Re-Emergence of Concentrated Poverty](#)." The brief details the way poverty has grown and spread throughout the United States in the early 2000s. "[The Growth and Spread of Concentrated Poverty, 2000 to 2008-2012](#)" explains that poverty became more concentrated in high-poverty and disadvantaged neighborhoods, making it more difficult for those individuals and families to escape poverty.

Environmental Justice



Now Available: FTA's Environmental Justice Training Course

The *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*, in cooperation with the *National Transit Institute (NTI)*, is offering an [Environmental Justice training course on September 29-30, 2014](#) in Los Angeles, CA. This training is intended to help practitioners, grantees, and reviewers to integrate environmental justice impacts throughout the planning and project development process. For some, there is a registration fee.

Health



TRB Publishes Best-Practice Guidelines for Improving Bus Operator Health and Retention

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)* recently published "[Developing Best-Practice Guidelines for Improving Bus Operator Health and Retention](#)." This report, TCRP Report 169, identifies common health and safety problems within the transit industry and provides solutions for addressing health problems of transit employees. Additionally, a PowerPoint presentation and Excel worksheet are available [on the TRB page](#) to further assist transit agencies with implementing these solutions.

Livability



Memphis MPO Promotes Livability Through YouTube Videos

The *Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)* [created videos to explain and promote livability initiatives in its region](#). Throughout the series, six mayors on the *Memphis MPO's* board discuss how collaborative transportation planning can assist in community building and economic growth. Each video is available in English and Spanish and encourages viewers to participate in the area's planning process.

FHWA Accepting Applications for the 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards Program

The *Federal Highway Administration* announced the opening of the application period for the 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards (EEA) Program. Nominations are open from August 15 through September 30, 2014. This is a biennial program that recognizes outstanding transportation projects, processes, and partners that use *FHWA* funding sources and go above and beyond to achieve environmental excellence. [For more information and to submit an application, visit the EEA Program website.](#)

TRB's Strategic Issues Facing Transportation, Volume 6 Focuses on Changing Socio-Demographics

"[Strategic Issues Facing Transportation, Volume 6: The Effects of Socio-Demographics on Future Travel Demand](#)" is a report recently released by the *Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)*. The report, NCHRP Report 750, analyzes the projected changes in socio-demographics over the next 30 to 50 years and the resulting impacts on travel demand at the regional level. The U.S. population is expected to substantially increase, ethnically diversify, and age. Transportation agencies need to be able to respond and incorporate these socio-demographic shifts in long-range planning.

Level of Service and Livability: Making the Connection Webinar Recording Now Available Online

As part of the [Context Sensitive Solutions \(CSS\) Webinar Series](#) sponsored by the *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*, the "[Level of Service and Livability: Making the Connection](#)" webinar recording and transcript are now available online. The webinar discussed the origin, evolution, and application of level of service and the way in which level of service goals can incorporate livable communities and CSS.

