

Human Environment Digest

August 7, 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



Study Shows Bike Share Programs Improve Multimodal Transit Network Efficiency

The Atlantic's *CityLab* [reported on a new study](#) by Berkeley researchers Elliot Martin and Susan Shaheen that found "the denser the urban environment (particularly for rail), the more bikesharing provides new connections that substitute for existing ones. The less dense the environment, the more bikesharing establishes new connections to the existing public transit system." The study examined changes in commute modes made by bike-share members in Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis, MN.

FHWA Publishes Journey to Work Trips Spreadsheets Featuring Transit, Walk, and Bike Commute Shares

The *Federal Highway Administration's* (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment and Realty published "[2000 to 2007-2009 to 2010-2012: Changes in Transit, Walk and Bike Commute Shares](#)," a series of spreadsheets that depict trends in transit, walk, and bike journey to work trips in the United States. These spreadsheets are designed to give transportation planners an easy way to examine trends between Census 2000 results and the 2007-2009 and the 2010-2012 American Community Survey (ACS) results.

Environmental Justice



Analysis Finds Pedestrian Deaths Disproportionately High in Poor Neighborhoods

A *Governing* [analysis of accident location coordinates for pedestrian deaths](#) nationwide between 2008 and 2012 revealed poor neighborhoods have disproportionately higher rates of pedestrian deaths than higher income neighborhoods. The analysis also found that "in the nation's metro areas, the bottom third of Census tracts, in terms of per capita income, recorded pedestrian fatality rates twice that of higher income tracts."

Livability



FHWA 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards Call for Nominations

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) biennial [Environmental Excellence Awards \(EEA\) program](#) recognizes outstanding initiatives that incorporate environmental stewardship into the project planning and development processes. The next round of the EEAs will open on August 15th and will feature an expanded set of categories that will recognize initiatives that protect and enhance both the human and natural environments. The EEA program honors agencies and individuals that exceed required environmental compliance for transportation projects; facilitate partnerships to promote environmental stewardship; and develop environmentally sensitive transportation innovations. The nomination period will close on September 15, 2014. Read the [latest FHWA *Successes in Stewardship* newsletter](#) for more information.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



PSC Publishes List of "Tools for Sustainable Communities"

The *Partnership for Sustainable Communities* (PSC) compiled a [list of tools](#) to help communities assess, plan, and design sustainable communities. These tools cover a broad range of topics, including community design and planning, transportation and housing, and the environment. The list includes tools developed by the PSC partner agencies - the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD), the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (DOT), and the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) - as well as other Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

Public Involvement



FTA Proposes Guidance for Bus and Bus Facilities Program

The *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) invites comment on a [Bus and Bus Facilities proposed circular](#) , which provides recipients of FTA financial assistance with instructions and guidance on program administration and the grant application process for the Bus and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. 5339), established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The Bus and Bus Facilities Program makes Federal funding available for financing capital bus and bus-related projects that will support the continuation and expansion of public transportation services in the United States. Comments should be submitted by September 29, 2014.