

## Human Environment Digest

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July 24th, 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](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)

## Bicycle/Pedestrian

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### Study: People Living Near Bicycle / Pedestrian Paths Get More Exercise

According to [a study published](#) in the *American Journal of Public Health*, over time, people who live near bicycle and walking paths become more active than those who do not. The report authors suggest that new, traffic-free routes generate more new trips in the long-term and support the potential for walking and cycling infrastructure to promote physical activity.

### Report: Design and Implementation of Pedestrian and Bicycle-Specific Data Collection Methods in Oregon

*Portland State University* [released a report](#) that provides guidance to the State of Oregon for the development of a statewide data collection system for bicycle and pedestrian data. There are currently no Federal or State requirements for non-motorized traffic monitoring, so recommendations in this report are specifically for the *Oregon Department of Transportation* (ODOT) to develop such a system. Though these recommendations are specific to Oregon, they may potentially inform other regional data collection efforts.

### Inventory of Protected Bike Lanes is Being Updated

*PeopleforBikes* is in the process of [updating its popular Inventory of Protected Bike Lanes](#), which lists all current protected green lanes in the United States. Since *PeopleforBikes* launched the [Green Lane Project](#), which is an effort to increase protected bike facilities in various U.S. cities, protected bike lanes have nearly doubled. The inventory can be downloaded and sorted by users. Corrections, additions, and ideas may be submitted to [maryam@peopleforbikes.org](mailto:maryam@peopleforbikes.org).

### New Resources Assist Communities with "Safe Routes to School" Program Implementation

Four new publications from *ChangeLab Solutions*, a national law and policy non-profit organization, are now available to help districts, parents, and active transportation advocates develop policies for walking or bicycling to school. [On the Move](#) and [Get Out & Get Moving](#) are geared toward rural areas that face unique challenges around implementing Safe Routes to School programs. [Incorporating Safe Routes to School into Local School Wellness Policies](#) and [Model General Plan Language Supporting Safe Routes to Schools](#) provide model language that communities can adapt to their specific needs.

## Health

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## **NACCHO Accepting Applications for Health Impact Assessments**

Through support from the *Centers for Disease Control's* (CDC) Healthy Community Design Initiative, the *National Association of County & City Health Officials* (NACCHO) is accepting [applications for health impact assessments](#) (HIAs) led by Local Health Departments (LHDs). Selected LHDs will receive funding and support to complete an HIA on a transportation, land use, community design, parks and recreation, or energy policy, project, plan, or program. Approximately three awards of up to \$15,000 each will be awarded to LHDs to complete an HIA during the project period, September 2014 - June 2015. Applications are due by Friday, August 22, 2014 by 5:00 PM ET.

## **Livability**

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### **EPA Launches Green Infrastructure Collaborative**

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) announced the "[Green Infrastructure Collaborative](#)," a program that will provide funds for at least 25 "green" water infrastructure projects to advance green stormwater infrastructure. EPA will collaborate with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other private entities in order to strengthen communities' climate preparedness and resiliency through infrastructure.

### **EPA Awards \$2.1 Million to Revitalize Urban Waters**

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) [has awarded](#) \$2.1 million to 37 organizations in 17 states and Puerto Rico to help protect and restore urban waters, improve water quality, and support community revitalization. The funding is through EPA's Urban Waters program, which supports communities in their efforts to access, improve and benefit from canals, rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, bays and oceans in urbanized areas.

### **HUD Announces National Disaster Resilience Competition**

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) will make \$1 billion available to communities that have recently experienced natural disasters. The [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) will promote risk assessment and planning and will fund the implementation of innovative resilience projects that prepare communities for future storms and other extreme weather events. There are [67 eligible applicants](#) for this program, which include States, counties and local governments that experienced a Presidentially Declared Natural Disaster in 2011, 2012, or 2013.