

## Human Environment Digest

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July 17, 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

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#### Report: "Recommended Bicycle Lane Widths for Various Roadway Characteristics"

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) released [National Cooperative Highway Research Program \(NCHRP\) Report 766: Recommended Bicycle Lane Widths for Various Roadway Characteristics](#), which presents an analysis of research and design guidance for bicycle lane widths on existing travel lane and parking lane widths. The conclusions are most applicable to urban and suburban, level grade, low speed roadways.

### Economic Development

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#### HUD Announces Main Street Revitalization Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide a [\\$500,000 grant to a small community](#) that will renovate an historic or traditional central business district area by replacing unused commercial space with affordable housing units. The objective of this program is to enhance economic development efforts, provide affordable housing, and preserve historic or traditional architecture/design features in Main Street areas. Applications are due by August 18, 2014 on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

#### Report: "An Economic Analysis of Transportation Infrastructure Investment"

The [White House released a report](#) from the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) and National Economic Council (NEC) on the long-term economic benefits of transportation investment. The report discusses why conditions in the infrastructure sector are ripe for innovation, with new technologies and approaches promising significant gains in productivity, efficiency, and resilience.

### Livability

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### **Report: "Rural Connections: Challenges and Opportunities in America's Heartland"**

According to a new report published by TRIP, a private nonprofit transportation research organization, the quality of life in rural communities and the health of the Nation's rural economy rely heavily on the quality of the Nation's transportation system. Trucks using the Nation's roads, highways, and bridges, in particular, transport the majority of the Nation's agricultural products, according to the report.

### **TRB Releases Project Brief on Smart Growth Policies and Travel Demand**

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) released a project brief that provides transportation planning agencies with improved tools and methods to accurately and comprehensively integrate transportation investment decisionmaking with land development and growth management. The project produced a decision support software tool and online resources to improve communication, interactions, and partnerships between transportation and land use decisionmakers and planners.

### **America's Transportation Awards Recognize State DOTs for Community-Focused, Cost-Saving Projects**

The America's Transportation Awards competition – sponsored by AASHTO, AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – announced this year's winners, which include DOTs in Texas, Colorado, Idaho, California, Wyoming, Arizona, California, and New Mexico. Transportation projects are nominated for one of three categories: Under Budget, Best Use of Innovation, and Quality of Life/Community Development. The National Grand Prize and People's Choice Award winners will be announced in November at the AASHTO Annual Meeting.

### **Report: "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit"**

The National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida released a report that discusses qualitative and quantitative benefits of small urban and rural public transit systems in the United States. The report focuses on transportation cost savings, low-cost mobility benefits, and economic development impacts, and it shows that the benefits provided by transit services in rural and small urban areas are greater than the costs of providing those services.

### **Department of Homeland Security Offers Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced funding for States to implement and sustain cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk of natural hazards to people and property. The grant program will prioritize the development and updating of hazard mitigation plans, as well as cost-effective hazard mitigation projects that do not duplicate other hazard mitigation grant programs. Applications are due on www.grants.gov by July 25, 2014.

### **EPA Seeks Letters of Interest for Greening America's Capitals Program**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking letters of interest from State Capital cities that want to use smart growth and green infrastructure in future development through its Greening America's Capitals program. Letters of interest should be sent to Abby Hall at hall.abby@epa.gov by Monday, July 21, 2014, 11:59 PM ET.