

## Human Environment Digest

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June 26, 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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#### Americans Aged 60-79 Account for More Than One Third of the Biking Boom

Michael Andersen of *The Green Lane Project* at *PeopleForBikes*, [reports](#) that 37 percent of the total net nationwide increase in bike trips is attributed to 60 to 79-year-olds. This is according to National Household Travel Survey data from between 1995 and 2009.

### Economic Development

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#### TRB Project Brief: "Tools for Assessing Wider Economic Benefits of Transportation"

The *Transportation Research Board's* (TRB) second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) released a [project brief](#) that announces the completion of Capacity Project C11: Development of Tools for Assessing Wider Economic Benefits of Transportation. The project addresses the effects that transportation has on business productivity and its potential to enhance reliability, connectivity, and accessibility. The project also presents spreadsheet tools for transportation agencies to use to assess specific changes in transportation conditions.

#### NHTSA Releases "The Economic and Societal Impact Of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2010"

A [report](#) released by the *U.S. Department of Transportation* (DOT) *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) calculates the costs of motor vehicle crashes in 2010, which amounted to \$277 billion. The purpose of the report is to describe the economic losses and societal harm that result from these crashes and to provide information to help reduce or prevent these losses.

#### APTA Report: "Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment"

An analysis by the *American Public Transportation Association* (APTA) measures public transportation's impact on the Nation's economic productivity. According to the [report](#), investment in public transit can yield 50,731 jobs per \$1 billion invested, and it offers a four to one economic return.

## Livability

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### **FHWA Releases "Advancing a Sustainable Highway System: Highlights of FHWA Sustainability Activities"**

This report illustrates how the *Federal Highway Administration* has incorporated sustainability into a wide variety of its programs, projects, policies, processes, and partnerships. A [portion of the report](#) discusses FHWA sustainability in the context of the human environment and civil rights. This includes information on access and affordability, livability, multimodal transportation, and integrating transportation and land use.

### **FTA Accepting Proposals for Bus and Bus Facilities Program**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced](#) the availability of approximately \$100 million for buses and bus facilities. This [Ladders of Opportunity Initiative](#) makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Applicants should submit proposals on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by August 4, 2014.

### **Cincinnati Rail Station Among the National Trust's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places**

The *National Trust for Historic Preservation* released its [list](#) of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places®, an annual list that spotlights examples of the Nation's architectural, cultural, and natural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. Union Terminal, an interchange point for railroads in Cincinnati, Ohio, appears on this year's list.