

Human Environment Digest

June 12, 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



Walk to School Day 2014 Registration Opens

The *National Center for Safe Routes to School* opened [registration](#) for the 18th Walk to School Day. The annual, U.S. event is part of an international effort to celebrate the many benefits of walking and bicycling to school. Walk to School Day 2014 will take place on Wednesday, October 8.

Report: "Lessons from the Green Lanes: Evaluating Protected Bike Lanes in the U.S."

A research [study](#) by the [National Institute for Transportation and Communities](#) (NITC) program at Portland State University evaluates protected bike lanes in five cities varying in population, driving and cycling rates, culture, and weather. The report informs decisions that could improve bicycling in cities across the United States.

The Atlantic: "The Sidewalk of the Future Is Not So Concrete"

CityLab writer, Nate Berg, [discusses](#) emerging ideas for improving sidewalks' resiliency and lifespans. He examines heated sidewalks, options for using them as a source of kinetic energy, making them glow in the dark, and creating them from flexible rubber.

AASHTO Announces Six New U.S. Bicycle Route Designations

Six new bike routes, in four states and the District of Columbia, were [approved](#) last week for inclusion in the U.S. Bicycle System by the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) [Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering](#). The approvals were made during the AASHTO Spring Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Report: "State Revenue Sources that Fund Bicycling and Walking Projects"

Advocacy Advance, a partnership of the *Alliance for Bicycling & Walking* and *The League of American Bicyclists*, produced a [list](#) of revenue sources that fund bicycling and walking projects.

The League of American Bicyclists Announces Women Bike Mini-Grant Recipients

The mini-grants support new and growing programs to engage young women in bicycling, encourage more moms to ride, and advance female leadership in the bike movement. Now in its second year, the *League's Women Bike Mini-Grant Program* advances local efforts to create pathways for women of all backgrounds to embrace bicycling as riders, advocates, and leaders. Recipients include organizations in New Orleans, Seattle, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Economic Development



Report: "The Rise of Innovation Districts: A New Geography of Innovation in America"

The [report](#), released by *The Brookings Institution*, describes what comprises these emerging "innovation districts," where they are located, and how regions can foster and expand them. According to the report, an innovation district, is a physically compact, transit-accessible, and technically-wired geographic area that offers mixed-use housing, office, and retail.

Health



Report: "Community-Based Advocacy at the Intersection of Public Health and Transportation"

A [study](#) from the University of Colorado, Denver examines efforts to improve community health through transportation. According to the study, uneven adoption of public health concerns in transportation planning may relate to the constraints of regional planning and governance. Integrating health and transportation issues locally requires action at multiple scales.

Livability



NPS Accepting Applications for 2015 Projects

The [National Park Service \(NPS\) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance](#) program is now accepting applications for 2015 projects. The program helps community groups, not-for-profits, state and local governments, and tribes plan and establish trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers and natural areas, and create outdoor recreation opportunities. [Applications](#) are due by August 1, 2014.

FTA Publishes "Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities" Program Guidance and Application Instructions

[Circular 9070.1G](#) provides recipients of *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* financial assistance with instructions and guidance on program administration and the grant application process for formula grants under the *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities* program (49 U.S.C. 5310). The revised circular provides guidance on key changes under MAP-21.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities



New "Local Foods, Local Places" Program Applications Open

The new *Local Foods, Local Places* program will offer \$650,000, and direct technical support, to communities that wish to develop and implement action plans that promote local food and downtown revitalization. The program is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Letters of interest should be sent to Ed Fendley at lfip@epa.gov by July 15, 2014.