

## Human Environment Digest

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June 5, 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: "Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program: 2014 Report"

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) released a [report](#) that summarizes the progress and results of FHWA's Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) from August 2005 through December 2013. The report represents an update to the findings in the 2012 Final Report to Congress with evaluation of three years of additional data, reflecting projects completed since the original report. This report also expands the scope of analysis to further consider priority themes of access, environment, safety, and public health.

#### FHWA Office of Safety Publishes New Non-Motorist Safety Tools and Resource

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) Office of Safety published three new resources, one new tool, and one revised tool on the Office of Safety website. These [resources and tools](#) are designed to make it easier to determine the true nature of a pedestrian or bicyclist safety problem. They also help practitioners to focus on the most appropriate countermeasures.

### Economic Development

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#### Report: "Transit Access and the Agglomeration of New Firms: A Case Study of Portland and Dallas"

The *Mineta National Transit Research Consortium* (MTI) published a [report](#) that compares the effects of light-rail transit systems on businesses' location decisions in two cities. The report found that light rail did impact business location decisions in Portland, OR, but not in Dallas, TX. The report concludes that differences between the planning and zoning criteria of the two cities may explain the relative success of Portland in achieving clusters of new firms near transit.

## Health

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### Report: "The cost of air pollution: Health impacts of road transport"

Outdoor air pollution kills more than 3.5 million people a year globally, according to a new [report](#) by the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD). This figure is far more than has previously been estimated. The report also concludes that air pollution has become the biggest environmental cause of premature death, overtaking poor sanitation and a lack of clean drinking water.

## Livability

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### Report: "Livable Cities of the Future: Proceedings of a Symposium Honoring the Legacy of George Bugliarello"

The *National Academy of Engineering* released a [report](#) that summarizes the presentations and discussion that took place at a 2012 symposium honoring the legacy of George Bugliarello. The event brought together more than 200 engineers, civic leaders, educators, and futurists. The event objectives were to cultivate ideas for best practices and innovative strategies for sustainable urban development and to help establish New York City as a real-life laboratory for urban innovation.

## Public Involvement

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### FHWA and FTA Issue Joint NPRM for Planning Regulations

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) and the *Federal Transit Administration* (FTA) have jointly issued a [Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) to propose revisions to the regulations governing the development of metropolitan transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas, State transportation plans and programs, and the congestion management process. Members of the public may submit comments until September 2, 2014.

### FHWA Extends Comment Period on Highway Safety Improvement Program

The *Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA) announced an extension of the comment period for the National-level Safety Measures (FHWA-2013-0020) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (FHWA-2013-0019) [Notice of Proposed Rulemakings](#) (NPRM). Comments regarding both NPRMs are now due by June 30, 2014, on [regulations.gov](#).