

Human Environment Digest

May 29, 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



FHWA Publishes Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Case Studies Online

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) added Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Case Studies to the [TAP website](#). These case studies provide a variety of examples of how State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) have set up their TAP competitive processes. Each case study covers: overall program descriptions, TAP implementation, challenges, lessons learned, critical factors for success, and contact information.

NCHRP Issues Request for LOI on Traffic Control Device Application at Pedestrian Crossings

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis Program has issued a [request for letters of interest](#) (LOI) to synthesize pedestrian treatments. Doing so will enable engineers to make objective safety and operational design-decisions at intersections and crossings in a uniform and consistent manner. Letters of interest are due by August 15, 2014.

Economic Development



FTA's GROW AMERICA Public Transit Provisions Webcast Now Available

On Thursday, May 22, 2014, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held an hour-long webcast that provided an overview of the public transit provisions in the Administration's proposed surface transportation reauthorization plan, the GROW AMERICA Act. The [captioned webcast](#) is now available online.

HUD Launches Strong Cities, Strong Communities National Resource Network (SC2 Network)

The [Network](#) is a core component of the Obama Administration's [Strong Cities, Strong Communities \(SC2\)](#) initiative, and develops and delivers innovative solutions to American cities to help them address their toughest economic challenges. The Network works with local leaders to identify practical solutions, share real-world expertise and best practices, and help cities develop the tools and strategies they need to grow their economies.

Environmental Justice



Report: "Neighborhood Change, 1970 to 2010 Transition and Growth in Urban High Poverty Neighborhoods"

This [report](#), produced by a researcher at Impresa Economics and a doctoral student at Portland State University (PSU), analyzes changes in high-poverty, urban neighborhoods in the Nation's large metropolitan areas between 1970 and 2010. Using Census-tract data to track neighborhood performance, the study reveals that a few places have experienced a reduction in poverty and generated net population growth. Those areas that do not rebound do not remain stable; instead they deteriorate, losing population, and overwhelmingly remaining high poverty.

Report: "Racial Bias in Driver Yielding Behavior at Crosswalks"

A new [report](#) by researchers at Portland State University (PSU) finds discriminatory treatment of pedestrians by drivers. The study found that black pedestrians had to wait longer for drivers to stop for them at a crosswalk compared to white pedestrians.

Health



CDC Announces Community Health Funding Opportunities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted three Funding Opportunity Announcements relating to community health and chronic disease prevention, which have two potential connections to transportation. Those connections are: (1) [increasing physical activity](#) (active transportation and recreation), and (2) improving access to [chronic disease prevention](#), risk reduction, and management opportunities.

There are also funding opportunities for [Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health \(REACH\) projects](#), which focus on reducing health disparities. All applications should be submitted via [grants.gov](#).

Livability



FHWA Releases Updated Land Use Toolkit

The updated [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) Land Use Toolkit](#) provides examples of a wide array of tools and approaches that practitioners employ to integrate transportation and land use, including: transportation planning activities and programs, project development and programming, stakeholder engagement and visioning, analytical tools, and coordination with other disciplines. Each item includes short implementation examples and sources for additional information.

Public Involvement



USDOT Announces New Online Dialogue on Transportation Technology for the Disabled

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)'s Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI) is asking the public to share its ideas regarding mobility and transportation technology preferences and needs from travelers with disabilities. The discussion will be open from May 15, 2014, to May 30, 2014, and the online dialogue site can be reached at: <http://nationalonlinedialoguetadt.ideascale.com/>.