

## Human Environment Digest

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May 8, 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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#### ***FHWA Releases "Bicycle Safer Journey"***

The *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)* released [Bicycle Safer Journey](#), a new tool to educate teens and children about safe bicycling behaviors.

#### ***DOT and NHTSA Announce "Everyone is a Pedestrian" Award Recipients***

Louisville, Philadelphia, and New York City [will receive approximately \\$1.6 million](#) to help implement new initiatives for their Pedestrian Safety Action Plans. Visit the [Everyone is a Pedestrian website](#) for additional bicycle / pedestrian resources.

#### ***PBIC Announces "Walk Friendly Communities" Call for Applications***

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)* has opened the eighth round of the "Walk Friendly Communities" (WFC) [application process](#). WFC is a national recognition program to encourage towns and cities across the U.S. to establish or recommit to making safe walking a priority.

### Economic Development

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#### ***Archived Webcasts Available for Promise Zone Initiative***

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* [posted the slides and recordings](#) from its urban, rural, and tribal stakeholder webcasts held last week.

## Environmental Justice

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### **Report: "Urban Freight Transportation: Low Cost Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts"**

The *Center for Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)*, as part of the *Mayors Innovation Project*, released a [report that provides cities with low-cost, policy-driven measures to reduce the negative impacts of freight transportation](#). "In cities where freight facilities are in close proximity to residents, they tend to disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged communities," according to the report.

## Health

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### **Write-Up: "Raising Public Health Issues to a Higher Level in the Transportation Sector"**

The *Transportation Research Board (TRB)* published a [session write-up](#) from a panel discussion about the role of public health in transportation decisionmaking, held at the 2014 TRB Annual Meeting

### **Report: "2014 United States Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth"**

The [Report Card](#) is an authoritative, evidence-based document providing a comprehensive evaluation of the physical activity levels and the indicators influencing physical activity among American children and youth. In the "active transportation" category, which is described as "the percentage of children and youth who usually walk or bike to school," American children received an 'F.' Only 13 percent of children and youth walked or biked to school.

## Livability

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### **Report: "National Climate Assessment"**

A new White House report concludes that human-generated climate change is having dramatic effects on every part of the nation. The report found that the [national transportation system is composed of four main components](#) that are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

### **Report: "Why Smart Growth: A Primer"**

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* released a [report that explains "smart growth,"](#) which is the balance between new economic and housing development and improvement in a community's quality of life.

### **Report: "Building Consensus and Partnerships for Implementing the FTA Section 5310 Program in California"**

The *Mineta Transportation Institute* at San Jose State University released a [report that evaluates Caltrans' implementation and administration of the FTA Formula Grants program](#) (Section 5310). The Formula Grants program is intended to enhance the mobility of seniors and persons with disabilities.

### **Report: "Strategy Guide to Enable and Promote the Use of Fixed-Route Transit by People with Disabilities"**

The *Transportation Research Board's (TRB)* Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) [Report 163](#) is designed to help transit agencies fulfill the primary goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA is intended to ensure that mainstream fixed-route bus and rail systems are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

## Partnership for Sustainable Communities

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## ***Report: "Draft Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in the New York-Connecticut Metropolitan Region"***

The *New York-Connecticut Sustainable Communities Consortium* recently published a [draft report for sustainable development](#), which is dedicated to enhancing affordable housing, reducing traffic congestion, improving the environment, and expanding economic opportunities. This initiative was supported by a *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

## **Public Involvement**

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## ***"RE-Powering America's Land" Draft Action Plan Available for Public Comment***

The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)* RE-Powering America's Land Initiative released a [draft action plan for public input](#). The plan details specific activities over the next two years to support the development of renewable energy projects on contaminated lands. Comments are due by May 30, 2014.