

## Human Environment Digest

---

May 1, 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.

### Contents:

- [Bicycle/Pedestrian](#)
- [Community Impact Assessment](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)
- [Partnership for Sustainable Communities](#)
- [Public Involvement](#)

### Bicycle/Pedestrian

---



#### ***NHTSA Launches "Getting There Safely" Pedestrian Safety Video***

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) updated the Willy Whistle "Walking With Your Eyes" [pedestrian safety video](#) for youth aged 7-10. The video includes advanced pedestrian safety skills and concepts.

#### ***PBIC Announces 7th Round of "Walk Friendly Communities"***

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announced three new [Walk Friendly Communities](#) (WFC). WFCs are cities or towns recognized for their successes in providing a wide range of mobility, safety, access, and comfort conditions.

#### ***Women & Bicycles Toolkit***

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association reported that women accounted for 24 percent of cyclists on D.C.'s streets in 2012. This statistic motivated WABA to create a [program to get more women on bikes](#) .

### Community Impact Assessment

---



#### ***New MassDOT Transportation Impact Guidelines***

MassDOT and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs recently published a revised version of its [Transportation Impact Assessment \(TIA\) Guidelines](#). These guidelines are used for the preparation of transportation-analysis components of environmental filings.

## Economic Development

---



### **Secretary Foxx Unveils GROW AMERICA Surface Transportation Bill**

A new website is available that provides resources regarding the Secretary's [GROW AMERICA transportation reauthorization](#) proposal.

## Environmental Justice

---



### **EPA Awards \$860,000 to Communities to Reduce Water Pollution**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [today announced](#) \$860,000 to help 14 communities expand their use of green infrastructure to reduce water pollution and boost resilience to the impacts of climate change. [Additional green infrastructure resources](#) from EPA are available.

### **EPA Climate Justice Resources**

EPA Deputy Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice, Dan Lee, recently [wrote a column](#) about the climate challenges facing minority, indigenous, and low-income communities. Extensive information can be found on the [EPA Climate Change Portal](#) website.

### **Study: Civil Rights Protections Lack Teeth When It Comes to Transportation**

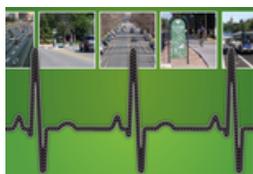
A recent [study by researchers at the University of California-Davis](#) says that most metropolitan planning agencies are simply going through the motions, not making equitable decisions. Streetsblog [summarized](#) the study.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Analyses**

The U.S. [Government Accountability Office released a report](#) that explores issues related to costs, time frames, and litigation associated with completing NEPA analyses. The Department of Transportation was included in the study because it completes the most NEPA analyses.

## Health

---



### **Relation Between Higher Physical Activity and Public Transit Use**

[Transit users had more daily overall physical activity](#) and more total walking than did nontransit users according to a new study published in the American Journal of Public Health.

### **Advancing Transportation and Health**

Released by the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI), this [report reflects on the approaches](#) that the Federal Safe Routes to School program has used to advance transportation and health.

## Livability

---



### ***Rockefeller Foundation Millennials Survey***

The results of a [Rockefeller Foundation and Transportation for America survey](#) state that four in five millennials want to live in places where they have a variety of options to get to jobs, school, or daily needs. Three in four want to live where they do not need a car.

### ***Older Driver Highway Safety Program Guidelines***

The U.S. National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) released [guidelines on best practices for ensuring the safety of older and at-risk drivers](#). The guidelines encourage collaboration at the State and local levels.

## **Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

---



### ***Sustainable D.C. First Year Progress Report***

Sustainable D.C., which is the District's major planning effort to make D.C. the most sustainable city in the nation, released its first [progress report](#) this month.

### ***EPA Pacific Southwest Region 2014 Report Card***

The EPA Pacific Southwest Region office released a [2014 Report Card](#) that discusses the steps many cities have been taking to become more sustainable communities.

## **Public Involvement**

---



### ***SASB Transportation Sustainability Accounting Standards Available for Public Comment***

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) has made its [set of proposed sustainability accounting standards](#) for the Transportation sector available for public review from April 18, 2014, to July 17, 2014.