

Human Environment Digest

April 17, 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](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Environmental Justice](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Livability](#)
- [Public Involvement](#)

Bicycle/Pedestrian



Bicycling and Walking in the United States 2014 Benchmarking Report

The Alliance for Biking & Walking released a compendium of data on bicycling and walking in all 50 states, the 52 largest U.S. cities, and a select number of midsized cities.

California Department of Transportation 2010-2012 California Household Travel Survey

Results from the study - the largest and most complex review of its kind - show that the percentage of California residents walking, biking, or using public transportation on a typical day has more than doubled since 2000.

Statewide Multimodal Planning

This report summarizes the results of a national survey of state departments of transportation (DOTs) focusing on the extent to which they emphasized multimodal solutions in transportation planning.

Rethinking Streets

Rethinking Streets; An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations uses evidence from completed street projects from around the United States in order to help communities imagine alternative futures for their streets. Read

National Bike Month Guide

The League of American Bicyclists developed a step-by-step guide to help readers create a successful Bike Month (May) event in their community, workplace, city or state. Read

NJDOT Complete Streets Resources

The New Jersey Department of Transportation made several publications regarding Complete Streets policies available for download.

Complete Streets from Policy to Project

The University of Minnesota released *Complete Streets from Policy to Project; The Planning and Implementation of Complete Streets at Multiple Scales*, a guidebook that explores the variety of ways in which complete streets is conceptualized and institutionalized by various jurisdictions.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide - Recommendations and Case Studies

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safety Program released a guide that explains the operational and safety features of using pedestrian hybrid beacons to reduce pedestrian-vehicle crashes.

Economic Development



Smart Growth and Economic Success: Strategies for Local Governments

Released by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Sustainable Communities, this paper reviews the latest evidence of the connection between smart growth approaches and the fiscal strength of local governments to help them make decisions about where and how to grow.

Cultural Heritage Tourism

Partners for Sustainable Communities released an updated version of its guide to cultural heritage tourism. The publication is intended to demonstrate how cultural heritage can be preserved but also leveraged to bring economic benefits to a community.

Environmental Justice



Title VI and the Interagency Working Group

The Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group launched a new webpage designed to help educate the public and Federal agencies about the intersection of environmental justice issues and enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. [Read](#)

2014 Civil Rights Virtual Symposium Session Recordings

Session recordings from the three-day online 2014 Civil Rights Virtual Symposium are now available. Experts from across government spoke on current, forward-moving topics regarding how civil rights are integral to the DOT mission and workplace.

The Gathering Storm: Climate Change, Security and Conflict

The Environmental Justice Foundation released a report that analyzes how climate change exacerbates resource competition and water scarcity and calls for climate change to be recognized as a human rights and environmental issue.

Health



Active Travel Co-Benefits of Travel Demand Management Policies that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Mineta Transportation Institute released a report that indicates potential for significant health benefits from land use and transportation policies that increase active transport and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

APHA Reports and Fact Sheets

The American Public Health Association has developed several reports and fact sheets on health, equity and transportation topics.

Livability



FHWA's Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter - April 2014

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the April edition of its *Fostering Livable Communities Newsletter*, which provides information to help planners improve the relationship between transportation agencies and communities.

FHWA Case Study on California, Tennessee, Washington - Connecting State DOT Planning and Local Communities Goals

FHWA recently published a case study highlighting the best practices of Caltrans, WSDOT, and TDOT in connecting state planning with local community goals.

We Don't Need Another "Bridge to Nowhere"

Brookings Senior Fellow Clifford Winston argues that "in practice, transportation policy is so inefficient that infrastructure spending fails to generate the large promised benefits.

FTA Announces Tribal Transit Program (TTP) Funding Recipients

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has selected 42 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in 19 states to receive funds for projects to improve transit service.

Eco-Driving Index

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute released its latest version of its Eco-Driving Index which estimates the average monthly impact on the environment by an individual U.S. driver who purchased a new vehicle that month.

City Leaders Institute on AGING IN PLACE, Community Report Card

The MetLife Foundation and Partners for Livable Communities developed a report card to help leaders and citizens assess 11 core components that can better create "ageless communities."

Public Involvement



Preliminary Evaluation of Alternative Methods of Transportation Analysis

The California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is developing a new way to measure environmental impacts related to transportation. OPR developed a preliminary evaluation for public review.