



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Planning, Environment and Realty

Office of HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/>

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty offers research opportunities to improve transportation decision making and promote efficiency while protecting communities and the environment. The Office supports and conducts research that:

- Informs Decisions
- Reduces Environmental Impacts
- Enhances Quality of Life
- Accelerates Project Delivery
- Advances Planning

The following document highlights specific research activities in the Office of Human Environment. For more information, please visit: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/hep_research/.

OFFICE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

FHWA's Office of Human Environment develops and implements programs and activities that improve the human environment and enrich human interaction with transportation systems.

The Office's efforts focus on advocating for the advancement of livability, administrating federal systems, documenting the local and regional economic development impacts of highways, planning and implementing research, and managing human environment-related funded programs. The resulting research is focused on the following areas:

- Livability and environmental justice
- Community impact assessment
- Pedestrians and bicyclists
- Context-sensitive solutions
- Economic development
- Research program management and outreach
- The National Highway System (NHS)

These efforts are directed toward providing technical assistance and tools to both federal and non-federal groups, and also providing them with training and consultation on highway systems and complementary modes of transportation.

Research Focus

The Office's research focuses on planning and designing a highway system that minimizes disruption while meeting the environmental and economic needs of livable communities. The Office is also coordinating the implementation of the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) capacity focus area research products (www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/) and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). **Staff Contact:** Kevin Adderly, 202-366-5006 or Kevin.Adderly@dot.gov.

FEATURED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Performance Management Guidebook

This guidebook will help States, metropolitan planning organizations, and project sponsors develop performance objectives and measures for the TAP. The guidebook will include examples of relevant performance measures, information on data sources, and examples of best practices. **Staff Contact:** Christopher Douwes, 202-366-5013 or Christopher.Douwes@dot.gov.

Assessment of Connectors to National Highway System (NHS) Passenger Intermodal Terminals

This research examines and documents the mobility and connectivity aspects of NHS passenger connectors, to show how they facilitate connecting every American to the global economy, and to suggest possible recommendations on how they can be improved. The study will produce a comprehensive look at NHS passenger intermodal connectors, including examining how NHS passenger intermodal connectors serve to connect the transportation-disadvantaged, economically disadvantaged, or underserved populations to employment opportunities. **Staff Contact:** Mike Neathery, 202-366-1257 or Mike.Neathery@dot.gov.

National Highway System Maps and Shapefile

The updated NHS maps reflect recent NHS modifications resulting from ongoing statewide functional classification reviews, as well from special requests to add or delete routes from the NHS. The site has the accompanying Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefile used to produce the maps. The maps are posted at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national_highway_system/nhs_maps/. **Staff Contact:** Mike Neathery, 202-366-1257 or Mike.Neathery@dot.gov.