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## Planning April 2016

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# Media

## Marijuana huge traffic driver

A new study from [TripGeneration.org \(http://www.tripgeneration.org/\)](http://www.tripgeneration.org/), a free trip generation service from traffic study engineering company Spack Consulting, has found that recreational marijuana dispensaries in Denver generate 10 times more traffic than typical retail stores and five times more traffic than pharmacies.

This information could have important implications for cities in Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and the District of Columbia, where recreational marijuana has been legalized, as well as the 23 states that allow the use of medical marijuana.

An article detailing the findings is available on MikeOnTraffic, the traffic engineering blog of Spack Consulting's president ([tinyurl.com/j7d8gtp](http://tinyurl.com/j7d8gtp)) (<http://tinyurl.com/j7d8gtp>).

## The evolution of cities, today

A new tool from Mapillary, an emerging partner in the Esri start-up program, links crowdsourced street-level imagery and the ArcGIS platform to create near real-time 3-D landscape views of communities. With the Mapillary app, users can take photos whenever and wherever they like and upload them, and a map will come together within minutes.

The tool's integration with ArcGIS online allows planners and other city departments to navigate their cities' virtual streets, automatically inventory assets like traffic signs, and track infrastructure. To learn more about how this tool could work for you and your department, go to [mapillary.com/arcgis](http://mapillary.com/arcgis) (<http://mapillary.com/arcgis>).

## Water level data from coast to coast

If you haven't visited NOAA's Digital Coast website ([coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast](http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast)) (<http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast>) in a while, you might want to check back in. With the recent addition of Louisiana data to the site's Sea Level Rise Viewer, it now has data for all coastal states except Alaska, plus an equivalent tool called Lake Level Viewer for states located along the Great Lakes. Whether you interact with the data directly in your web browser, download it for further analysis, or combine it with other data sets, this website is a great resource for planners seeking a broader picture of how changing water levels will affect their communities.

## Opinions may vary

Thirty-seven percent of the general public says genetically modified foods are generally safe to eat, compared with 88 percent of scientists, according to a report from the Pew Research Center. The data, which comes from comparative surveys of U.S. citizens and a representative sample of scientists, shows significant differences between the views of the two groups on several major issues, including climate change, energy policies, and world population growth. To learn more and delve deeper into the results via an interactive infographic, visit Pew Research Center's website ([tinyurl.com/oqs3yyr](http://tinyurl.com/oqs3yyr)) (<http://tinyurl.com/oqs3yyr>).

## Creative placemaking meets transportation

Transportation for America has published a new online guide that encourages planners, public works agencies, and local elected officials to engage the arts, culture, and creativity in planning and designing transportation projects. *The Scenic Route* guide ([creativeplacemaking.t4america.org](http://creativeplacemaking.t4america.org) (<http://creativeplacemaking.t4america.org/>)), details eight approaches and offers six case studies of cities using creative placemaking strategies to ensure that their communities better reflect and celebrate local culture, heritage, and values.

*Media is a regular column on print and electronic media. Please send information to Mary Hammon, Planning's associate editor, at [mhammon@planning.org](mailto:mhammon@planning.org) (<mailto:mhammon@planning.org>).*

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