



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, January 4th, 2019

Volume 29, Number 1

In This Issue

- [MOBILE MPO UPDATES](#)
- [RPO UPDATES](#)
- [PROJECTS LET JANUARY 25TH, 2019](#)
- [LEGISLATIVE UPDATES](#)
- [FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)
- [JUST FOR FUN](#)
- [IN THE NEWS](#)
- [TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH](#)

Recently Completed Planning Studies

[Destination 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan](#)

[Toole Design Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile](#)

[2018 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

[2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program](#)

[Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones](#)

Contact Us

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Tom Piper

Welcome to 2019!! There is a Mobile MPO meeting on January 30th, and a Technical/Citizens Committee on January 9th, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. Lots of talk in Alabama about a gas tax, see *Legislative Updates; In the News* seems to be about some squabbling going on, and *Just For Fun* will rid you of your gas.....

Have a great weekend! Check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

www.mobilempo.org  Check us out on FACEBOOK

SARPC Transportation Video, this is what we do [HERE](#)

Want to know what other SARPC departments do?

[Planning and Community Development](#)

[Area Agency on Aging](#)

[Employment and Economic Development](#)

Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison, PTP

Mobile MPO Updates

Invitation to Bid

The SARPC Transportation Department currently has 3 ITB's. Please click on each to see the invitation.

Due Date: January 15, 2019 at 10:00 am

Opening Bid Time: 10:05 am on January 15, 2019

[FINAL ITB 2019-5310-01](#)

[ADA Compliant Mini-Van PDF Version](#)

Click for [Word Version](#)

Click [Here](#) for Public Notice

[ADDENDA AND APPROVED EQUALS FOR ITB 2019-5310-01 ADA COMPLIANT MINIVAN](#)

[FINAL ITB 2019-5310-02](#)

[ADA Compliant 7 Passenger Van](#)

Click for [Word Version](#)

Click [HERE](#) for Public Notice

[ADDENDA AND APPROVED EQUALS FOR ITB 2019-5310-02](#)

[ADA COMPLIANT 7 PASSENGER VEHICLE](#)

[FINAL ITB 2019-5310-03](#)

[ADA 12+2 Small Transit Bus](#)

Click for [Word Version](#)

Click [HERE](#) for Public Notice

[ADDENDA AND APPROVED EQUALS FOR ITB 2019-5310-03](#)

[12 plus 2 ADA COMPLIANT SMALL TRANSIT BUS](#)

Mobile MPO meetings

There is a MPO meeting scheduled for January 30th and a TCC/CAC meeting scheduled for January 9th. The agenda items are a variety of changes to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the upcoming 2020-2023 TIP. The Preliminary Engineering (PE) for Celeste Rd from I65 to Forest Ave will be added to this TIP, with the other phases in the outer years of the TIP. We have a lot of projects this year; about \$35 million worth of projects to do in FY 2019.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY FUNDS

- 100069441 (PE) INSTALLATION OF NEW GENERATOR TO REPLACE EXISTING GENERATOR FOR BANKHEAD TUNNEL AND ITS DEVICES; 1/1/2019; \$75,000.00
- 100069442 (CN) INSTALLATION OF NEW GENERATOR TO REPLACE EXISTING GENERATOR FOR BANKHEAD TUNNEL AND ITS DEVICES; 6/28/2019; \$750,000.00
- 100054972 (CN) EXTEND EASTBOUND BRIDGE ON SR-42 (US-98) OVER BIG CREEK EAST 1440' New Delete Indicator : D

[STP ATTRIB](#)

Senior Transportation Planner

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Anthony Johnson
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South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
110 Beauregard St
Mobile, Alabama 36602
(251) 433-6541

- 100055880 (PE) ADDITIONAL LANES ON CR-656 (ZEIGLER BLVD) FROM CR-70 (TANNER WILLIAMS RD) TO CR-31 (SCHILLINGER RD) Current Funding : \$30,000.00 Requested Funding : \$420,000.00
- 100052450 (CN) JCDONALD ROAD (CR-39) ADDITIONAL LANES FROM NORTH OF I-10 TO OLD PASCAGOULA ROAD. Old Target start date: June 28, 2019 New Target start date: June 26, 2020
- 100066704 (PE) DAUPHIN ST SAGE TO SPRINGHILL HOSP CMP; FY 2018; \$62,500; DELETE
- 100066706 (PE) AIRPORT BLVD UNIV TO HILLCREST CMP CORRIDOR; FY 2019; \$62,500; DELETE
- 1000xxxxx (PE) CELESTE ROAD FROM I-65 TO FOREST AVE; FY 2109; \$1,363,500

BRIDGE FUNDS

- 100068521 (PE) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 003691) ON SR-16 (US-90) OVER HALLS MILL CREEK; 11/1/2018; \$900,000.00
- 100068523 (UT) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 003691) ON SR-16 (US-90) OVER HALLS MILL CREEK; 11/1/2021; \$25,757.00
- 100068522 (CN) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 003691) ON SR-16 (US-90) OVER HALLS MILL CREEK; 1/28/2022; \$8,860,588.00
- 100068528 (CN) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 005712 AND BIN 005856) ON SR-13 (US-43) OVER COLD CREEK; 6/25/2021; \$5,100,500.00
- 100068526 (PE) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 005712 AND BIN 005856) ON SR-13 (US-43) OVER COLD CREEK; 1/1/2019; \$500,000.00
- 100069460 (PE) BRIDGE PAINT ON VARIOUS BRIDGES ALONG I-65. GULF COAST RR, US 43, NORFOLK SOUTHERN RR, GUNNISON CREEK; 1/7/2019, \$100,000
- 100069478 (CN) BRIDGE PAINT ON VARIOUS BRIDGES ALONG I-65. GULF COAST RR, US 43, NORFOLK SOUTHERN RR, GUNNISON CREEK; 1/7/2019; 9/25/2020; \$2,778,588
- 100049566 (CN) REPLACE BRIDGE, BIN 008714, SR-16 (US-90) WESTBOUND OVER TENSAW-SPANISH RIVER. Old Target start date : July 26, 2019 New Target start date : November 08, 2019

TAP FUNDS

- 100069054 (CN) SIDEWALKS ALONG EASTERLING STREET FROM W CLARK AVENUE TO GARRISON AVENUE, ON GARRISON AVENUE FROM EASTERLING STREET TO MAGEE STREET, AND ON MAGEE STREET FROM GARRISON AVENUE TO W CLARK AVENUE; 12/15/2019; \$252,426.00 (\$200,000 fed)
- 100069055 (CN) ADA COMPLIANT CURB RAMPS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF MOBILE COUNTY TO INCLUDE KINGS BRANCH ESTATES, WOODBRIDGE PLACE AND CUMBERLAND SUBDIVISION; 9/18/2019; \$250,178 (\$200,000 fed)

Please see our web page for further details www.mobilempo.org

FREIGHT DATA

APM Terminals has provided us with their second quarterly survey report. Just as last quarter, for one day APM Terminals had on-board tablets for drivers to answer a series of questions in terms of where they came from and where they are going. APM Terminals will continue to gather this information quarterly for our benefit of validating truck data for the travel demand forecasting model. This second survey report had a significant increase in truckers answering the survey, which helps refine our understanding of container truck trip patterns in the area. See more [HERE](#)

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) NOW ONLINE

The TIP represents a four year program (2016-2019) for improvements in the various transportation systems located within the Mobile study area as identified in the Mobile MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the twenty-five year plan for the Mobile Urban area [Destination 2040](#). The LRTP establishes the transportation programs that are needed to meet travel demand by the study year and study area. LRTP projects that become funded are moved into the TIP and submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), where they are programmed into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For MPO projects, TIP project selection is based on priorities established by MPO member governments and the availability of funds through the Surface Transportation Attributable program. For other projects, ALDOT has discretion of project funding based on availability of funds from various types of funding categories. Most often, projects in the TIP are derived from the LRTP. The TIP guides ALDOT in its annual allocation of funds for transportation improvements and becomes a part of the STIP.

ArcGIS Online is now being utilized by MPO staff to map all federally funded surface transportation projects within our area. Check it out.

2016-2019 E-TIP [HERE](#)

Stay Up To Date on the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

<http://mobileriverbridge.com/>



ALDOT is doing some preliminary building demolition for the archaeology work associated with the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project. More details are in the release below.

The schedule is in flux, so please contact Allison Gregg (251-604-9790) to coordinate site visits.

ALDOT to Begin Building Demolition

Building demolition is preliminary work ahead of the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will demolish nine buildings at the intersections of S. Emanuel Street/Canal Street and Canal St./S. Royal in preparation for construction for the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project.

The demolition of the existing structures will allow for the archaeology work to begin ahead of construction of the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project.

The demolition is on-going in the 300 block of Conception Street in Mobile.

Traffic will not be impacted during the demolition, however drivers should obey posted speed limits and be aware of crews in the area. Passersby and observers should remain a safe distance away from the sites during the demolition.

About the project:

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project will reduce congestion on I-10 in South Alabama through the addition of additional capacity: a new six-lane bridge over the Mobile River, full replacement of the existing Bayway with an eight-lane structure, and redevelopment of seven interchanges. The project runs from Virginia Street in Mobile to the US 90/98 interchange in Baldwin County. Information in the project is available at www.MobileRiverBridge.com.

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

The target start date or project engineers estimated amount has changed for the following:

Project : 100052450 (CN)
Federal aid number : STPMB 7612 (600)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : MCDONALD ROAD (CR-39) ADDITIONAL LANES FROM NORTH OF I-10 TO OLD PASCAGOULA ROAD.
Old Target start date : June 28, 2019
New Target start date : June 26, 2020

Project : 100066639 (FM)
Federal aid number : NH 0042 (536)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-42 (US-98) FROM MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY TO STIMPSON LANE
Old Engineers Estimate : \$2,924,975.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$2,965,700.20

Project : 100066636 (FM)
Federal aid number : NH 0163 (504)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-163 FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE DOG RIVER BRIDGE TO THE SOUTH END OF THE I-10 OVERPASS
Old Engineers Estimate : \$3,229,158.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$3,190,936.12

Project : 100049566 (CN)
Federal aid number : BRF 0016 (522)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : REPLACE BRIDGE, BIN 008714, SR-16 (US-90) WESTBOUND OVER TENSAW-SPANISH RIVER. (SUFF=49.7, STATUS=SD)
Old Target start date : July 26, 2019
New Target start date : November 08, 2019

Project : 100052449 (UT)
Federal aid number : STPMB 7612 (600)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : MCDONALD ROAD (CR-39) ADDITIONAL LANES FROM NORTH OF I-10 TO OLD PASCAGOULA ROAD.
Old Target start date : March 01, 2019
New Target start date : August 01, 2019

RPO Updates

RPO The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) held a meeting of the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) in September at the Baldwin County Central Annex in Robertsdale.

The meeting was well attended and there was a lengthy discussion of current and future transportation projects in the rural areas of our region led by the ALDOT Southwest Regional Office. Other items on the agenda include:

- Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting
- Review and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019 Work Program (available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)
- Updating the RPO Transportation Plan with Project List (available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)

The Work Program for Fiscal Year 2019 includes a new task. This task involves assisting the Alabama Department of Transportation with hosting public meetings regarding the upcoming 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Further information about this endeavor will be forthcoming. Please watch our newsletter for more information.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the items mentioned above, please contact us.

Projects in Region Let January 25th, 2019

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- For constructing the Interchange Lighting Rehabilitation on I-65 at SR-21 (Exit 57) in Martinville. Length 0.927 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$763,849 to \$933,594 .

MOBILE COUNTY

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, Sidewalk Installation, and Traffic Stripe on I-165 (Service Roads) from 0.040 mile south of the junction of Bay Bridge Road to 0.080 mile north of the intersection of Whistler Street in Mobile. Length 1.630 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,603,050 to \$1,959,283 .

BALDWIN COUNTY

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on I-10 from the SR-59 Interchange in Loxley to 0.300 mile east of the CR-64 (Wilcox Road) Interchange. Length 9.460 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,413,888 to \$2,950,308

[What's Under Construction? Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

Ivey, legislative leaders to meet next week on transportation plan

Updated Jan 3, 4:03 PM; Posted Jan 3, 4:03 PM



Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey will meet with state legislative leaders next week in Montgomery to talk about a transportation program. In this picture, the governor greets her supporters in Montgomery after being elected as Alabama's first female Republican governor. (Joe Songer | jsonger@al.com). (Joe Songer | jsonger@al.com)
By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said Thursday that she will meet with legislative leaders in Montgomery early next week to continue talks focused on a plan to fund a road and bridge program.

"I've been working with House and Senate leadership to get to the bottom of all of this and come up with a plan," said Ivey, during a stop in Mobile to speak at an annual early childhood conference. "We are continuing to do that. We'll be formulating specific plans. The bottom line is we got to be sure that Alabama has safe roads and bridges so economic development thrives, so that safety is promoted and so that industry wants to come to Alabama."

A spokesman with Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh confirmed the meetings, which will occur during a week when lawmakers return to Montgomery for a brief organizational session. The Senate is scheduled to convene at noon on Tuesday.

Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon is also expected to be involved.

Lawmakers have expressed an interest in crafting a roads and bridge program financed through an increase in the state's fuel tax, which has not been hiked since 1992.

But a host of lawmakers have also expressed a need for a combination of other solutions to pay for the program.

One of the solutions is to stop budgetary diversions which have funneled millions of dollars out of the state's General Fund that otherwise would pay for transportation projects. Lawmakers have estimated \$63 million is annually moved away from transportation-related projects each year to pay for state troopers and the court system. Continue [HERE](#)

"That's an investment in infrastructure": Governor Ivey supports possible gas tax increase

- [Toi Thornton](#)
- Updated 15 hrs ago | Posted on Jan 3, 2019



Governor Kay Ivey was in Mobile today just days ahead of the first organizational session of 2019 with lawmakers. One hot topic on the table is the possibility of an increase in the gas tax. Governor Ivey supports an increase.

"That's an Alabama problem and it must have an Alabama solution," said Governor Ivey.

Legislators have been in talks about a possible gas tax increase for a while now. The last increase was 27 years ago, in 1992. There were attempts in 2016 and 2017 but they both failed.

The main reason is to route more money to help fix the state's declining infrastructure.

"There are several things that have been neglected over the years for whatever reason and its time that Alabama stepped up to the plate," Ivey explained.

The state's current fuel tax is at 18 cents per gallon. 45 percent of that goes to a state road and bridge fund and 55 percent is passed down to local governments.

Here in Mobile, we're seeing some of the lowest gas prices we've seen in recent years. But a tax increase could change that. Some folks say they've already spent enough money fixing their cars from the roads and they don't want to pay more.

"If anything they need to be lowering the taxes," said Marcus Pettaway. "A lot of people is struggling around here nowadays. I don't see the gas tax."

The governor's office says Governor Ivey has been meeting with lawmakers concerning this and will continue meeting with legislative leadership until the beginning of the regular session in March.

They weren't able to tell us exactly how much of an increase they're looking to add.

LEADERS LOOK AHEAD TO 2019

Lagniappe Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Jan 2, 2019 | [Bay Briefs](#) | [0](#)

Local, state and national leaders are gearing up for a productive 2019, with those interviewed giving Lagniappe a preview of what they're looking forward to, or what they will work on in the coming year. .

Noting the turbulence felt by many between himself and the City Council, Mayor Sandy Stimpson said his top priority would be working toward better collaboration. Stimpson and the council are currently embroiled in a lawsuit to determine which branch of government can unilaterally hire, fire and contract with employees and professional service agreements.

Stimpson also said he would like to further improve the job market, adding there's greater confidence in the city's future and it should lead to better job opportunities.

Stimpson also wants to improve public safety, even though he claims there were fewer homicides and violent crimes in 2018 compared to 2017. There will be work done in 2019 to help the Mobile Police Department “move the needle” even more, Stimpson said.

“Everybody is interested in improved public safety,” he said. “We’ve made tremendous strides”

For example, Stimpson mentioned the upgrade to the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department’s Insurance Service Office rating. The ISO-1 rating is the best available.

Stimpson also mentioned a continued focus on improved infrastructure. He said the city’s capital improvement program along with Restore Act projects would really make a difference in 2019.

“There’s an unprecedented amount of money being spent in the city in 2019 and 2020,” he said. “Infrastructure will be a big deal.”

The city will play support roles in other aspects of government as well, Stimpson said. With its passage of an intergovernmental agreement at its December meeting, the Mobile Housing Board has accepted federal funds from the city to help with its aging housing stock.

“We’ve set a course to help them fix their challenges,” Stimpson said of the agreement.

Stimpson also said he wants to help play a supporting role for Mobile County Schools’ Superintendent Chresal Threadgill in his “quest to improve the education of youth in the city.”

Republican State Rep. Chris Pringle expects 2019 to be busy in the Alabama Legislature.

He expects three bills to garner major attention in the legislative session beginning in March. He said there will be a gambling bill, a gas tax bill and a prison reform bill. On gambling, Pringle said bills in the past have not been “clean,” setting out to legalize gambling before setting up parameters for its regulation. Before any gambling bill could pass the Legislature, it would have to find a way to regulate it.

As for the gas tax, Pringle said the cost of infrastructure continues to increase, with new requirements for curbs and gutters, as well as costly environmental studies. While a gas tax hike is not out of the question, Pringle said, it would have to come with some reform of the Alabama Department of Transportation before he’d feel comfortable signing off.

Democratic State Rep. Barbara Drummond said she has been leery of previous gas tax bills because of the formula used to allocate new revenue. Although she admitted the state’s infrastructure is “crumbling,” she doesn’t believe previous bills have given enough to cities, like Mobile, and she would want to see what happens with it in 2019.

As for prison reform, Drummond believes the state should focus on better re-entry programs to help inmates become more productive members of society once their time is served. This, she said, would cut down on recidivism.

“It would put a stop to the revolving door,” Drummond said.

On gambling, Drummond said the state has to provide a “sustainable revenue source for the general fund.” She said she would support an education lottery and would consider gaming as well.

In addition to the bills mentioned, Drummond said she would like to see more funding for Medicaid. She’s in favor of expansion, noting that health care continues to be a critical issue in the state.

Drummond said she hopes the new legislative session will bring a continued effort from the Mobile County delegation to work together.

U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-1st District) said at a national level there will be a continued effort to reverse the “disinvestment” in defense. There have been increases in the defense budget in fiscal year 2018, fiscal year 2019 and one is planned for fiscal year 2020.

Part of that investment will go toward a 350-ship fleet for the Navy, which means more Littoral Combat Ships. In fact, two of the three ships that are part of the LCS program in 2019 will be built at Austal in Mobile, Byrne said.

“It will have a direct impact on Mobile, where Austal has 4,000 employees,” he said. “I’m excited about the future of military shipbuilding along the Gulf Coast.”

Byrne is hopeful Congress can also pass a bipartisan bill on infrastructure in the coming year, nodding to funding shortfalls for the Interstate 10 Mobile River bridge.

Byrne also hopes to help secure a longer snapper fishing season in federal waters.

On another note, Byrne said he believes Congress will be able to work to pass bipartisan legislation in the next session and said there is a spirit of bipartisanship on several issues.

U.S. Sen Doug Jones (D-Alabama) also has an eye toward making sure Alabama’s “priorities are reflected” in the next defense appropriations bill, as a new member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“That committee is a very, very active committee, but Alabama is home to such incredible military establishments,” Jones said. “We’re the ninth biggest state in terms of federal money going into military defense and trying to keep the security of this nation intact.”

In addition, Jones said he would be re-introducing bills in 2019 dealing with Medicaid expansion, financial literacy and predatory lending, among others.

“We’re also looking at some other new, original bills that we can introduce in the first quarter,” he said.

Funding Opportunities

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program

A Notice by the [Federal Railroad Administration](#) deadline **5:00 p.m. EDT, on March 18, 2019**

FRA recently issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the **Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program** (Partnership Program). The NOFO makes **\$272,250,000 million** in grant funding available. Here’s the link to FRA’s Partnership Program website which includes a link to the NOFO: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1107>

The Partnership Program is intended to benefit both the Northeast Corridor (“NEC”) and the large number of publicly-owned or Amtrak-owned infrastructure, equipment, and facilities located in other areas of the country, including strengthening transportation options for rural American communities. The NOFO will assist in funding capital projects to repair, replace, or rehabilitate publicly-owned railroad assets, and to improve intercity passenger rail performance. Eligible projects include those that replace existing assets in-kind; replace existing assets with those that increase capacity or provide a higher level of service; and those that ensure existing assets maintain service while being brought into a state of good repair.

Selection preference will be given to projects where Amtrak is not the sole applicant; multiple applicants submit applications jointly; the proposed federal share of total project costs does not exceed 50 percent; non-federal shares consist of funding from multiple sources, including private sources; and applications indicate strong project readiness. Applications for capital projects funding under this solicitation must be submitted via www.Grants.gov and are **due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, March 18, 2019**. Prior to the application deadline, FRA plans to provide Web-based training and technical assistance to answer questions from applicants.

- **WEBINAR: Wednesday, December 12 at 1:00 PM and Tuesday, January 8 at 1:00 PM - How to Apply for Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program Grants – Register now for either the [December 12 session](#) or the [January 8 session](#)**

The Federal-State Partnership Program is authorized by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and this [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) makes available funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. During the webinar, FRA will provide information about the new grant opportunity and how to apply for grant funding. For additional information about this grant opportunity, please see FRA’s Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs website at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/grants>

[Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program](#)

Applications Due: January 31, 2019

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA) provides funding to states, territories, federally-recognized tribes, and local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. FMA funding is also available for management costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires state, tribal, and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects. Generally, local communities will sponsor applications on behalf of homeowners and then submit the applications to their state.

[Section 5307, 5310, and 5311: Using Non-DOT Funds for Local Match](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) has worked with the [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) to clarify the ability of grantees to use Older Americans Act Title IIIB Supportive Services Funds to match Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. These FTA programs include Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Section 5307), Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities (Section 5310), and Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311). This information has been publicized [HERE](#)

FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

New funding is available from the Federal Highway Administration’s Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program to encourage the transportation community to adopt proven innovations. [Funding](#) or the AID Demonstration program, launched in 2014 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was continued by the 2015 [Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act](#). Since AID Demonstration was introduced, FHWA has provided more than \$43 million for 61 awards.

Under the program, funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects that use proven innovations in any project phase, including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through Grants.gov,

the federal government's website for information on funding opportunities. For more information on the AID Demonstration program, contact [Ewa Flom](#) of the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation.

The FHWA continues the Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The AID Demonstration provides incentive funding for any project activities eligible for assistance under title 23, U.S.C. in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment, and construction that address the TIDP goals. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published on September 1, 2016 (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21063>) requests grant applications and provides selection criteria, application requirements, and technical assistance with Grants.gov during the grant solicitation period.

Link to Additional Information: [FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation Grants page](#)

Industrial Access Road and Bridge

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) and the project sponsor (city or county) must maintain the completed facility unless the facility consists of turn lanes, crossovers, etc., that are located on state highways. Industrial access funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs.

Prior to the date the qualifying (new or expanding) project is "placed in service," the sponsoring entity or its local development agency must notify the Alabama Department of Commerce of its intent to claim the incentives under Section 41-9-202.1, Code of Alabama 1975. Effective October 9, 2008, the Industrial Access Road and Bridge Corporation application submittal should include the notification acknowledgment letter from the Secretary of Commerce. For more info, see [HERE](#)

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available visit www.grants.gov.

Just For Fun



I may not have mirror, but I can CD's gas cars behind me



Norway just set a world record with electric cars sold last year [HERE](#). Norway is a small nation (~5 million) with abundant hydro power, which provides 99% of its electricity. Power is cheap. They can afford to drive electric cars. But that got us thinking, *Just For Fun*, is it cheaper to drive electric cars???

The average cost to operate an "EV" (Electric Vehicle) in the United States is \$485 per year, while the average for a gasoline-powered vehicle is \$1,117, according to the study by Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute.

This study only examined fuel costs, but the maintenance cost for electric vehicles has also been found to be lower because they have fewer moving parts, no exhaust system, less need for cooling, less abrasive braking options, and no need to change "oil, fan belts, air filters, timing belts, head gaskets, cylinder heads and spark plugs."

In the new Michigan study, Sivak and Schoettle found that fuel costs for both type of cars vary dramatically from state to state.

In Hawaii, it costs \$1,509 to fuel "a typical new gasoline vehicle" each year, and \$1,106 to charge an EV. [Gasoline is cheapest in Alabama at \\$993 a year, but electricity is still much cheaper at \\$481.](#) According to [Forbes](#)

In the News

The “big fight” in Alabama in 2019: Road dollars and who gets them

Updated Dec 28; Posted Dec 30
By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:John.Sharp@al.com)

Expect plenty of orange cones on state roadways during the coming 12 months.

Birmingham’s “Malfunction Junction” will finally be on the road to repairs in 2019, and major projects are underway or about to start in Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, Gulf Shores, and elsewhere.

But when it comes to transportation issues facing the state in 2019, the spotlight will undoubtedly be on Montgomery and the looming legislative battle over whether or not raise taxes to pay for long range road repairs.

State lawmakers, who return to the statehouse for an organizational session starting January 8, are poised to decide if the state’s fuel tax should be increased for the first time since 1992.

“It’s a tax,” said state Senator Cam Ward, R-Alabaster. “Anytime you have a tax proposal, you’ll have multiple people in opposition and in support. And in supporters, you’ll have divisions as well.”

Even if the state should pass the tax, where does the money go? There will be battle lines: Rural versus urban versus suburban, cities versus counties, North versus South Alabama, relieving congestion versus enabling new growth.

“Whether you are in Baldwin County or Mobile County or up in Shelby County, driving on these roads in June through August, you can clearly see there is a need to do something with our roads,” said Ward. “But there promises to be this big fight.”

One shot

Confidence for passage of an increase in the state’s gas tax is high, following the 2018 political campaigns in which some politicians said that infrastructure was among the biggest priority of voters.

“I believe 2019 will be the year Alabama finally passes a plan to address these chronic road and bridge problems,” said Drew Harrell, executive director with the Alliance for Alabama’s Infrastructure. “The question will be: How big is the problem and what will it take to fix it?”

“It’s a one-in-a-generation shot,” said Billy Norrell, CEO of the Alabama Associated General Contractors.

But the realities of state politics could provide plenty of obstacles. Voters in November also decided to put in what pundits have described as “one of the most conservative governments” in Alabama history. That means Alabama just sent lawmakers to the state Capitol who may feel averse toward approving a tax increase as one of their first major acts.

Uncertainties abound not only around which projects would be funded, but also over how much money the state might raise. Lawmakers, like Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur, predict few details will be unveiled before the spring legislative session in early March. Continue [HERE](#)

ALDOT director says ‘dangerous situation’ led him to back bridge

Updated Dec 27; Posted Dec 27



Alabama Department of Transportation Director John Cooper speaks on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, inside his office in Montgomery, Ala. (John Sharp/jsharp@al.com). (John Sharp | jsharp@al.com)

By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

A “dangerous situation” will exist at Alabama’s beaches unless motorists can more easily reach that region’s only hospital, and it’s one of the main reasons why the state’s transportation chief says he’s pushing for a controversial new bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway.

John Cooper, the director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, told [AL.com](http://al.com) that he is concerned about a lack of access to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center in Foley along Alabama State Route 59 during [peak summer travel months](#). The state road is the only main thoroughfare connecting Gulf Shores about 12 miles north to the Foley hospital. But the trip can be treacherous on weekends as tens of thousands of people converge upon or leave the Gulf Coast.

“One of the reasons I got serious about it seemingly as quickly as I did is that something tripped with me when I was told that you had no chance of getting medical assistance from the southside of the Intracoastal Waterway on a Friday or a Saturday afternoon,” Cooper said in his first comments detailing his main reasons to push for the bridge.

“That started me to look at it and realize that while the (nearby) toll bridge traffic has increased on a yearly basis, it has not nearly increased enough to take the load off 59,” Cooper said. “Fifty-nine has increased more quickly. It’s a dangerous situation and we feel like it needs attention.” Continue [HERE](#)

BRATS RAISING RATES ON SERVICE TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Posted by [John Mullen](#) | Jan 2, 2019 | [Bay Briefs](#) | [0](#) |

A new fee schedule for private schools using the Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS) will mean an increase is coming for the private schools and families who use the service. The Baldwin County Commission recently asked County Engineer Joey Nunnally and other staffers to pare down the BRATS budget to make it more cost effective.

“The commission tasked me and BRATS to really look at our budgets and they kept inching up on us and getting a little higher,” Nunnally said. “Y’all tasked us with looking into how to decrease those costs.”

During his presentation on Dec. 18, Nunnally said BRATS originally asked for just over \$1 million for 2019 but with the cuts proposed in personnel, buses, routes and raising rider fees. he and staff were able to pare that to about \$905,000, still more than the \$875,000 budgeted for 2018. During that study, Nunnally said, it was discovered the county wasn’t charging enough to the schools BRATS was servicing. Currently, seven schools — Escambia County, St. Patrick’s, Bayside Academy, UMS-Wright, St. Paul’s, St. Benedict and the Eastern Shore Bay Camp — all use the service. In the 2018 budget, the schools were charged about \$150,000 but that will go up in the new BRATS budget to about \$238,000. Commissioners voted 3-1 for the new BRATS budget on Dec. 18 and the new rates for parents and schools will take effect in February. That’s a 59 percent hike across the board but four schools will see increases of 120 percent or more.

“The way we calculated them in the past, once the school kids got off the bus the clock stopped,” Nunnally said. “We were traveling long distances outside of the county and it takes a long time to get the buses back to the county, what I call ‘deadhead time.’ That ‘deadhead time’ needed to be calculated in to get the buses back to service the citizens of Baldwin County.”

Two parents asked the commission if they could wait until the end of the current school year before raising the fees to allow them time to adjust to the new rate.

“Giving 30 days’ notice today is going to give a hardship to some parents,” parent Jason Padgett said. “The rates you are told at the beginning of the year are what you budget by. Would the commission consider continuing those rates until the end of the year with the understanding that come May all the new rates would be in place?”

Nunnally said continuing with those rates for the rest of the school year would cost the county about \$45,000. Commissioner Joe Davis seconded the motion by Commissioner Jeb Ball to approve the budget changes but eventually voted against it. He was concerned the 30-day notice was not enough time for schools and parents to adjust to the higher costs. Federal Transportation Administration grants are administered by the Alabama Department of Transportation. Nunnally said some of the grants require the county to provide a 50 percent match and some require a 20 percent match.

Governor Kay Ivey's gulf coast inaugural celebration

Gulf Coast to celebrate inauguration of Kay Ivey

By:

- [Curt Brewer](#)

Posted: Jan 04, 2019 03:10 AM CST

Updated: Jan 04, 2019 04:51 AM CST



GULF SHORES, Ala. (WKRK) - Alabama governor Kay Ivey is throwing a special inaugural celebration in Gulf Shores, just two days before her official swearing-in ceremony in Montgomery.

The event will take place at The Lodge at Gulf State Park on Saturday, January 12, 2019, and will feature platinum recording artist, Neal McCoy. Tickets are \$25.00 each. In lieu of purchasing a ticket, attendees will receive admission by bringing four (4) children's books to be donated to the Alabama Literacy Alliance.

Gulf Coast Inaugural Celebration for Governor Kay Ivey FEATURING: Platinum Recording Artist Neal McCoy

DATE: Saturday, January 12, 2019

TIME: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM CST

LOCATION: The Lodge at Gulf State Park, 21196 East Beach Boulevard, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

TICKETS: [Click here to get tickets online](#)

Transportation Research

AASHTO Offers Steel Bridge Specification Update

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials just released a new, fourth edition of the [S2.1-2018 Steel Bridge Fabrication Guide Specification](#) – an AASHTO-National Steel Bridge Alliance Collaboration publication – that gathers together in one place recent updates to the group's Load Resistance and Factor Design or LRFD bridge/construction specifications.

AASHTO noted that it works with the NSBA work together to develop specifications, codes, standards, and policies in an effort to unify the existing diverse requirements governing steel bridge construction and all of the AASHTO-NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration publications are available for download, free of charge, from the [AASHTO Store](#), the group noted.

This revision provides clarifications and removes conflicts between the latest S2.1 and the latest AASHTO specifications while continuing to provide an AASHTO-NSBA consensus on "best practices" for fabrication specifications.

The group emphasized that this update is intended to be used in tandem with AASHTO-NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration *S4.1*, [Steel Bridge Fabrication QC/QA Guide Specification](#).

[Transportation Safety Planning and the Zero Deaths Vision: A Guide for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Local Communities](#)

FHWA has released this new guidebook geared towards MPOs and local stakeholders to reduce fatalities and serious injuries across transportation systems. To address this, USDOT seeks to foster collaboration across all stakeholders to improve the behaviors and conditions that impact these safety outcomes. The Guide seeks to assist MPOs, communities, and other transportation agencies to utilize, implement, and evaluate their safety planning processes to further the zero deaths vision.

[The Data Collected by Dockless Bikes is Helping Cities Map Your Movement](#)

Dockless bikes use a combination of GPS, 3G wireless connections, and solar power to transmit their location to providers and consumers. Providers, and the cities they partner with, have unparalleled access to rider behavior and are leveraging this knowledge to meet the needs of their consumers. In South Bend, IN, Lime is providing aggregate statistics on travel and heat maps showing where most riders occur in the city. South Bend used this data to paint drop-off areas for the bikes and is now hoping to use this information to plan for new bike paths and lanes. Lime is also working with cities to identify a format that makes it easy for them to pull data from multiple operators into their databases to analyze with their own tools.

Transportation Safety Planning and the Zero Deaths Vision: A Guide for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Local Communities

FHWA has released this new [guidebook](#) geared towards MPOs and local stakeholders to reduce fatalities and serious injuries across transportation systems. To address this, USDOT seeks to foster collaboration across all stakeholders to improve the behaviors and conditions that impact these safety outcomes. The Guide seeks to assist MPOs, communities, and other transportation agencies to utilize, implement, and evaluate their safety planning processes to further the zero deaths vision.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO): Transportation Partnerships for the 21st Century

This work will deliver a historical review and contemporary analysis of the institutional structures and performance of MPOs, producing conclusions and lessons learned that are relevant to current challenges. This research will address ways in which MPOs can respond more nimbly and effectively to rapidly changing transportation demands, conditions, and technologies. It will provide a range of strategies and tools drawn from cases and practice in order to better equip MPOs and MPO-state partnerships in planning, maintaining, and improving transportation systems for U.S. metropolitan areas and the economies reliant on those systems.

Staff Contact: Harlan Miller, 202-366-0847

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym.

For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.