



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 12th, 2019

Volume 29, Number 14

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Mr. Matt Ericksen is now the new SW Region Engineer for ALDOT, AND there will be a Public Meeting on the [I-10 Mobile River Bridge](#) coming up; see *In The News*. There will be a Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee ([TCC/CAC meeting on April 24th](#)), followed by a [MPO meeting May 8th](#), please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. Innovations in Transit Public Safety funding announced in *Funding Opportunities*. They are talking infrastructure, budgets, and gas tax in *Legislative Updates*. This week's *Just For Fun* is some TV Show Trivia; how good are you? There will not be a Transportation Friday on April 19, 2019.

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

Mobile MPO meetings

There will be a Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee ([TCC/CAC meeting on April 24th](#)), followed by a [MPO meeting May 8th](#). The agenda items include a draft 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and a draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). There are also numerous projects modified in the current 2016-2019 TIP. Finally, there will be a discussion concerning the 2045 Long Range transportation Plan (LRTP).

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

FREIGHT DATA

APM Terminals has provided us with their third 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 third survey report had 88% of trucker visits answering the survey, the best percentage yet, which helps refine our understanding of container truck trip patterns in the area.

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](#)

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

<http://mobileriverbridge.com/>



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. Please contact Allison Gregg (251-604-9790) to coordinate site visits.

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

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

Project : 100067507 (CN)

Federal aid number : IM-IMGR-HSIP I065 (501)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : RESURFACING ON I-65 FROM NORTH OF SR-13 (US-43) (MP 19.923) TO SR-225 (MP 32.054) AND BRIDGE RAISING AT LISTER DAIRY ROAD. HSIP FUNDING FOR GUARDRAIL WITH STEEL BLOCK OUTS.

Old Engineers Estimate : \$4,208,415.00

New Engineers Estimate : \$3,615,154.99

Projects in Region Let April 26th, 2019

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

None at this time

MOBILE COUNTY

For constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on Dunlap Drive over Pinto Pass in Mobile. Length 0.085 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$881,999 to \$1,077,999.

BALDWIN COUNTY

For the Maintenance Dredging of Little Lagoon Pass in Gulf Shores as indicated in the plans. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$652,093 to \$797,003.

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

Legislative Updates

Alabama House passes 'anti-road rage' bill to keep slow drivers out of left lane

Posted Apr 11, 12:07 PM

By Mike Cason | mcason@al.com

The Alabama House of Representatives today passed a bill that would prohibit drivers from staying in the leftmost lane on interstates for more than a mile-and-a-half without passing another vehicle.

Rep. Phillip Pettus, a Republican from Lauderdale County, calls his bill the "Anti-Road Rage Act."

Pettus said the intent is to reduce the risk of accidents and violence that can result from drivers becoming angry because slower drivers impede traffic flow by staying in the left lane.

"People get ill when they come up behind people driving slow in the left lane and they're wanting to get by," Pettus said. "Interstates were set up for the movement of traffic. This will make interstate traffic move better."

Pettus retired as a captain in the Alabama State Troopers in 2013 after a 25-year career. He said road rage causes more wrecks than accident records would indicate, such as when angry drivers cut in front of another vehicle and cause that vehicle to run off the road or into the median.

The bill includes exceptions to the prohibition on staying in the left lane without passing. Those include driving through a construction zone, inclement weather, traffic congestion and others.

On the House floor today, some lawmakers questioned how practical it would be to enforce the bill.

Pettus said the Alabama Department of Transportation assured him it would run public service announcements and provide road signs to let drivers know about the change if the bill becomes law. He said the goal is to not to issue traffic tickets but to encourage people to use interstate lanes correctly,

The bill includes a 60-day grace period during which law enforcement officers could only issue warning citations.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 61-24. It moves to the Senate.

Asked About Gas Tax, Chao Says ‘Nothing Is Off the Table’

While speaking before the Senate’s Transportation-HUD subcommittee, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said that there could be possible support from the White House for higher gas taxes and airplane ticket fees. She also emphasized the administration’s call to cut red tape in project approvals and pursue more private-sector funding opportunities. Chao’s comments fit into a larger ongoing debate over the viability of increasing the gas-tax to finance the Highway Trust Fund. Proponents of increasing the gas tax are asking lawmakers for a progressive increase of the tax to 25 cents per gallon over five years. Even if approved, however, this may be too little too late.

The first few years of a progressive increase would maintain current spending levels, but do little to address the growing backlog of infrastructure projects. If the gas tax was instead raised by 25 cents all at once, up to \$40 billion in revenue would become immediately available to address the backlog. While President Trump renewed calls for Congress to pass an infrastructure bill during his State of the Union speech, his support of a gas tax increase remains uncertain.

Gas-Tax Proxy Out of Reach as Clock Ticks for Highway Trust Fund

Congress faces a looming September 2020 deadline on financing the Highway Trust Fund and has not yet developed viable alternatives to the gas tax. Gas and diesel taxes haven’t been raised in over 25 years and inflation has eroded their purchasing power. An increase will help in the short-term, but in the long term will not stem this erosion as rising fuel economy and EV use can be expected to lower the number of gallons purchased in upcoming years. In spite of these concerns, alternative measures, such as a vehicle-miles fee are not garnering significant support. Oregon and Washington have begun pilots, but more time will be needed to determine their effectiveness.

Secretary Chao explains requested budget cuts during House hearing

By [Tyson Fisher](#), Land Line staff writer | 4/11/2019

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao answered another round of funding questions during a House subcommittee hearing on Wednesday. Chao addressed concerns regarding budget cuts, automation and rural highways.

On Wednesday, April 10, the House Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development subcommittee held a hearing about the DOT’s budget request for fiscal year 2020, the first such hearing since the White House released its budget request that reduces the department’s funding by about 20% compared with FY 2019.

Democrats on the committee were clearly upset with the funding reduction. During opening statements, Chairman David E. Price, D-N.C., expressed his concerns about what he sees as a lack of funding.

“Overall, this budget is a far cry from what is necessary to move our country forward, and it doesn’t reflect the rhetoric we hear from the department about taking a ‘safety first’ approach,” Price said.

Committee on Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., noted that Congress has had to step up to the plate due to cuts from President Donald Trump’s administration.

“Frankly, I am unimpressed by your budget request,” Lowey said. “Twice the administration has proposed cuts that would shortchange our national infrastructure, and twice Congress has responded by passing responsible funding levels. Please do better next time.” To read this full article click [HERE](#).

U.S. Democrats seek up to \$2 trillion to invest in aging infrastructure

Thursday, April 11, 2019

By Susan Cornwell and Richard Cowan

LEESBURG, Va./WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democratic leaders in Congress said on Thursday they would seek President Donald Trump's support in coming weeks for legislation to invest up to \$2 trillion to rebuild U.S. infrastructure, including roads, bridges and schools.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said at separate news conferences they would try to revive an effort that sputtered early in Trump's presidency for major investments in aging public works.

The White House said Trump had spoken recently with Pelosi and "agreed to meet soon to discuss working together on infrastructure," White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

Democrats have been seeking a much larger investment than Trump and fellow Republicans in Congress have suggested.

"Has to be at least \$1 trillion, I'd like it to be closer to \$2 trillion," Pelosi told reporters at a House Democratic meeting in Leesburg, Virginia. She said there would be discussions on how such an amount could be financed.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, told reporters later on Thursday that the financing issue was a major obstacle.

"I'm all for taking it (infrastructure legislation) up once the president and Democrats, everybody says: 'OK, here's how we're going to pay for it.' As soon as that magically appears, I think we have a way forward," McConnell said.

Schumer, speaking to reporters outside the U.S. Senate, said a meeting would occur within the next several weeks.

"The bottom line is this: If they're not going to put real money and have real labor and environmental protections, we're not going to get anywhere," Schumer warned.

Past bipartisan efforts by Democrats and Trump have brought mixed results. A criminal justice bill was enacted, but an immigration reform effort was a dismal failure, as were border security talks.

To read this full article Click [HERE](#).

Kay Ivey touts Rebuild Alabama Act at Montgomery Chamber meeting

BY ALABAMA NEWSCENTER ON APRIL 11, 2019

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey touted the Rebuild Alabama Act, with its gasoline tax increases to fund infrastructure, as one of her major accomplishments that will address a longtime need in the state.

Ivey delivered her "State of the State" address to members of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the Rebuild Alabama funding passed in a special session of the Legislature last month.

"Since I took office two years ago tonight, we have seen 25,000 new jobs created here in Alabama," Ivey said. "We have seen several coveted economic development projects announced. And we have seen strides taken to improve education. More recently, we saw the strength of teamwork in the effort to pass my Rebuild Alabama Act. It absolutely took a strong team effort to get that key piece of legislation passed."

The new law raises Alabama's gasoline tax by 10 cents per gallon over the next three years to fund improvements to roads, bridges and the Port of Mobile, along with other transportation infrastructure improvements.

"To expect a prosperous future for the great state of Alabama, it was just time for us to address once and for all the lingering issue of our crumbling infrastructure," Ivey said.

Republished with permission of Alabama News Center. For full article, video of speech, and additional photos please check out their site.

Funding Opportunities

Innovations in Transit Public Safety Deadline May 28, 2019

Agency Name: DOT/Federal Transit Administration

Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of \$2 million in funding provided under the Public Transportation Innovation Program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. § 5312, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST), Public Law 114-94 (December 4, 2015). This is a national solicitation for project proposals and includes the selection criteria and program eligibility information for Fiscal Year 2019 projects. The primary purpose of these competitively selected grants is to identify innovative solutions to reduce or eliminate human trafficking occurring on transit systems, protect transit operators from the risk of assault, and reduce crime on public transit vehicles and facilities.

Link to Additional Information: [FTA Notices of Funding Opportunity](#)

Grantor Contact Information: If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Dakisha Spratling
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
(202) 366-2530

About the AARP Community Challenge

AARP invites you to submit applications for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable. Applications are now being accepted for small grants to improve housing, transportation, public space, smart cities and other community elements.

- Applications are due by April 17, 2019, 11:59 pm (ET)
- All projects must be completed by November 4, 2019

More information may be found by following this [LINK](#).

[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

TV SHOW CAR TRIVIA

The first person to submit the correct answers to transportation@sarpc.org, gets a packet of sunflower seeds that we found.

- "Oh sir, just one more thing": What kind of car did Lt Colombo drive?

- In "The Green Hornet" (1966-1967), Van Williams played newspaper publisher Britt Reid and Bruce Lee played his assistant Kato, but the show also starred a very special automobile. What was the name of the Green Hornet's crime fighting vehicle?
- Next up in our line of TV cars is a 1969 Dodge Charger sedan. The doors have been welded shut. It's got 10-spoke hubcaps and a trunk full of sandbags. Looks like it's been through a real rough time and probably has made a whole lot of big jumps. Pink just doesn't do it justice. What colors should we choose for the correct paint job?
- In 1955 Ford Motor Company developed a concept car known as the Lincoln Futura. The car never made it into production, but in the hands of famed car designer George Barris, it would later make it into American pop culture. Which of these cars was a modified Lincoln Futura?
- How did they ever get the dents out of the bodywork: What kind of car were Starsky and Hutch fond of jumping out of and onto?
- Next up is a Volvo P1800 sedan, mid 1960s issue. License plate is ST1. I found a stack of small cards in the back drawn with stick figures wearing tiny halos. Let's get rid of this pink, detective, and put it back to the color from the TV show. What color should we take off the shelf?
- During the opening credits of "Sanford and Son" (1972-1977), Demond Wilson is shown driving up to a store-front junk store. What is he driving?
- OK, another famous TV van coming up next. The make and model aren't like any I've seen, but based on those lines it's definitely a vintage vehicle. After rummaging through the back seat, I've found some useful clues, though! Let's see here: dog treats, a magnifying glass, and stack of rubber face masks. What colors should we use to paint this puppy back to normal?
- Which of these detectives drove a 1979 Pontiac Firebird?
 - Lt. Frank Bullit
 - Lt. Columbo
 - Jonathon Hart
 - Jim Rockford

In the News

ALDOT appoints new head engineer for Southwest region

Updated Mar 25, 2019; Posted Mar 25, 2019

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

Longtime Alabama Department of Transportation employee Matthew Ericksen will become the lead engineer for the state's Southwest Region effective Saturday.

Ericksen replaces retiring Southwest Region Engineer Vincent Calametti, who served in that role since October 2013.

"Matt Ericksen has been exceptional at every job he has held within ALDOT," said George Conner, deputy director of operations with ALDOT. "I have complete confidence that he will do the same as he leads our Southwest Region."

Ericksen began his career with ALDOT in 1992, as a Graduate Civil Engineer following graduation from the University of Alabama.

He has held several positions in the Mobile area, including Mobile District Engineer; Division Materials & Tests Engineer; and Division Construction Engineer. In 2013, he was promoted to Assistant Regional Engineer.

Ericksen was appointed as the Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge & Bayway project director in 2017.

He replaces Calametti, who is ending a 32-year career with the agency.

The ALDOT Southwest Region Engineer is responsible for administering and directing region activities in planning, construction, equipment, maintenance, and materials and tests to ensure functionality of the region's infrastructure.

The Southwest Region consists of the following counties: Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Conecuh, Washington, Monroe, Wilcox, Marengo, Choctaw and Clarke in the Grove Hill area.

The Southwest Region has 619 employees.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Project No. DPI-0030(005), I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

The purpose and need of this proposed project is to increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes and to provide a more direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's maritime industry.

You are invited to attend and participate in either of the following public meetings:

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4:30-8 p.m., Spanish Fort Community Center

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4:30 – 8 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 p.m. The public may review project information, exhibits, and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two-minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Free parking will be available at each meeting.

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 p.m. on May 23, 2019. The mailing address is:

ALDOT – Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project
ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E.
1701 I-65 West Service Road N
Mobile, AL 36618

For additional information, visit www.mobileriverbridge.com. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting.

City creates new parking zones

Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Apr 5, 2019 | [Latest](#), [News](#) | [0](#) |

(Reprinted with permission from the Lagniappe)

The city announced the creation of new downtown parking zones to help deal with complaints from business owners and improve parking in the area for visitors.

Waterfront Coordinator Joe Snowden announced the creation of four-hour parking zones and hospitality worker parking zones available May 1 at a media briefing about the changes Friday afternoon

Despite the special four-hour zones along parts of St. Francis, Conception and Joachim streets, most of downtown will remain under the two-hour maximum. The two-hour limit is put in place to enhance the downtown parking experience, Snowden said.

"It encourages turnover," he said. "It allows people to have a good opportunity to park close to where they want to eat and shop. Ideally one or two open spots on a city block means we've got the right mix of fees and hours."

In a scenario where the same cars can park in one location for an extended amount of time, Snowden said, visitors will decide to go elsewhere.

"We don't want customers going elsewhere," he said.

The two-hour limit for downtown parking has always been in place, Snowden said, but with Republic Parking's enforcement it is more streamlined than other vendors, so visitors may be seeing more of a presence through increased ticketing for a violation. Snowden said there is a roving and walking system in place and a tag reader, which makes it easier to determine a violation.

In addition to extending hours in specific areas, the city is offering special areas and a special rate for restaurant, bar and hotel employees to park, Snowden said. The so-called hospitality workers parking zones will be mostly along the unmetered section of St. Michael Street, between Franklin and N. Joachim streets. The zone will also extend south down Franklin Street to Dauphin Street and north on Claiborne Street to St. Louis Street. It will extend south on Claiborne Street to St. Francis Street.

Continue [HERE](#)

Transportation Research

Upcoming Webinars on Age-Friendly Streets and Active Routes

Join PBIC and its partners for a series of webinars on creating age-friendly streets and active routes to everyday destinations:

Creating Age-Friendly Streets, Part 1

Monday, April 22, 2019

1:00-2:30 pm Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

Creating Age-Friendly Streets, Part 2

Monday, April 29, 2019

2:00-3:30 pm Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

Creating Active Routes to Everyday Destinations

Thursday, May 2, 2019

1:00-2:30 pm Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

[Transportation Funding: Best Practices & Lessons Learned from the States \[July 17 ARTBA-TIAC Workshop\]](#)

by [Carolyn Kramer](#) | Mar 21, 2019

During the first two months of 2019, legislators in 37 states introduced 185 bills to boost transportation investment, more than the same period last year. On March 12, the governors of Alabama and Arkansas each signed state gas tax increases to fund transportation projects. Other funding measures are headed to state and local ballots later this year. Learn more about what's working, what's not, and what's ahead at the **6th Annual "National Workshop for State & Local Transportation Advocates,"** a signature program of ARTBA's Transportation Investment Advocacy Center™ (TIAC).

This year's Workshop will include:

- An overview of state transportation funding trends and initiatives, plus a preview of what's to come on 2019 state and local ballots;
- An update on federal transportation funding and efforts to permanently fix the revenue stream for the Highway Trust Fund;
- In-depth exploration of how states are adapting for vehicle fuel efficiency;
- The benefits and challenges of tolling;
- Campaign strategies from battleground states, and on passing legislative and ballot measures;
- Advice from state lawmakers on succeeding in your transportation funding campaign;
- And more!
-

The annual in-person meeting of the **Transportation Investment Advocates Council** will be held the afternoon of **Tuesday, July 16**. This meeting is for members of the Council, or for those interested in learning more about state transportation funding resources.

The Workshop is being held in conjunction with [ARTBA's 31st annual "Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation Conference."](#)

[Register for the Workshop.](#)

[More information & hotel reservations.](#)

[View the agenda.](#)

STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) workshop in Mobile

The Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP, the Alabama LTAP Center) has partnered with FHWA's Every Day Counts program to present a one-day, reduced-fee, STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) workshop in Mobile. The workshop will be on Wednesday, April 3, at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission office at 110 Beauregard Street. Peter Eun, who co-leads FHWA's STEP team, will deliver the workshop. The brochure is attached. The registration fee is \$75; this includes the 6.5 PDH workshop, course materials, and lunch on site. To register, go to <http://eng.auburn.edu/atap/events/edc5-step.html>

2018 Benchmarking Report on Biking and Walking from the League of American Bicyclists

WASHINGTON, DC – February 8, 2019: In 1958, Walt Disney imagined the future of transit was a “Magic Highway” where technology and infrastructure combined for fast, uncongested, sedentary travel by car. In 2019, with the rates of chronic diseases like obesity and diabetes rising and roads get deadlier for pedestrians and cyclists, the real solutions for better infrastructure are not found in 1950s futurism – they are found in the Bicycle Friendly Communities and States where more people are biking and walking, and fewer bicyclists and pedestrians are dying.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE 2018 BENCHMARKING REPORT ON BIKING AND WALKING »](#)

Congress first authorized federal funding to improve infrastructure projects intended for bicyclists and pedestrians in 1991. In 25 years, the United States has made significant investments in infrastructure, but a review of data and official documents by the League of American Bicyclists for *Bicycling & Walking in the United States: 2018 Benchmarking Report* shows that more federal and state leadership is needed to make improvements in infrastructure. While forward-thinking advocates and city leaders have made progress for bicyclist and pedestrian safety at the local level, further leadership at the federal and state level is necessary to coordinate the design and implementation of cohesive, connected, and safe environments for bicycling and walking in America.

“The way we’re investing in infrastructure isn’t working,” said Ken McLeod, policy director with the League of American Bicyclists, and lead author of the 2018 Benchmarking Report. “There is a crisis in traffic safety and we have the tools to reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed on our roads every year—we need leaders at the national and state levels to take action: adopt Complete Streets policies, draft and implement bike and pedestrian master plans, and build protected infrastructure.”

The 2018 Benchmarking Report is the sixth edition of the report, the first published by the League of American Bicyclists. By combining data analysis with the League’s research and data collection, the 2018 Benchmarking Report offers the most comprehensive look at national and regional statistics on bicycling and walking alongside an examination of the policies and plans, or lack thereof, to improve infrastructure for people biking and walking. In investigating the relationship between states with Complete Streets policies and/or bicycling and walking master plans, the League found that states with long-term and multiple actions on both had more growth in active transportation.

“The Benchmarking Report should be a wake-up call,” said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. “While the state and safety of bicycling and walking may seem dire, it’s not all bad news. The data shows there are places like Oregon, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC, where officials are working with advocates on the ground to create communities that are more welcoming for bicyclists and pedestrians. Local bike advocates are working to meet their communities’ needs and make biking better—it’s time for state and federal leaders to empower local efforts.”

Produced with support from groups such as AARP and Toole Design Group, the 2018 Benchmarking Report demonstrates the urgency to create bikeable and walkable communities to not only save lives on the roadway, but also encourage healthy living options. Just 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, of moderate to vigorous physical activity for adults can help prevent eight types of cancer, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and depression. Even small amounts of physical activity each day have health benefits. Building Bicycle Friendly Communities and ones that enable even short trips to work, school, or the doctor’s office encourage healthier outcomes for everyone.

The 2018 Benchmarking Report contains state and city-level data charting the increases and declines in bicyclist and pedestrian safety, federal funding for active transportation infrastructure, policies and plans for biking and walking, and much more. A few noteworthy findings include:

- Mississippi was the deadliest state for bicyclists with the highest average fatality rate per 10k bicycle commuters from 2012-2016. Mississippi also had the lowest percent of commuters biking to work in 2016 at .1 percent of the population.
- Cities where the rate of biking to work is highest, like Portland, Oregon, and Washington, DC, have the lowest rate of bicyclist fatalities.
- 71 percent of bicyclist deaths occurred in an urban area, with 61 percent occurring on principal or minor arterial roadways, which only make up 10 percent of the national roadway system.
- 39 percent of biking trips and 35 percent of walking trips in 2017 were for social and/or recreational purposes.
- 20 percent of biking trips in 2017 were to earn a living.
- Women are underrepresented among people who bike to work, but there have been modest participation increases in recent years.
- For people with an income below \$25,000 per year, biking is an increasingly common method for taking trips.

A new initiative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Active People, Healthy NationSM](#) aims to get 27 million Americans more active by 2027. This initiative supports proven strategies to promote physical activity, including creating bikeable and walkable communities.

The nearly 400-page 2018 Benchmarking Report contains graphs, maps, and tables touching nearly every topic related to bicycling and walking in the United States. Please contact communications@bikeleague.org to ask about specific cities or states, speak to an expert, or learn more about how your state and community can become more bicycle friendly.

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.