



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 26th, 2019

Volume 30, Number 3

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A new BUILD Grant has been announced with a Notice for Funding Opportunity. The BUILD Grant program replaced the TIGER Grants; please see *Funding Opportunities*. There will be a public meeting on the [I-10 Mobile River Bridge](#) coming up, as well as STIP public meetings; the 6th Annual Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride is tomorrow; moda! will be coming to the GM&O building and a new bikeshare program; see *In The News*. There will be a **MPO meeting May 8th**, AND a **\$2 million Special Allocation???** Please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. They are talking infrastructure, budgets, and gas tax AGAIN in *Legislative Updates*. This week's *Just For Fun* is radioactive...

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 was a Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) meeting on April 24th. The results and recommendations of this week's TCC/CAC meeting will go before the Mobile MPO on **May 8th**. The agenda items include a draft 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and some minor edits to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). 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).

Also discussed at the meeting, President Trump signed into law the Appropriations Act of 2019 which allocated \$10,097,088 of federal funds to the State of Alabama for MPO projects. That translates to almost \$2 million for the Mobile MPO (\$1,944,435). The TCC/CAC deliberated at the April 24th meeting on how to treat this Special Allocation. It could be used for any variety of STP type projects. It was discussed the \$2 million Special Allocation could be used for a beautification type award, through a competitive type process, OR be placed into the regular STP Attributable funding for future deficits. The TCC/CAC voted to recommend to the MPO to use the \$2 million (fed) for future deficits of the existing projects.

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

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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/>



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 : 100068763 (CN)

Federal aid number : STPAA 4915

County : MOBILE

Project Description : RESURFACING, WIDENING AND TRAFFIC STRIPE ON CR-33 (DAWES ROAD) FROM APPROXIMATELY 400 FT NORTH OF SCOTT DAIRY LOOP ROAD SOUTH TO APPROXIMATELY 850 FT SOUTH OF COTTAGE HILL ROAD - MCP 49-82-15

Old Target start date : November 08, 2019

New Target start date : May 29, 2020

Project : 100061588 (CN)

Federal aid number : BR 0013 (601)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : CULVERT REPLACEMENT, BIN 5715, SR-13 (US-43) OVER STEELE CREEK

Old Engineers Estimate : \$3,200,000.00

New Engineers Estimate : \$4,257,888.00

Project : 100061588 (CN)

Federal aid number : BR 0013 (601)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : CULVERT REPLACEMENT, BIN 5715, SR-13 (US-43) OVER STEELE CREEK

Old Target start date : June 28, 2019

New Target start date : July 26, 2019

Project : 100069725 (CN)

Federal aid number : STPAA 4917 (251)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : WIDENING, RESURFACING, AND STRIPING THREE NOTCH-KRONER ROAD (CR-32) FROM DAWES ROAD (CR-33) EASTERLY TO APPROXIMATELY 700 FEET WEST OF MCDONALD ROAD (CR-39) - MCP 49-86-17

Old Engineers Estimate : \$2,241,000.00

New Engineers Estimate : \$2,202,940.00

Project : 100067959 (FM)

Federal aid number : STPAA 0213

County : MOBILE

Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-213 FROM SR-158 TO SR-13(US-43)

Old Target start date : May 31, 2019

New Target start date : August 30, 2019

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

April Recess is Here! *Congress is on recess until April 26.*

House Majority Leader Hoyer Offers Infrastructure Deal Optimism

Bloomberg reports that in statements Friday during the House Democratic retreat in Leesburg, Va., House Majority leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) stated that he was optimistic about reaching a bipartisan infrastructure deal because the President's daughter Ivanka Trump is now playing a larger role in infrastructure talks. "That gives me hope" said Hoyer, adding that multiple infrastructure meetings had recently occurred, during which the President had discussed a \$1 trillion plan. Hoyer stated that funding will remain a key discussion point, and that he personally favors a gas tax increase. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also focused statements on funding, saying that he does not view a way forward for legislation until the President and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi reach an agreement on payment for the plan. House Transportation Committee Chair Peter DeFazio did not address funding, but added that he still expects to have a bill ready by the end of July and that Ivanka Trump is working on a workforce component for the plan.

Coalition of Conservative Groups Joins Americans for Prosperity to Oppose Gas Tax Increase

A coalition of conservative organizations has joined Americans for Prosperity in their efforts to prevent Congress from implementing a federal gas tax increase. In a letter released on April 15th, the coalition urges Congress to "focus on comprehensive reforms to prioritize, streamline and innovate the financing and regulation of our nation's infrastructure projects rather than considering any increases to the federal gas tax." The reforms the group encourages include streamlining the permitting system, limiting Highway Trust Fund money for use on roads and bridges, and removing project labor requirements. [HERE](#)

Pelosi says she will talk infrastructure with Trump next week

BY CRISTINA MARCOS - 04/23/19 05:11 PM

Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.) said Tuesday that she plans to meet with [President Trump](#) next week to discuss infrastructure legislation, seen as one of the few areas of potential bipartisan compromise.

"We'll be meeting with the president next week when we come back to talk about what the prospect is for the size in terms of resources and scope of what that might be," Pelosi said at the Time 100 Summit.

Pelosi said that infrastructure and reducing the cost of prescription drugs are two places where she sees hope for agreement with the White House.

"In our conversations at the staff level and my conversations with him, I think we can find a path to do that," Pelosi said of talks of reducing prescription drug prices. "So there are two that I'm very optimistic we could accomplish."

The meeting with Trump would come as House Democrats discuss whether they should consider impeaching him in light of special counsel [Robert Mueller](#)'s report outlining instances where the president may have obstructed justice.

Pelosi downplayed the impeachment talk on Tuesday, as she did in a letter to and conference call with House Democrats a day earlier.

"I do believe that impeachment is one of the most divisive forces, paths that we could go down to in our country. But if the facts, the path of fact-finding takes us there, we have no choice. But we're not there yet," the Speaker said.

"It may be a place that the facts take us. We shouldn't impeach for a political reason, and we shouldn't not impeach for a political reason," she added.

Funding Opportunities

BUILD GRANT deadline (July 15th, 2019)

Department of Transportation BUILD Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available for its competitive grant program known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD, formerly known as TIGER). A total of \$900 million was appropriated for this program in FY 2019. The application is currently available online at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>. The application deadline is **July 15, 2019**. A series of webinars to provide information and answer applicants' questions has also been announced:

- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – All Applicants
 - Tuesday, April 30th, 3:00-5:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – Tribal and Rural Applicants
 - Thursday, May 2nd 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for a BUILD Application –All Applicants
 - Tuesday, May 7th 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – All Applicants
 - Thursday, May 9th, 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for a BUILD Application – All Applicants
 - Tuesday, May 14th 3:00-5:00 EDT -- [register here](#)

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

[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

It was on this day, April 26th, in 1986, that a nuclear reactor accident occurs at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Soviet Union (now Ukraine), creating the world's worst nuclear disaster. This is not a matter to make light of; people died, and the nuclear power plant site clean-up is scheduled for completion in **2065!!**

What about a nuclear car?



[HERE](#)

There are nuclear submarines, ships, why not a nuclear car? Introducing, the NUCLEON!! The Ford Nucleon was a concept car developed by Ford in 1957 designed as a future nuclear-powered car, one of a handful of such designs during the 1950s and '60s. The concept was only demonstrated as a scale model. The design did not include an internal-combustion engine; rather, the vehicle was to be powered by a small nuclear reactor in the rear of the vehicle, based on the assumption that this would one day be possible by reducing sizes. The car was to use a steam engine powered by uranium fission. Just don't forget to change our your reactor every 5,000 miles!!

The idea is still “out there”. As if the Russians are now experts on all things nuclear, there is an updated Russian designed nuclear concept car [HERE](#). It's the bomb....



In the News

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.

SARPC to conduct Public Meetings for the STIP

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) lists transportation projects programmed over a four year period. A major component of STIP development is public involvement. Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) engages the public involvement process as part of the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). All thirteen MPO's follow the TIP development process whereby TIP's include a four year listing, of projects identified by the MPO's. The TIP's are incorporated, as adopted by the MPO's, into the STIP. In rural areas of the state, ALDOT is responsible for cooperatively identifying needed projects, facilitating public input and involving traditionally under-served populations in transportation decision-making for the STIP.

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) has meetings scheduled for Mobile County on May 15th at the GM&O Building in Mobile from 5:30-7:30, in Escambia County on May 21st at the Atmore City Hall from 5:30-7:30, and tentatively for Baldwin County on May 22nd at the Baldwin County Central Annex in Robertsdale from 5:30-7:30.

If anyone has any questions pertaining to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, please do not hesitate to contact us at transportation@sarpc.org

Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride

There's just about no better way to experience the beauty of the western shore of Mobile Bay than on a bike traveling 5 miles an hour. The 6th Annual Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride this Saturday allows bikers to enjoy a leisurely trek from Arlington Park to McNally Park and then back again. It's also a rare opportunity to ride along one of the runways at Brookley! Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the ride -- the weather should be perfect!

University of Ala. receives \$8M DOT grant to fund traffic control technologies

[Kerry Clines](#) | April 25, 2019



The [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) recently awarded more than \$8 million to the University of Alabama's (UA) Alabama Transportation Institute (ATI) to fund the use of modernized technology to improve traffic control systems in west-central Alabama through the Advanced Connected Transportation Infrastructure and Operations Network (ACTION) project, [Yellowhammer News](#) reports.

The grant comes through the federal Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Program. In addition to the grant, approximately \$8.3 million will come from various partners in the state for a total funding of about \$16.3 million over a three-year period.

“This nationally competitive award enhances the growing recognition of UA’s research enterprise,” said Dr. Shashi Nambisan, executive director of ATI, in a statement to the news agency. “The award reflects the combined efforts of several researchers and transportation related centers at UA and our partners who teamed up to address critical transportation system needs in West Central Alabama,”

The ATCMTD program provides funding for institutions to improve transportation systems, reduce traffic congestion, and improve safety for the traveling public by providing technology, such as sensor systems and cameras, communication technologies and traffic signal systems, as well as mobility tools for drivers. The technology from the ACTION project will be placed on freeways and other roads in and around Tuscaloosa.

“It is outstanding news that DOT has awarded UA funding for Alabama’s advanced technology initiative,” said Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) in a press release. “The program will address transportation needs in west-central Alabama that are critical to improved quality of life and economic vitality. I look forward to the lasting impacts the implementation of this initiative will bring to the community.”

“The project will substantially mitigate congestion, improve travel time reliability, and enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, and in the region, all of which are critical for the region’s economic vitality and interstate commerce,” Nambisan added, according to the news agency.

The ACTION partnership includes the ATI, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission, the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport, and other local and regional industry stakeholders, including manufacturing and trucking. UA will also supply the partnership team with researchers from its Center for Advanced Public Safety, Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies, and the University Transportation Center for Alabama.

Rough Roads Cost Alabamans \$5.3 Billion per Year

The news wheel



According to a study by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research organization, deteriorating Alabama roads collectively cost residents \$5.3 billion dollars per year in extra vehicle operating costs. In other words, that’s as much as \$1,846 per driver. Here’s a deeper look at those costs — and what can be done to fix the problems.

Infrastructure issues

The report, entitled “Alabama Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State’s Need for Safe, Smooth and Efficient Mobility,” found that about 14 percent of the Yellowhammer State’s locally and state-maintained roads are in poor condition, while 16 percent earn a mediocre rating. Worse yet, about 7 percent of locally and state-maintained bridges are structurally deficient. Nearly half of Alabama’s bridges are over 50 years old and suffer from significant deterioration.

How it costs motorists

Bad roads cause extra vehicle operating costs due to vehicle damage and depreciation, tire wear, lost time, wasted fuel, and traffic crashes in which [roadways](#) played a significant role. For instance, traffic congestion in urban areas caused 37 annual hours of delay, costing each driver as much as \$990 in lost time and wasted gasoline. Roadway-related traffic accidents cost Alabama motorists a total of \$1.8 billion statewide and contributed to the state’s relatively [high fatality rate](#) on non-interstate rural roads. Alabama clocks in at 2.38 fatalities per 100 million miles travel, versus a national average of 0.87.

Gasoline taxes

Much of the state’s annual transportation budget is put towards preserving the existing roadways, with only \$150 million available for projects. However, in March, Gov. Kay Ivey signed into law a 10-cent-per-gallon tax increase on gasoline — the first increase in 27 years. The previous gas tax was at 18 cents per gallon, but lost its purchasing power due to inflation and increased fuel economy. The increase will phase in over a three-year period. It’s meant to give the state more money to put towards road improvements.

Fenn Church, a board chairman of the Alabama Trucking Association, strongly supports the increase. With trucks hauling \$432 billion in [goods](#) to and from Alabama every year, road quality is a major factor for trucking companies. Congested and poorly maintained roads drive trucking companies away and could hamper related industries, like retail, agriculture, and manufacturing. He believes that the trucking industry will save three to four times as much for paying the tax.

Florida Street to close again for three weeks

Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Apr 25, 2019 | [Latest News](#) | [0](#) | *reprinted with permission from Lagniappe.*

A section of Florida Street in Midtown will be closed again, the city’s traffic engineering department confirmed in a statement Thursday afternoon.

Florida Street between Old Shell Road will be closed again, this time for three weeks, starting Monday, April 29. The street, which is home to several business, has been closed before, due to ongoing drainage work along the corridor. The city will allow access to those businesses, according to the statement.

Business owners along the corridor have previously voiced concerns over the time the work has taken.

ALDOT's South Baldwin condemnation cases get trial dates

Posted by [John Mullen](#) | Apr 24, 2019 | [Baldwin County](#), [Latest](#) | [0](#) | *reprinted with permission from Lagniappe.*

The state has upped its cash offer on at least two land condemnations along the route for a new South Baldwin road that ends with a third bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway between Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

Attorney Warren Herlong, who [initially represented owners of seven properties the state has acquired](#), still has four remaining and only two set for trial. And in those two cases, the state's offer has slightly increased since September.

One of the most important pieces of property contains about 135 acres and will be the south landing of the bridge and its vital intersection with Canal Road. It is owned by Laura Almaroad, Wanda Dickman and Joy Sprunger, and they are represented by Herlong. Initially they were offered about \$3.8 million for their property, but an updated offer letter now puts the amount at \$4.3 million.

"What is happening there is they are taking a certain amount of acres, but then they are denying access to the remaining acreage," Herlong said. "The state is offering compensation for that denial of access and we certainly want to be compensated."

Another of his cases, 8.38 acres owned by Tony and Patricia Diliberto, has also had an increase in its offer from the state as well. The first offering was for \$405,000, but the updated number on that property, which contains a large house, some rental property and other outbuildings, is now \$440,000. Tony Diliberto is a retired Gulf Shores firefighter.

"[For] Diliberto, it's about the amount of just compensation. What the state offered is public record, and I can tell you that," Herlong said. "But what we contend is the appropriate amount I can't divulge yet. As to what our position is, that's got to be kept under wraps for the time being."

Diliberto said during a public meeting on the bridge in November that he was for the project.

"I've got a bullseye on my home," Diliberto said. "I'm losing my home and I've lived in it for 40 something years and I'm still in favor of it."

Herlong's other two cases are Doyce and Shirley Ellenberg, who were offered \$1.285 million for 21.25 acres, and the Williams Joseph Evans Revocable Trust, which was offered \$737,150 for its property. Those numbers were not updated and remain the same as they were in September. The Diliberto case has a September trial date and the Evans case has a November trial date.

Attorney Richard Davis has two cases in circuit court including the owners of Pandion Ridge who have land on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) initially offered them just under \$3.7 million for 49.75 acres. On the north side of the waterway, where the bridge footing is planned, the state offered Coastal Resort Properties of North Carolina \$943,150 for 29 acres. Pandion Ridge has a pre-trial conference scheduled for June 6 and Coastal Resort Properties has a trial date of Sept. 9.

The Baldwin County Bridge Company, a subsidiary of the company that owns the Foley Beach Express, was offered \$9,750 for 0.13 acres and it is also awaiting a court date.

Former ALDOT engineer tapped for city position

Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Apr 23, 2019 | [Latest](#), [News](#) | [0](#) | *reprinted with permission from Lagniappe.*

Mayor Sandy Stimpson today announced the hiring of Vincent E. Calametti as Major Projects Director for the City of Mobile.

"We are very fortunate to have a team of talented public servants who are willing to help us build a better future for the City of Mobile," Stimpson said. "Vince is a proven leader who will be a great resource for our citizens as we deliver a series of major infrastructure projects in the years ahead."

In his new position, Calametti will have primary responsibility for the City's management of the Three Mile Creek Greenway Initiative, the Broad Street TIGER Grant and revitalization of the St. Louis Street Corridor.

Calametti previously was employed by Alabama Department of Transportation for 33 years. He spent six years as division engineer for the Southwest Division, which includes Mobile, Baldwin, Conecuh and Escambia counties. In that role, Calametti oversaw more than \$2.3 billion in projects and played a key role in the development of the Mobile River Bridge.

“In my career with ALDOT, I’ve had the opportunity to work with cities and counties across southwest Alabama as well as with officials from state and federal government,” Calametti said. “I have truly been inspired by the leadership of Mayor Stimpson and his team at the City of Mobile, and I’m excited for this opportunity.”

Calametti attended the University of South Alabama where he earned a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering in 1982. He is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer for the State of Alabama. During Mr. Calametti’s career, he worked four years with the Mississippi Highway Department, and the last thirty-three years with ALDOT where he retired earlier this year. He is married to Dr. Karen Calametti and they have two daughters.

Calametti will be paid \$30,000 per year in the supernumerary position.

The Downtown moda! Trolley Extends Route!

Beginning Monday, May 13, 2019 the Downtown moda! Trolley will extend its route to include the GM&O Building.

Moda! operates Monday thru Friday 7:00a.m.-3:00p.m. For Additional Information Call 251-344-6600 or visit the website at www.thewavetransit.com

Gotcha Mobility could replace LimeBike in Mobile

Posted by [Dale Liesch](#) | Apr 23, 2019 *reprinted with permission from Lagniappe*

Mobile could officially bring in a new bike share company as early as next week to replace LimeBike, which left earlier this year.

The Mobile City Council, per its rules, delayed a vote on a non-exclusive franchise agreement to allow Gotcha Mobility LLC to operate a bike rental service. The council delays most agenda items until they are read a second time.

City spokesman George Talbot said the contract allows Gotcha to operate no less than 200 and no more than 1,000 bikes citywide within 90 days of the approval of the agreement. The agreement began to take shape after LimeBike announced it was leaving in late February.

“We heard in the wake of LimeBike’s decision from a number of companies,” Talbot said. “Gotcha emerged as the best fit and we worked on a new agreement.”

While Gotcha has scooters in other markets, Talbot said the contract refers specifically to bikes, unless the state law changes.

Gotcha is app-based and dockless, meaning that the bikes will be very similar to LimeBike, Talbot said. However, the city has learned its lesson this time and has not entered into an exclusive franchise agreement with Gotcha.

In other business, the council approved a \$3,000 expenditure from Councilman Levon Manzie’s discretionary funds for the purchase of land to expand the Isom Clemons Civil Rights Memorial Park.

In addition to the \$3,000 from Manzie for the land that abuts the current park, Main Street Mobile at \$6,000 and County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood at \$18,000 are also contributing to the cause.

While Manzie called current plans to add features to the green space “cost prohibitive,” he does hope to phase in features after the land is purchased. Specifically, Manzie said he’d like to see a water feature or memorial on the property.

“I’m hopeful for a phased approach,” Manzie said. “I believe Mobile has a very rich civil rights history, although it’s often overshadowed by that of our sister cities. I’m open to ideas.”

Councilors discussed possibly allowing the county to take over the land and maintain the park, given that Ludgood provided the most funding for it. Manzie said he had no issue with that and would talk to Ludgood about it.

Councilman Fred Richardson said that the purchase of this property would allow Manzie and the city to make the current green space a proper park.

“The piece of land he’s working with is very small,” he said. “He has an opportunity now to accept more land.”

Isom Clemons was a former leader of the local Longshoremen’s union and a civil rights activist, Manzie said. The park that bears his name is across the street from the union’s building.

The council briefly discussed the possible expansion of the downtown entertainment district during a pre-conference meeting. Manzie asked that the council item be delayed for two weeks, while he and city negotiate.

Talbot said the city wants to either expand the eastern-most entertainment district to include the waterfront, or create a third district. He added that Mayor Sandy Stimpson's office approved of Manzie's plan to add parts of De Tonti Square into the eastern-most district.

Transportation Research

[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!
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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 in 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.