



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Volume 27, Number 9

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The US 45 Feasibility Study Stakeholders meeting was this week; see *Mobile MPO Updates*. The deadline for Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 applications is September 12<sup>th</sup>; see *Funding Opportunities*, possible new look for I-10 Mobile River Bridge and some Deficient Bridges in Alabama (including Mobile), plus gas prices go up this weekend *In The News*. This week's *Just for Fun* is about college football. **Check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!**

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

[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org)  check us out on FACEBOOK

## Mobile MPO Updates

### South Alabama Freight Forum (SAFF)

Last week, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission housed a freight forum which consisted of staff of local governments, and individuals that are involved in the freight community in South Alabama. The idea of the forum is to find out the problems in the freight community, and develop solutions. There is A LOT going on in Mobile right now with the channel to be dredged, Walmart, Airbus, Austal, and it all leads to trucks, and more trucks; they are the backbone of this country. In fact some key takeaways of the Federal Freight Conditions and Performance Report are:

- By the year 2045, the total value of freight in the United States is expected to nearly double that of 2012.
- Trucks move 64 percent of freight by ton and 69 percent of freight by value—by far the single largest mode.
- Intermodal Connectors provide the “last mile” linkage between freight facilities and the NHS.
- Since the year 2000, States have designated approximately 182 new freight intermodal connectors.
- The lack of safe truck parking in all States, and especially in and around large metropolitan areas, is a growing concern to truckers.

The forum was also an opportunity to inform the freight community about various surface infrastructure projects like Water Street, McDonald Road Extension, and the I-10 Mobile River Bridge. That agenda item actually seemed to have the most interest from the freight community; what projects are going to be done, and when.

Dr. Shashi Nambisan with the Alabama Transportation Institute ([ATI](#)) of the University of Alabama also presented. The ATI will have a program housed in the GulfQuest in the upcoming year. Dr. Nambisan spoke thoroughly on the economics of infrastructure. Both the economics of the infrastructure improvements, and the economics of not doing anything. The Alabama Transportation Institute will house a research and policy program at GulfQuest, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission will be supportive collaborators with the program. We look forward to it being kicked off in the fall of 2018.

In our efforts to update the freight element of the Long Range Transportation Plan, we have developed a freight survey to be shared with the freight community. The results and data from this survey, will compliment data we purchased from INRIX, and the APM Terminal Survey, to give a snap shot of where trucks are coming from and going to. In the travel demand modeling world, this is an important piece of information.

Below is the link to online freight survey (*which goes live today*) and the presentations. Please forward the link to anyone that may have interest in providing input.

<http://www.mobilempo.org/freightplanning.html>

### US 45 Feasibility Study

This week, the final stakeholder meeting was held for the *US 45 Feasibility Study*, with a disappointing turn out. However, we do appreciate Mayor Gardner of Prichard and Mobile Councilmember Fred Richardson for all of their participation in the study. The presentation and maps can be found [HERE](#), and by the end of the September the final report will be available as well.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> there was a public input meeting at the Prichard City Hall, with an introduction from the City of Prichard Mayor, Mayor Jimmie Gardner. Despite the weather, we had a pretty good turnout. Several comments were made pertaining to the study, and we gained some

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good input. June 28<sup>th</sup> was the first public meeting for the US 45 Feasibility Study, and was held at Leflore High School. The meeting was well attended by nearly 70 people. Mobile City Councilman Levon Manzie was on hand to guide the meeting and answer questions. Nick Amberger, the City of Mobile Engineer was also present and assisted in answering questions posed by the public. Mr. Drew Davis with Volkert and Mr. Clifton Lambert with CERM presented the attendees with preliminary ideas developed in previous Advisory Committee meetings. These included road diets, sidewalk improvements, bike lanes, and roundabouts at key intersections.

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## 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](#)

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## 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/>

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### Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

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

Project : 100052600 ( RW )

Federal aid number : STPMBF 7508 (600)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : MCGREGOR AVENUE WIDENING FROM AIRPORT BOULEVARD TO DAUPHIN STREET AND INSTALLATION OF A ROUNDABOUT AT DAUPHIN STREET

Old Engineers Estimate : \$2,359,130.00

New Engineers Estimate : \$2,750,000.00

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## Projects in Region Let August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

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### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

None at this time

### MOBILE COUNTY

- For constructing the Resurfacing, Driveway, and Parking Lots with ADA Curb Ramps at the MOWA Visitor Center. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$77,481 to \$94,699.
- For constructing the Relocation of Movable Barriers and Gate Arms on SR-188 at the J.A. Wintzell Memorial Bridge in Bayou La Batre. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,471,184 to \$1,798,114 .

### BALDWIN COUNTY

- For constructing the Interchange Modifications (Diverging Diamond) on I-10/SR-181; Roadway Improvements (Widening, Bridge Rail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe) on SR-181; and the Turn Lane Installation and Drainage Improvements (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Traffic Signals, and Lighting) on SR-16 (US-90). Length 0.908 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$5,740,572 to \$7,016,254

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

## Legislative Updates

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### Transportation Appropriations

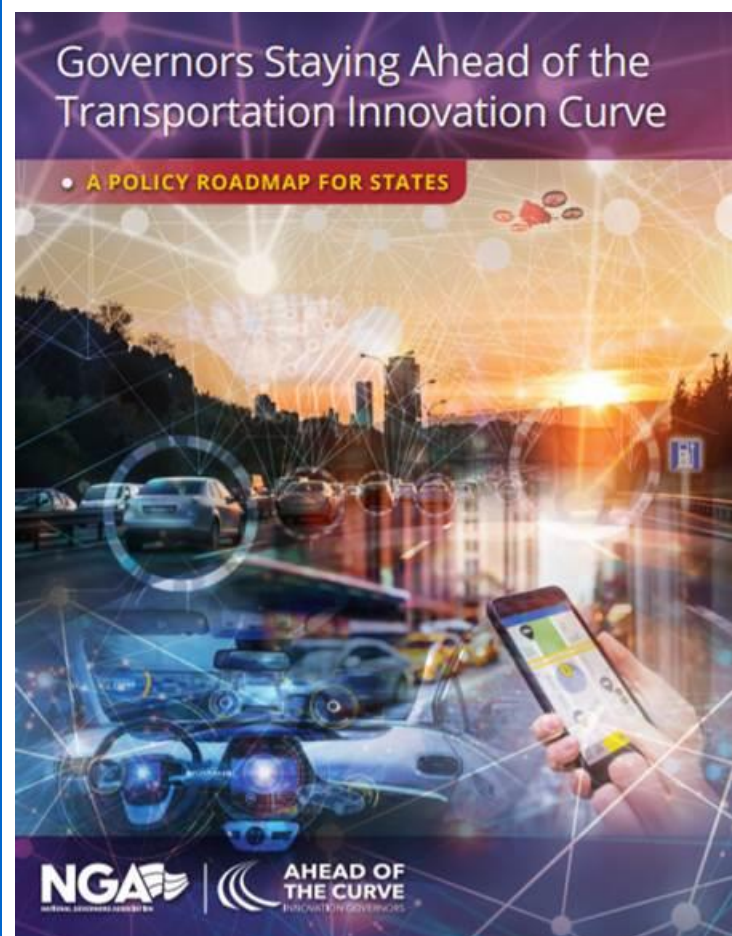
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairman of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee, told reporters this week she is disappointed by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 THUD bill allocation. She did not discuss specific budget numbers, but this indicates that the basic elements of a spending deal have not been settled, despite the Senate having already passed its version of the bill. The Senate's THUD bill would cut \$698 million from USDOT, and Collins' indications of disappointment may indicate further cuts. The House THUD bill increased transportation funding. The overall numbers will have to be worked out and the House and Senate will have to conference the THUD bill to come to a final allocation.

With only 11 full legislative days in the month of September, Congress is in a time crunch to pass their own versions of each remaining appropriations bill, work together through a conference committee to reconcile their differences, and pass the final version through each chamber. A short-term continuing resolution is a near certainty to avoid a federal government shutdown.

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### Governors Staying Ahead of the Transportation Innovation Curve

The National Governors Association (NGA) released this policy roadmap as a part of the 2017-18 Chair's Initiative by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, Ahead of the Curve: Innovation Governors. The report discusses seven strategies for governors and dives into concerns and benefits of various transportation technologies such as autonomous vehicles, electrified transportation, and ride-sharing. Opportunities for action are highlighted under each strategy. Report [HERE](#)



## Funding Opportunities

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### Applications for FTA 5310 Funds for the Mobile Urban Area *deadline September 12, 2018*

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is responsible for the management and administration of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Area Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Transportation program in the Mobile Urbanized Area. The goal of the 5310 Program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available. The FTA 5310 Program provides financial assistance for transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

This program provides grant funds for capital, mobility management, and operating expenses for:

- Public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable;
- Public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Public transportation projects that improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance on complementary paratransit; and
- Alternatives to public transportation projects that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities and with transportation.

Eligible Recipients for the Mobile Urban Area 5310 funds include:

- Private non-profit agencies providing transportation services that meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Local governmental agencies approved by the state to coordinate service for the seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Governmental authorities certifying that no non-profit organizations are readily available in an area to provide the service.

SARPC will accept grant applications until September 12, 2018 at noon for Fiscal Year 2019 Mobile Urban Area 5310 funds. Please read the guidelines and application before attempting to complete it. The guidelines and application can be found online at <http://mobilempo.org/5310.html>.

Technical assistance is available on an as needed basis. If you have questions or to request technical assistance, please contact Monica Williamson at (251)706-4613 or email [mwilliamson@sarpc.org](mailto:mwilliamson@sarpc.org).

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### **[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](#)

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### **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements**

On July 19, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program that includes more than **\$318 million in grant funding** from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. **Applications for funding under this solicitation are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT, September 17, 2018.** To view the NOFO, visit <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1120>. FRA plans to provide web-based training and technical assistance to applicants to address questions – see CRISI webinar info section below.

- The CRISI grant program directs much needed critical investment to rural America. By directing at least 25 percent of available funds towards rural communities, the USDOT/FRA is able to safely connect and upgrade rural America's rail infrastructure.
- In addition, selection preference will be given to projects with a 50-percent non-federal funding match from any combination of private, state, or local funds. USDOT/FRA will also consider how well the project aligns with key USDOT/FRA objectives including supporting economic vitality; leveraging federal funding; preparing for life-cycle costs; using innovative approaches to improve safety and expedite project delivery; and holding grant recipients accountable for achieving specific, measurable outcomes.

#### **CRISI Webinar Info**

The FRA will host webinars on **August 8, 2018**, to aid eligible entities seeking funding. Those interested in participating can **register** at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1117>, and FRA encourages participants to submit questions in advance.

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### **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](#)

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### 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](http://www.grants.gov).

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## Just For Fun

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### College Football is here

Today is August 31<sup>st</sup>, the day that Governor Kay Ivey asked everyone to show there school pride for the kick off of college football season and wear their school colors [HERE](#). There is a lot of red and white and blue and orange in schools and offices today. But what about transportation, and school pride? Let’s look at some “tailgating” rides:



LSU Fans actually set this Auburn van on fire [HERE](#)



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## In the News

# New images of what new Mobile River Bridge could look like



[Lee Peck](#) Aug 28, 2018 Updated Aug 30, 2018

Brand new developments in a story that affects people on both sides of the bay. A fresh look at what the proposed Mobile River Bridge could look like and what it could cost to use it. Travel down Interstate-10 and you'll likely hit traffic. It's a problem the new Mobile River Bridge Project hopes to resolve.

"Everybody knows the problems that exist with I-10 and Wallace Tunnel. The #1 question we get is when are you going to start," said Matt Ericksen, Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project Director.

Updating the community Tuesday night, Ericksen says the finish line is within reach. He also showed them new conceptual images of what the new bridge could look like. With the goal to increase capacity -- the proposed bridge will have six lanes (3 lanes in each direction). Construction on the two-billion dollar project is scheduled to start by early 2020.

"This project will be one of the largest in the nation. It's a problem that has to be fixed. I-10 is a national corridor," said Ericksen.

It also calls to completely re-build the Bayway -- expanding it from four lanes to eight (four lanes in each direction).

"Based on new federal requirements the new Bayway would have to be built to withstand impact of 100-year storm surge event. The Bayway will now be approximately 10 feet higher than the existing," explained Ericksen.

While there's still talk of a bike and pedestrian lanes, a new bridge won't be feasible without a toll. A toll rate has yet to be decided, but they expect it to cost anywhere from \$3 to \$6 to use it. The toll would not start until the bridge is complete and operational in 2025. The new bridge would have a vertical clearance of 215 feet and a lookout tower with public access for viewing. Here's how it compares to other bridges:

Cochrane-Africatown Bridge: 155 feet

Crescent City Bridge, New Orleans: 170 feet

Golden Gate Bridge: 220 feet

Once the environmental phase is complete, requests for proposals are expected to go out in early next year to the short list of three teams vying to build the bridge. The team selected will have to operate and maintain the bridge for the next 50 years.

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## Process of buying property for new bridge moving forward

[Steve Alexander](#) Aug 29, 2018 Updated 23 hrs ago

We're continuing to bring you the latest developments on a new Mobile River Bridge. A new conceptual video is out showing what the bridge might look like. Meantime, work is already underway buying up property that stands in the way of where the new bridge will be built. The new video put out by Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project shows a concept of what the bridge could look like. You're heading east from Mobile 215 feet in the air, passing landmarks like the RSA Tower and Austal. Construction on the bridge is almost two years away, but bridge officials say they're already in the phase of purchasing the property needed to build the span.

Allison Gregg with the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project said, "There is a right of way process where we actually have to purchase property to build the bridge. And folks who are in that area where the property will be purchased, they have already been contacted by ALDOT."

FOX10 News has learned one of the businesses notified is Southern Fish and Oyster, right next to the cruise terminal. While property is bought, bridge officials wait for the federal government to release an environmental impact statement, which directly affects people in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

Gregg said, "Its the wildlife, the water quality, but also lighting for the residents lighting noise. What are those impacts are they going to have on the communities in both sides of the bridge as well as both sides of the bay?"

Bridge officials hope that will be released later this year or early next year. It will also look at the impact of raising the Bayway to guard against storm surges.

Gregg said, "It will actually be ten feet higher and it will be double the width. So, the new Bayway will go in the middle of the existing Bayway and it actually has to go in that area because that land has already been disrupted."

Last night, the project director spoke at a community meeting, and heard from anxious motorists.

Among the comments: "I'm encouraged with the progress that our community is making," and, "Hopefully, when it's finally finished, it will help with that traffic."

Project officials may be anxious, too. They've even drawn an outline of the bridge on a window in their upper floor office. The completion date for the bridge is still set for sometime in 2025.

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## St Joseph Street is two way

Elizabeth Pinckney Stevens (Downtown Alliance)

One more block of St Joseph Street is two way. One more step in the March of righting the wrong of one way street patterns Downtown. Anybody know what the stated purpose for this was? To get people out of downtown and to suburban bliss as fast as possible. This goal is printed in the city's plan from 40+ years ago! Amazing how times have changed - toward proper urbanist principles.



Also, warning to all!! If you park going this direction in this block of St. Joseph Street, you are very likely to get a ticket. Remember the rule of not crossing the solid yellow line? Not sure how southbound people are supposed to get in the Trustmark Parking Garage without crossing the solid yellow line, but that's another matter.



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**Report says 1,200 bridges in Alabama are structurally deficient**



## Report says 1,200 bridges in Alabama are structurally deficient

BY STAFF WRITER ON AUGUST 24, 2018 SLIDER STATE

The [American Road and Transportation Builders Association](#) released a [report](#) earlier this year on deficient bridges in the United States, saying 1,200 bridges in Alabama are structurally deficient.

According to the [report](#), there are 16,128 bridges in the state, and 1,200 of those bridges (7.4 percent) are structurally deficient. Alabama ranked [number 17 overall](#) in the U.S.

Some experts believe Alabama's infrastructure problems might cause harm to the state's economic development efforts, and several of the top-tier state office candidates have commented on how badly the state needs an infrastructure boost.

"Portions of our interstate are simply uncomfortable to drive upon, various bridges in every portion of the state are too dangerous for use, and, as someone who travels a great deal through rural Alabama, I can attest that the roads often feel like driving on broken pie crust," Guntersville-Republican, State Rep. and Lieutenant Governor candidate [Will Ainsworth wrote](#).

[Shashi Nambisan](#), executive director of the [Alabama Transportation Institute at the University of Alabama](#), told the [Alabama Newscenter](#), that statistics show the state's infrastructure needs action now.

"Over the last 25 years, there has been a tremendous increase in population, about 20 percent, (an) increase in the number of registered vehicles across the state and, most importantly, the vehicle miles driven across the state," Nambisan [said](#). "At the same time, we have had just a nominal 14 percent increase in the capacity, the number of new lanes or new lane miles that have been added."

Some of the most traveled bridges in the state in need of repairs are in the Jefferson and Mobile counties, two of the most populated counties in the state.

### Top Most Traveled Structurally Deficient Bridges in Alabama

County	Year Built	Daily Crossings	Type of Bridge <sup>4</sup>	Location
Jefferson	1970	136,580	Urban Interstate	I-65 over U.S. 11, RR*City Streets
Mobile	1964	89,120	Urban Interstate	I-10 WB * EB over Halls Mill Creek
Mobile	1966	79,430	Urban Interstate	I-10 WB * EB over Southern Drain Canal
Jefferson	1972	77,385	Urban Interstate	I-59/20 over US 31, RRs*City Streets
Jefferson	1968	41,990	Urban Interstate	I-59/20 over Arron Aronov Drive

[Photo Credit: American Road and Transportation Builders Association National Bridge Inventory: Alabama]

### Other key findings of the report were:

- 20 structurally deficient bridges in the state are on the Interstate Highway System.
- Over the last five years, bridge investment has accounted for 26.3 percent of highway and bridge contract awards in the state, compared to an average of 28.9 percent nationwide.<sup>2</sup>
- Over the last 10 years, 872 new bridges have been constructed in the state; 90 have undergone major reconstruction.
- The state has identified needed repairs on 8,572 bridges; which the state estimates will cost \$15.3 billion.

## Gas prices up for Labor Day; officials urge safety, sobriety this weekend

The News Courier



If you plan on hitting the road for Labor Day weekend, it's going to cost you more to get from here to there.

According to [GasBuddy.com](http://GasBuddy.com), prices are set to be at their highest level since 2014. The group estimated the average American would need to work an extra hour and 48 minutes to earn enough money to fill up their tank.

Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, said it has already been a more painful summer in terms of gasoline costs as opposed to the last few. He anticipated prices would gradually decline in the weeks ahead as demand begins to slow, but that may depend on if any major hurricanes disrupt oil operations in the Gulf.

"Next year may follow in this year's footsteps with higher Labor Day gas prices, so what we're upset about this year could bring nostalgic memories next year," he said. "Enjoy it while it lasts."

According to AAA, the national average price-per-gallon Thursday was \$2.838. In Alabama, the price was \$2.533. In Athens, prices ranged from \$2.43 at Murphy USA to \$2.47 at the Citgo station at the corner of U.S. 72 and Audubon Lane.

### **Plan ahead**

Drivers are urged to use caution due to an anticipated increase in travelers combined with the official start of college football season.

According to two new reports released by SafeWise, Alabama is the second-deadliest state for driving, with 21.3 car crash fatalities per 100,000 people. In addition, Alabama ranked fifth for impaired driving deaths at 6.60 per 100,000. Only Mississippi ranked higher with 23.1 car crash fatalities per 100,000.

To help traffic flow on interstates, the Alabama Department of Transportation announced there would be no temporary road closures from noon today through midnight Monday, though emergency lane closures may be possible. Lowered speed limits may be in place in areas where improvements are underway, including Interstate 65.

ALDOT noted four out of every five work-zone fatalities are motorists. The agency offered these tips to keep in mind:

- Don't tailgate: Maintain a safe distance between you and other vehicles;
- Slow down and pay attention: If you're speeding, you may encounter slowed or stopped traffic within seconds. Watch for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and construction material; and
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing a seat belt: Surviving a crash is much more likely when wearing a seat belt. The latest stats from Drive Safe Alabama show that almost 60 percent of the people who die in crashes on Alabama highways are not wearing seat belts.

### **Drive sober**

Those who plan to stay home and attend football watch parties should know police departments will be on high alert for drunk drivers this weekend. Athens Police Chief Floyd Johnson said his department would have a few extra vehicles out, and he cautioned anyone who planned to drink to simply stay at home.

Huntsville's DUI Task Force will also conduct traffic safety points through Monday. Hot spot locations will include Jordan Lane, Sparkman Drive, Pulaski Pike, Church Street, Pratt Avenue, Clinton Avenue, Monroe Street, University Drive, Research Park Boulevard and Slaughter Road.

Drivers who are stopped should be prepared to present their driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle tag registration to officers.

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## **Officers ALDOT asks motorists to plan ahead for Labor Day travel**

Aug 29, 2018

MONTGOMERY — Officials with the Alabama Department of Transportation urge motorists to drive safely as the Labor Day holiday and college football games are expected to bring an increase in vehicles to Alabama's highways this weekend.

As an added precaution during the heavily traveled holiday, ALDOT is doing its part for safety by having no temporary lane closures on Alabama interstates after noon on Friday through midnight on Monday.

Emergency lane closures may be possible depending on specific circumstances on interstates and other state roadways.

Road improvement and maintenance projects are in place along several segments of Interstate 65 and Interstate 85 throughout Alabama. Lowered speed limits and construction material may remain in place in some areas, depending upon road conditions.

ALDOT offers these tips for driving safely in work zones:

- Don't tailgate. Maintain a safe distance between you and other vehicles.
- Slow down and pay attention. If you're speeding, you may encounter slowed or stopped traffic within seconds. Watch for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and construction material.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing a seat belt. Surviving a crash is much more likely when wearing a seat belt. Latest stats from Drive Safe Alabama show that almost 60 percent of people dying in crashes on Alabama highways are not wearing a seat belt.

More safe driving tips are available on the Drive Safe Alabama Facebook page.

Motorists planning their holiday travel route can find Alabama traffic and road condition information at [www.ALGOtraffic.com](http://www.ALGOtraffic.com), or by downloading the ALGO Traffic app.

## Transportation Research

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### **Analysis of Congestion Scenarios in Long Range Plans Using Travel Forecasting Models**

A recent FHWA report describes the process of developing, analyzing, and displaying results of a scenario forecasting process using travel demand models. It strives to inform MPOs and state DOTs on scenario building methods using the Travel Time Index (TTI) and regional long-range planning models, and includes a step-by-step section to produce calculations using a trip-based model and explores the question of “what would it take to not let congestion get worse?” [HERE](#)

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### **Updated Report Tracks 209 Transportation Funding Bills in 39 States**

by Carolyn Kramer

One-time funding measures, primarily bonds or general fund transfers, are the most popular type of state transportation investment legislation introduced since the start of 2018, according to the Transportation Investment Advocacy Center's™ (TIAC) latest tracking report.

Twenty measures to increase transportation infrastructure funding have been approved in 15 states, among a total of 209 bills considered in 39 statehouses tracked by TIAC.

Other popular funding mechanisms introduced this year include:

- Allowing local transportation funding, 41 bills in 14 states.
- Providing non-fuel tax recurring revenue, including tolls, vehicle registration fees, and sales taxes, 36 bills in 17 states. Five bills in Kansas, Utah, Oregon and Connecticut were approved.
- Increasing state motor fuel taxes, 25 bills in 11 states. Only one state- Oklahoma- approved a measure to increase the state gas tax. Oklahoma's 5 cents-per-gallon increase goes to the Roads Fund, which frees up General Fund revenue to be used for education purposes.
- Establishing a study or task force to investigate the state's current transportation funding system and make suggestions for improvements to create more sustainable revenue sources, 18 bills in 13 states.
- Altering electric and hybrid vehicle fees, 13 bills in nine states.

While many state legislatures have adjourned for the year, 12 are still in session, and several— including Maine and Mississippi— are considering special sessions to address unfinished transportation funding proposals. Ballot measures are also pending in Missouri, Colorado, Connecticut, California, and Virginia.

[Read](#) the report to see more details about what is happening in each statehouse.

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AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
SAMUEL GINN COLLEGE  
OF ENGINEERING

Federal Highway Administration  
Alabama Department of Transportation  
Alabama Technology Transfer Center  
And the Department of Civil Engineering

*presents the*

2018  
ALABAMA  
RURAL ROAD SAFETY  
CONFERENCE

October 2 - 4, 2018



Host Location  
Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge  
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**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

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**Strategic Transit Automation Research Plan**

FTA has published its final [Strategic Research Transit Automation \(STAR\) Plan](#). The STAR Plan outlines an FTA research agenda for transit bus automation over five years and provides a framework for the transit industry to pursue transit bus automation. Additionally, it defines activities in the areas of enabling research, integrated demonstrations, and strategic partnerships. The plan focuses on stakeholder engagement, knowledge transfer, and technical assistance to ensure that complementary work being done by the public sector, private sector, and academia is effectively communicated and leveraged.

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**[Identification of High Pedestrian Crash Locations](#)**

This FHWA guidebook presents a process to help state and local agencies identify high pedestrian crash locations and includes a literature review, case studies, and other research needed to develop a five-step process.

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## New ADA Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Compliance App

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## 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.