



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Volume 11, Number 4

## In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET JULY 25TH, 2014
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- JUST FOR FUN
- IN THE NEWS
- TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

## Recently Completed Planning Studies

[Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones](#)

[Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#)

[Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study](#)

## Contact Us

<http://www.mobilempo.org>  
[transportation@sarpc.org](mailto:transportation@sarpc.org)

Kevin Harrison, PTP  
Director of Transportation  
[kharrison@sarpc.org](mailto:kharrison@sarpc.org)

Tom Piper  
Senior Transportation Planner  
[tpiper@sarpc.org](mailto:tpiper@sarpc.org)

Monica Williamson  
Transportation Planner  
[mwilliamson@sarpc.org](mailto:mwilliamson@sarpc.org)

Anthony Johnson  
Transportation Planner  
[ajohnson@sarpc.org](mailto:ajohnson@sarpc.org)

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

Well it happened, Congress accomplished something. Congress gave final approval last night to a Highway Trust Fund bailout, bypassing a crisis that could have jeopardized road-building projects across the country. Please see *Legislative Updates*.

In case you missed it, the Draft EIS for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge has been approved by the FHWA and public meetings have been announced; *please see* <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

This coming Wednesday (August 6<sup>th</sup>) is [the Title VI workshop](#) at GMO at 10:30. The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met this week and the Mobile MPO Policy Committee will meet on August 20<sup>th</sup>, see *Mobile MPO Updates*. This weeks' *Just For Fun* is good, if you like kaleidoscopes....

Have great weekend

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



[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org) check us out on FACEBOOK  
706-1CAR

## Mobile MPO Updates

### The Alabama Department of Transportation's Compliance and Business Opportunities Bureau Presents a Series of Informational Sessions on Title VI-Nondiscrimination Sub-Recipient Responsibilities

(August 6th, 2014 10:30AM)

Each session will provide a general overview of the 3 topics of discussion and their direct correlation with the public-at-large and the sub-recipient requirements. The sessions are aimed at educating all sub-recipients of Federal financial assistance through ALDOT, of their responsibility to use the funds in a nondiscriminatory manner.

**Who Should Attend:** Any administrative entity or person to whom federal assistance is indirectly extended either through ALDOT or another sub-recipient and whose conduct is subject to Title VI/nondiscrimination requirement and compliance obligations. Sub-recipients include, but are not limited to, metropolitan planning organizations, rural planning organizations, local government agencies, county engineers, city planners, ALDOT consultants, and colleges/universities.

Please click [HERE](#) for more information. Any questions or comments regarding these sessions may be directed to ALDOT's Title VI Coordinator, **Mr. Cornell Tatum at (334) 213-1274 or [TatumCl@dot.state.al.us](mailto:TatumCl@dot.state.al.us)**.

### TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As you may recall we contracted with SARCOR with Nelson Nygaard to develop a Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the Mobile MPO study area. We received a draft of the document and are currently reviewing it. Once we get comments from the WAVE Transit, the document will be available for public review, starting next week hopefully. The TDP is going to be the focus of the Transit Element of the *Destination 2040* Long Range Transportation Plan, and will be adopted as part of LRTP.

### WHO IS ON THE BAYWAY?

Last week we received data from [Airsage](#) that gives us a look at who was on the Bayway and Causeway on July 2. If you recall we did this on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 which was a typical Fall Wednesday. We are calling July 2 a typical Summer Wednesday. Generally of the cell phones captured, 27% live in Baldwin County, 29% live in Mobile County, which leaves 44% of the folks on the Bayway were from all over the country (A lot of AL, TX, LA, FL and a few surprises). Not surprisingly, that number (44%) was a lot less in November (28%).

### MPO and TCC/CAC Meetings

The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met this week and

recommended to adopt the FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and various projects into the FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Mobile MPO will vote on the recommendations on August 20, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room. Projects to be included into the TIP are:

**Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310** (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Funds projects recommend for approval. The projects selected include:

- The City of Bayou La Batre - \$44,600 federal funds for a 15 passenger van
- Mobile ARC \$173,000 federal funds for operating assistance for public transit for disabled clients
- AHEPA - \$40,000 federal funds for a 15 passenger van
- Mercy Life - \$64,000 federal funds for a 28-30 passenger bus
- Mobile Bay Transportation Company - \$64,964 for two vans and \$21,563 for operating assistance for public transit for elderly and disabled clients

**HSIP Funds**

- ROW, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$208,000
- UT, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$48,048
- CN, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$1,248,000

We were going to include the FY2014 TAP grant awards into the TIP scheduled for 2015, but ALDOT does not have them scheduled to let until 2016. They will be included in the TIP when the new 2016-2020 TIP is adopted next year.

Copies of the proposed fiscal year 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which details the federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Mobile urban area in FY 2015 by the Alabama DOT, the Wave Transit System, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, are available for public review and comment at the following locations:

- South Alabama Regional Planning Comm., 110 Beauregard Street
- Alabama DOT, Division Engineer, 1701 N. Beltline Hwy., Mobile
- The Wave Transit System, 110 Beauregard Street
- Mobile Community Action, Prichard
- Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government Street, Mobile
- All Public Libraries within the study area
- All Public Housing Offices within the study area
- Mobile City/County Government Complex, 9th Floor, City Clerk's Office
- Prichard City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Chickasaw City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Saraland City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Satsuma City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Creola Town Hall, Clerk's Office
- Bayou La Batre City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Semmes City Hall, Clerk's Office

Comment forms are included with the documents at each location listed above. A copy of the documents may be purchased for a nominal copying fee from the Transportation Planning Coordinator at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 433-6541. Written comments regarding the program are welcome prior to that date and should be submitted to:

Transportation Planning Coordinator  
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
P. O. Box 1665  
Mobile, AL 36633-1665  
(FAX 433-6009).

Physically challenged persons who need special accommodations should contact SARPC in advance so arrangements can be made to meet their needs.

**Destination 2040**

The MPO Staff is continuing to develop the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan titled Destination 2040. The objective of the plan is to identify, to the maximum extent feasible, the multi-modal transportation improvements which will be needed in the Mobile urban area between now and the year 2040 in order to maintain an acceptable level of mobility. The plan is multi-modal in scope, encompassing long-range plans for highway, public transportation, and bicycle/pedestrian networks. Regional growth, economic development, and accessibility within the study area along with environmental concerns necessitate that the long-range plan addresses not only improved vehicular travel but also improvements to other modes of transportation such as bicycling and walking. Preservation of the existing transportation system coupled with enhancement of all modal choices will contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life in the region. You can learn more about the plan [HERE](#).

## Projects Within Region Let July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**MOBILE COUNTY**

for constructing the New Concrete Loading Ramp to include General Improvements to the Boat Docking Facilities for the

Mobile Ferry Dock

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY

for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Deere Creek Road from the intersection of James Road to the intersection of Jones Road (Site #1) and on James Road from the intersection of Jones Road to the intersection of SR-3 (US-31) (Site #2). Length 1.969 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

## Legislative Updates

---

### Senate sends VA, transportation bills to Obama on eve of summer recess

By Josh Hicks and Ashley Halsey III July 31 at 10:00 PM

In a sprint to the finish line before a five-week break, the Senate on Thursday night approved bills to aid the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs and to extend federal highway funding through May.

On veterans affairs, senators voted 91 to 3 to approve legislation injecting more than \$16 billion into VA to help deal with extensive treatment delays and a recent record-keeping scandal.

Republican Sens. Bob Corker (Tenn.), Tom Coburn (Okla.) and Jeff Sessions (Ala.) voted no because the legislation lacked spending cuts to match the new funding.

On transportation, the Senate voted 81 to 13 in favor of an \$11 billion stopgap highway measure after weeks of squabbling with the House over the scope of the legislation. The bill, which replenishes the Highway Trust Fund, will keep about 6,000 state highway and transit projects rolling through next spring.

Both measures now go to President Obama for his signature. Democrats in the Senate had attempted to shorten the timeline for the highway bill so that a long-term transportation plan would be necessary by December — before a potential midterm GOP takeover of the chamber. But the House on Thursday stripped away those changes and sent the measure back to the Senate, where Democrats acquiesced.

"It's not because this is a better approach," Rep. Nick J. Rahall II (D-W.Va.) said Thursday about the House version. "But it does provide the only path forward."

Democrats believe that the federal government should continue to play a central role in transportation planning and funding. But if Republicans control both houses next year, they may seek to reshape transportation funding to reflect the philosophy known as devolution, which would allow states to raise and spend road and transit money unfettered by federal constraints. Continue [HERE](#)

---

### Senate sends highway bill to Obama

By Ramsey Cox

After the House rejected Senate changes, senators held their noses Thursday and voted 81-13 for a \$10.9 billion bill to fund highway projects through May 2015.

Earlier in the week, the Senate voted to amend the House-passed Highway Trust Fund bill, changing the length of the extension to December to pressure lawmakers to come up with a long-term solution after the midterm elections.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said it would have been "legislative malpractice" for the Senate to simply accept the House version without attempting to put its own stamp on the bill, but in the end there were enough senators to pass the House bill as is.

"Congress needs to act immediately to prevent a shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund ... Thousands of jobs are at stake here," ranking member Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said ahead of the vote. "The only viable solution is for the Senate to take up the House bill and pass it. ... We don't have any other options if we want to get this done before the recess."

The bill now heads to President Obama's desk for his signature. The White House has said it will accept the House legislation but would have preferred a \$302 billion four-year extension of highway funding.

Wyden said the House action was clear that it was "our way or no highway." If the Senate hadn't acted this week, the Highway Trust Fund would have gone bankrupt during the August recess.

The House's nine-month extension relies on so-called "pension smoothing" — a proposal that budget experts across the ideological spectrum have dubbed a budget gimmick — and boosting customs user fees to extend highway funding.

But Wyden suggested that less money should be used out of both those policies, and instead use tax revenue to pay for the shortfall, such as increasing tax compliance on home mortgage interest.

Republicans have objected to the Senate approach, arguing Congress should not empower the IRS, after its mishandling of applications for tax-exempt groups.

Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) also pointed out that the amended bill the Senate sent back to the House had a \$2 billion shortfall because of a typo in the legislation.

The trust fund gets its money from the 18.4-cents-per-gallon gas tax, which has struggled to keep pace with infrastructure spending. Some lawmakers have proposed raising the gas tax — which hasn't been increased in more than 20 years — in a six-year funding bill in order to avoid more shortfalls in the future.

— Keith Laing contributed to this article.

## Funding Opportunities

---

### **The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) has \$682,757 available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a grant program that develops community parks, trails and outdoor recreation projects. This program, through The U. S. Department of Interior, provides funding to Alabama cities and counties for the development or establishment of outdoor recreational areas. Projects include parks, playgrounds, forest and wildlife refuges, recreational lakes and ponds, outdoor playing fields, and picnic and camping areas. The deadline for the 2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund Pre-applications is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. If you have any questions, you may contact:

Maureen Neighbors  
Community Services Unit Chief  
Community and Economic Development Division  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
401 Adams Avenue | Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Post Office Box 5690 | Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690  
334.242.5467

More information and the grant application is available [HERE](#).

Also, there are more funding opportunities from the ADECA Energy Division are listed below. All proposals are due by Friday, September 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Eligibility should be verified before submitting a proposal.

1. [Energy Codes Training RFP](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from qualified applicants to provide training on the statewide commercial and residential energy codes*
2. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of K-12 Schools RFP](#) [Addendum A \(K-12 Schools\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from public school systems in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements in K-12 schools located within their jurisdiction*
3. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Non-Profit Organizations RFP](#) [Addendum A \(Non-Profit Organizations\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from non-profit organizations in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to their buildings*
4. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Wastewater Treatment Facilities](#) [Addendum A \(Wastewater Treatment Facilities\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from wastewater treatment facilities in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to wastewater systems.*

---

### **FY 2014-2015 SECTION 5310 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Modal Programs Bureau, is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for transit related services that assist the state's population of seniors & individuals with disabilities.

The following organizations are eligible to submit an application for the Section 5310 program:

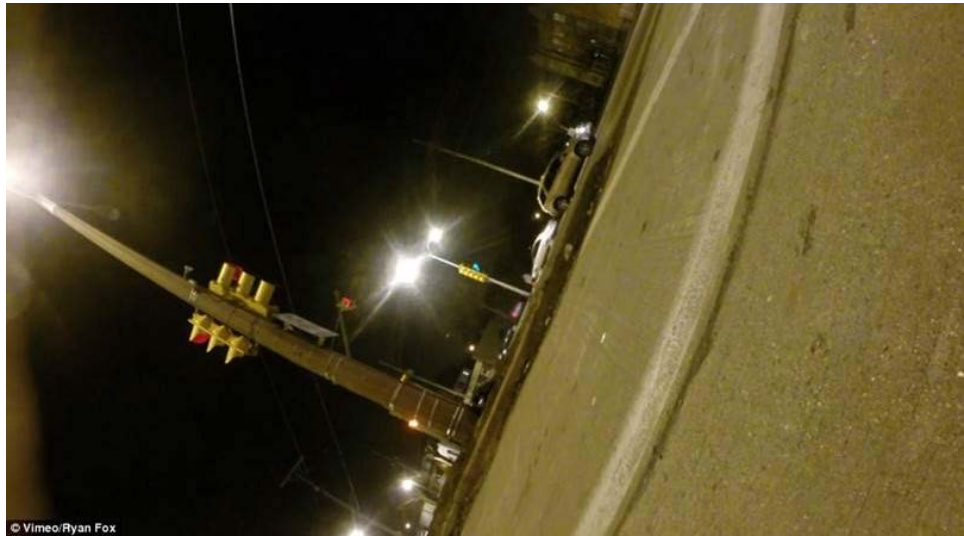
1. Private nonprofit organizations
2. Governmental agencies that provide certifications to ALDOT that transit services furnished by nonprofit organizations are not readily available in the area
3. Governmental agencies approved by the ALDOT to coordinate transit services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Applications are due to us (SARPC) by 5:00 PM August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Applications and guidelines can be found [\[HERE\]](#)

## Just For Fun

---

This week's installation of *Just For Fun* is worthless, and senseless. Well... not really senseless, because if you "start" to watch it, you have to wait to see how it ends. That is when you will get dizzy. So prepare to tickle your dizzy senses, and see what happens when you strap a GoPro camera to a car tire....



© Vimeo/Ryan Fox

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2708425/Buckle-GoPro-camera-attached-car-tire-captures-trippy-kaleidoscope-color-night-drive.html>

## In the News

### ALDOT releases environmental impact study online, government offices, libraries and community centers



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

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 30, 2014 at 9:00 AM, updated July 30, 2014 at 9:56 AM

MOBILE, Alabama -- The Alabama Department of Transportation has confirmed two public hearing dates for the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project.

The hearings will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the Alabama Cruise Terminal and Monday, Sept. 29 at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, both from 5pm-8pm.

More details on the public hearings, as well as the approved Draft Environmental Impact Statement, renderings, maps, and other information about the proposed project can be found on ALDOT's [MobileRiverBridge.com](http://MobileRiverBridge.com) information site.

For the entire draft EIS, [click here](#).

The first public hearing will mark the beginning of the public comment period. Those that would like to submit an official comment for review in the Final Environmental Impact Statement can do so in person at the hearings, online, or by mailing an official comment form to ALDOT's Mobile Area Office.

Comments must be received by Friday, Nov. 7. The comment forms will be available online on Sept. 23.

Hard copies of the Draft EIS can also be found at the following locations:

DEIS Hard Copies:

Alabama Department of Transportation – Mobile Office

Ben May Main Library (downtown Mobile)

Mobile MPO

Offices of the City of Mobile

Offices of Mobile County

Mobile Chamber of Commerce

Texas Street Community Center

Spanish Fort City Hall

Daphne City Hall

Fairhope City Hall

### **I-10 Bridge impact: 12 business to be relocated, Austal USA parking lot affected**



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

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 30, 2014 at 12:22 PM, updated July 30, 2014 at 12:26 PM

MOBILE, Alabama – Twelve businesses and parts of Austal USA and Harrison Brothers would be acquired under the preferred route for the Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge, according to a recently released federal study into the \$850 million bridge project.

But unlike the top alternative route for the bridge – Alternative B – the B-Prime (preferred) route does not affect Austal's recently completed administration building. It also has a lesser, but unknown, impact on the potential for the city of Mobile to attract a cruise ship to the Alabama Cruise Terminal.

In addition, the B-Prime route does not remove an old union hall building that would be required in the top alternative route. The hall, which is vacated, is considered a potential historic property that could be listed on the federal register.

The report's release by the Alabama Department of Transportation Wednesday comes ahead of two public meetings the state will hold on the I-10 bridge project: Sept. 23 at the Alabama Cruise Terminal and Monday, Sept. 29 at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Both are from 5pm-8pm.

For the complete report, go to [MobileRiverBridge.com](http://MobileRiverBridge.com).

The following are businesses that would be affected with the bridge's construction:

Delta Bail Bond Company, Outlaw Bail Bonding Company, Bond Max Bail Bonding Company, James Bail Bonding Company, James Darley Esq. Law Office, Bandit Bonding Company, Blackwell's Towing Company, South Royal Street Vacant Metal Building, South Royal Street Vacant Concrete Building, South Royal Street Vacant Metal Warehouse and Southern Fish & Oyster Company. Continue reading [\[HERE\]](#).

---

### **I-10 on-ramp at Battleship Parkway closed indefinitely after explosion**



By [Thyrie Bland | tbland@al.com](mailto:tbland@al.com)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 31, 2014 at 12:36 PM, updated July 31, 2014 at 6:50 PM

SPANISH FORT, Alabama — An Interstate 10 East on-ramp at Battleship Parkway is indefinitely closed as a result of a tanker truck fire early Thursday morning.

The truck that Carlos Lyles, 38, was driving hit a guardrail on the on-ramp at about 1 a.m. The truck then overturned and exploded, officials said.

"His eye was itching," Spanish Fort Police Department Detective Rick Chenowetch said. "He tried to rub his eye and moved his glasses. The next thing he knew he just kind of lost it."

Update: The latest on the ramp closure

The truck was carrying 7,700 gallons of premium gasoline and diesel, the Alabama Department of Transportation said.

"The amount of fuel caused the weight to shift and caused it to roll over," Chenowetch said.

Lyles escaped the truck by kicking out a window and climbing through it, Chenowetch said.

Battleship Parkway: Man killed in wreck on road earlier this week

Crews are working to clear the tanker from the ramp, said Kathryn Hamlett, a Department of Transportation spokeswoman

"We won't know the timeline for the repairs until the inspection is done," Hamlett said. "We are hoping that we will know more by tomorrow."

Inspectors are traveling from Montgomery to take a look at the ramp.

"They are checking it for structural integrity, basically," Hamlett said. "It does look like there is damage to both the barrier rail and the deck. There are going to have to be some repairs."

Leo Francendese, an Environmental Protection Agency on-scene coordinator, said most of the fuel was consumed by fire.

She said the rest of the fuel was being captured or remediated.

---

### Mobile City Council shows support for bicycle/pedestrian facilities on I-10 Bridge, but questions surface about costs and use



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

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 29, 2014 at 3:49 PM, updated July 29, 2014 at 10:27 PM

MOBILE, Alabama – While a majority of the Mobile City Council supports the concept of a pedestrian/bicycling facility across the I-10 Bridge in Mobile, they realize that plenty of questions remain.

Top among the list is the costs. If the bridge is estimated to cost \$850 million and one local leading planner says the pedestrian/bike path could be \$35 to \$40 million added to it.

Estimates are considered preliminary since the exact route of the bridge has not been determined, but at least one Mobile City Councilman believes a bike/pedestrian pathway could hinder the overall project.

"I would say that any increase in the cost of the this much awaited bridge is unnecessary," Councilman John Williams, the only "No" vote Tuesday on a resolution approved with a 5-1 vote supporting a bicycle/pedestrian facility on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge if state and federal officials determine it's feasible.

"We should not delay time or increase costs," Williams said. "We should move forward with the right decision to put a bridge in the right place and move personal travel along I-10."

A majority of the council believes it's worth the time and effort for the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to investigate whether the bicycle/pedestrian facilities are warranted.

"This isn't saying that this is a demand from the City Council," Councilman Levon Manzie, one of resolution's sponsors said. "This is a request to study. If the numbers of astronomical, then we don't move forward."

But Councilwoman Bess Rich, another of the resolution's sponsors, and Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson expressed their interest in seeing the facilities added to help propel the bridge into a tourist attraction that they say can rival the Golden Gate Bridge in California.

"It will be a tourist phenomenon," Rich said. "It's good for the community."

Stimpson agreed. Continue Reading [HERE](#)

---

### SEPTEMBER Multi-state Passenger Rail Meeting IN NEW ORLEANS

This afternoon, representatives from the Southern Rail Commission held a conference call with staff members of the Federal Railroad Administration to discuss and initiate formal coordination for a multi-state passenger rail meeting. The meeting will be primarily sponsored by the SRC.

**Where:** New Orleans Regional Planning Commission offices. 10 Veterans Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70124

**When:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (this year – 57 days from now)

**Time:** 10am to 2pm (tentative)

Agenda topics will tentatively include:

SRC will lead discussion regarding gulf coast passenger rail service restoration from New Orleans to Orlando

FRA will lead workshop/discussions on their recently announced funding for multi-state planning and ways to jointly apply for this funding.

Opportunities for individual states to share their rail planning, and discuss their opportunities and plans to connect with neighboring states

**Invitees:** To include key mayors from our gulf coast route, DOT representatives from each state, and Regional Planning Commissions from key cities that are actively working on rail projects.

**States involved:** - Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee

**Sponsor opportunities:** The Southern Rail Commission is the major sponsor, along with the FRA, and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission.

## Your Input is Needed

ADECA's Community and Economic Development Division is seeking your input with a couple of surveys. Notice a need in your community or notice barriers to fair-housing choice? Here is your chance to give your input via online survey. The surveys will be available until August 1, 2014. Each survey should take 10 minutes or less.

Community Needs Survey: This survey's goal is to identify needs in Alabama communities of all sizes that may be addressed by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that are made available to the state annually. The survey results will be incorporated into the five-year consolidated plan for CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds that are available to the state and managed by ADECA's Community and Economic Development Division.

[Click here to take the Community Needs Survey.](#)

Survey of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice: The goal of this survey is to identify barriers and adverse policies that may exist in home rentals and sales. Part of the study includes collecting the opinions and experiences of people involved in the housing industry and of housing consumers. The survey results will be included in a statewide "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice" required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

[Click here to take the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Survey.](#)

---

## Combined Intelligence - Working Together for Smarter Transportation

In September of 2014 the Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society (GRITS), the Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida (ITSFL) and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia (ITSGA), will come together for a joint annual meeting. Join us in 2014 for the ITS 3C Summit.

ITS 3C Summit

The conference will be held **September 14-17, 2014** at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center along the waterfront in Mobile, Alabama.

***Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center***

One South Water Street

Mobile, AL 36602

---

## Passenger Rail Study

A feasibility study regarding the restoration of passenger railroad service between Birmingham and Montgomery is now complete. The study examines the costs, benefits and projected ridership for a variety of potential routes and schedules and was completed with input from local officials and a survey of residents.