



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, January 23, 2015

Volume 13, Number 4

## In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2015
- 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)

DESTINATION 2040 PUBLIC MEETING this Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30 -7:00 pm at the GMO building. Staff will go over the projects of Destination 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan with the public. The Plan is set to be adopted at the March 4<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting. Please see *MPO Updates* The President's State of the Union speech was this week, and Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) are teaming up for what? See *Legislative Updates*. Street cars? In Mobile? That's *Just For Fun...* 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

### DESTINATION 2040

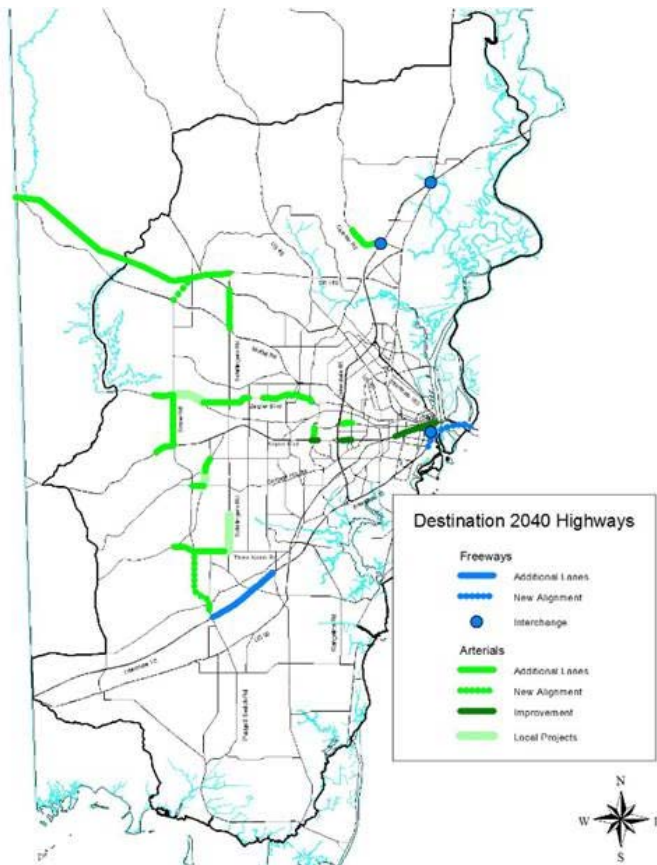
The Mobile MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, Destination 2040, will be adopted on March 4th, 2015. There will be a public meeting January 29th at 5:30 PM in the GMO building. The projects were reviewed with the MPO over the Summer, the document has been reviewed with the TCC/CAC and will be distributed to the Mobile MPO members shortly after the public meeting. The Plan includes not just future road improvements, but transit, bicycle / pedestrian and intersection type improvements with elements concerning environmental justice and climate change. There are over a Billion dollars' worth of road projects planned in the Mobile Urban Area in the next 25 years. A large portion of those funds are of course the I-10 Mobile River Bridge, which a funding source has not yet been identified.

Tom Piper  
Senior Transportation  
Planner  
tpiper@sarpc.org

Monica Williamson  
Transportation Planner  
mwilliamson@sarpc.org

Anthony Johnson  
Transportation Planner  
ajohnson@sarpc.org

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



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](#).

Also on the agenda at the Mobile MPO Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 is to rebalance the STP Attributable funding schedule, and discuss adding the following items to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We have to build a new TIP in the next couple of months, so there will be some discussion on that as well.

#### HSIP Funds

Construct offset left turn lanes and a WB right turn lane US98 at McCrary Road; 4/24/15; \$780,000

#### TAP Funds

Mobile County Commission CN of sidewalk along Burroughs Lane from Washington Blvd to Burroughs Elementary School 4/15/2015; \$15,000

### 3-C AGREEMENT

We are currently updating our 3-C Agreement for the Mobile MPO. The three "C"s are Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive which describe the MPO Planning process. We have had a 3-C agreement since the Mobile MPO's inception, and we are updating it because of the new federal transportation bill. Thank you for all those assisting us with that.

### Non-motorized Mobility study for Downtown Mobile

We have given Toole Design Group Notice to proceed on the Non-motorized Mobility study for Downtown Mobile. If you would like to be stakeholder, please let us know. There is going to be plenty

of time for public input as laid out in the scope of work [HERE](#).

---

### **I-10 Mobile River Bridge**

ALDOT has released the I-10 Mobile River Bridge Corridor Hearing Report Summary and it is now available online at [www.mobileriverbridge.com](http://www.mobileriverbridge.com). This report summarizes all of the comments that were received during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period in the Fall of 2014. The document suggests most of the support was for the B prime route. Although we are moving closer and closer to having a bridge, there are still several hurdles still to cross, including funding. For more information on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge:

ALDOT'S Web Site: <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

Build The I-10 Bridge Coalition Web Site: <http://www.buildthei10bridge.com/>

## **Projects Within Region Let January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

---

### **Baldwin County**

- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-42 (US-98) from just north of the intersection of Scenic Route US-98 to just west of CR-65. Length 10.482 mi.
- for constructing the Intersection Improvements (Grade, Drain, and Pave) at SR-180 and SR-161 in Orange Beach. Length 0.303 mi.
- for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-287 from the junction of SR-3 (US-31) to the intersection of SR-59 in Bay Minette. Length 1.925 mi.
- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on CR-2 (Gulf State Park Road Two) from the junction of SR-135 to the junction of SR-182 in Gulf Shores. Length 3.013 mi.

### **Mobile County**

- for constructing the Widening, Drainage Improvements, Resurfacing, Guardrail Installation, and Traffic Stripe on CR-70 (Tanner Williams Road) from the junction of CR-5 (Wilmer Road North) to a point 1200 feet west of the junction of Eliza Jordan Road North. Length 4.795 mi.
- for constructing the Widening, Drainage Improvements, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Dawes Road from the intersection of Grand Bay - Wilmer Road to the junction of Three Notch Road. Length 4.765 mi.

### **[What's Under Construction?](#)**

## **Legislative Updates**

---

### **State of the Union:**

President Barack Obama delivered his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, devoting only a small portion of the speech to transportation and infrastructure. He called for passage of a long-term transportation reauthorization to create what he termed "21st century infrastructure," including "modern ports, stronger bridges, faster trains, and the fastest internet." Later in the speech, he acknowledged the lack of agreement on how to pay for increased infrastructure investment. He reiterated his support for a repatriation of overseas corporate earnings as the best way to grow the Highway Trust Fund. "Let's close loopholes so we stop rewarding companies that keep profits abroad, and reward those that invest in America. Let's use those savings to rebuild our infrastructure and make it more attractive for companies to bring jobs home." This approach has some support in Congress, but it is far from clear whether there is enough support to carry such a proposal to final passage. It is almost certain that it could not be done in time to prevent another short-term extension of the law, which expires on May 31.

---

**Inhofe and Boxer Pledge Unity on Transportation:** Earlier this week, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (D-CA) promised to work together to complete a five-year transportation bill. They also announced the first EPW hearing of the year on reauthorization, scheduled for January 28, which will feature U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx and several governors.

---

**Paul and Boxer Team Up on Transportation Funding:** Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) are close to introducing a bi-partisan transportation funding bill that would use tax revenue on overseas corporate profits to fund the Highway Trust Fund. More as this story develops.

## Funding Opportunities

---

### **FY 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program –TAP FUNDS**

**Deadline:** *May 1, 2015*

Only cities and counties can apply for TAP funds, and your jurisdiction will determine your application for TAP Funds. If you are in the Mobile Urbanized Area, you are eligible for the Urban Area TAP Funds available through the Mobile MPO at South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. If you are outside of the Mobile Urbanized Area you will apply to ADLOT for TAP funds (see below). The applications, guidelines and funding limits between the STATE TAP and the URBAN TAP *are slightly different*. Please be aware, and if there are any question please do not hesitate to call us. The federal guidance on TAP funds is here:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

#### **MOBILE URBANIZED TAP FUNDS**

The Mobile MPO announces the availability of the FY 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$200,000 (federal). The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. Applications for Mobile Urban Area TAP Funds will be made available February 1, 2015.

#### **ALDOT TAP FUNDS**

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) announced application availability for the FY 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. ***ALDOT TAP Funding applications can only come from ALDOT [HERE].***

---

#### **SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program Funding Available**

*Applications due: February 13*

As part of the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), AASHTO and the Federal Highway Administration recently announced that the application process for the fifth round of the SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) is now open. MPOs, local governments, and tribal agencies are able to apply for implementation assistance. Click [HERE](#) for more information about what projects can be funded and how to apply. If you would like additional information or have questions about the Planning Process Bundle, contact Spencer Stevens at (202) 366-0149 or via email at [GoSHRP2@dot.gov](mailto:GoSHRP2@dot.gov).

---

#### **The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Funding Opportunity**

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium is accepting pre-proposals for one- to two-year innovative research projects that address one of these coastal issues: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture or Resilient Communities and Economies. Funding requests of no more than \$75,000 per year are recommended and the deadline is Feb. 20, 2015. For more information, please [click here](#).

---

#### **015 Five Star/Urban Waters Restoration Program**

Application Deadline: February 3

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is offering grants through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to local partnerships for wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration, urban wildlife conservation, stormwater management as well as outreach, education, and stewardship. Projects should focus on water quality, watersheds, and the habitats they support. NFWF anticipates that approximately \$2,100,000 in combined total funding will be available for this round of grants. Click [HERE](#) for details.

---

### **HUD \$1 Billion National Disaster Resilience Competition**

Application Deadline: March 2015

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently launched a National Disaster Resilience Competition, which makes \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The competition promotes risk assessment and planning, and will fund the implementation of innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for future storms and other extreme events. Representatives from eligible communities will have the opportunity to attend Rockefeller-supported Resilience Academies across the country to strengthen their funding proposals. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

---

### **Incentive Opportunities**

As the third round of the Every Day Counts initiative moves into high gear, the Federal Highway Administration is offering incentives and technical assistance to help the highway community mainstream innovations.

Fiscal year 2015 assistance is now available from the [State Transportation Innovation Council Incentive program](#). The program provides resources—technical assistance and funds—to help STICs make innovations standard practice. States can get up to \$100,000 a year for activities such as implementing system process changes, organizing peer exchanges and developing guidance and specifications. Contact the state FHWA Division Office or Mary Huie at (202) 366-3039 for information.

The Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program continues to accept applications through Grants.gov. Incentive funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects using innovation on any aspect of highway transportation, including planning, financing, environment, design, construction, materials, pavements, structures and operations. See the [AID Demonstration Web page](#) or contact Ewa Flom at (202) 366-2169 for details.

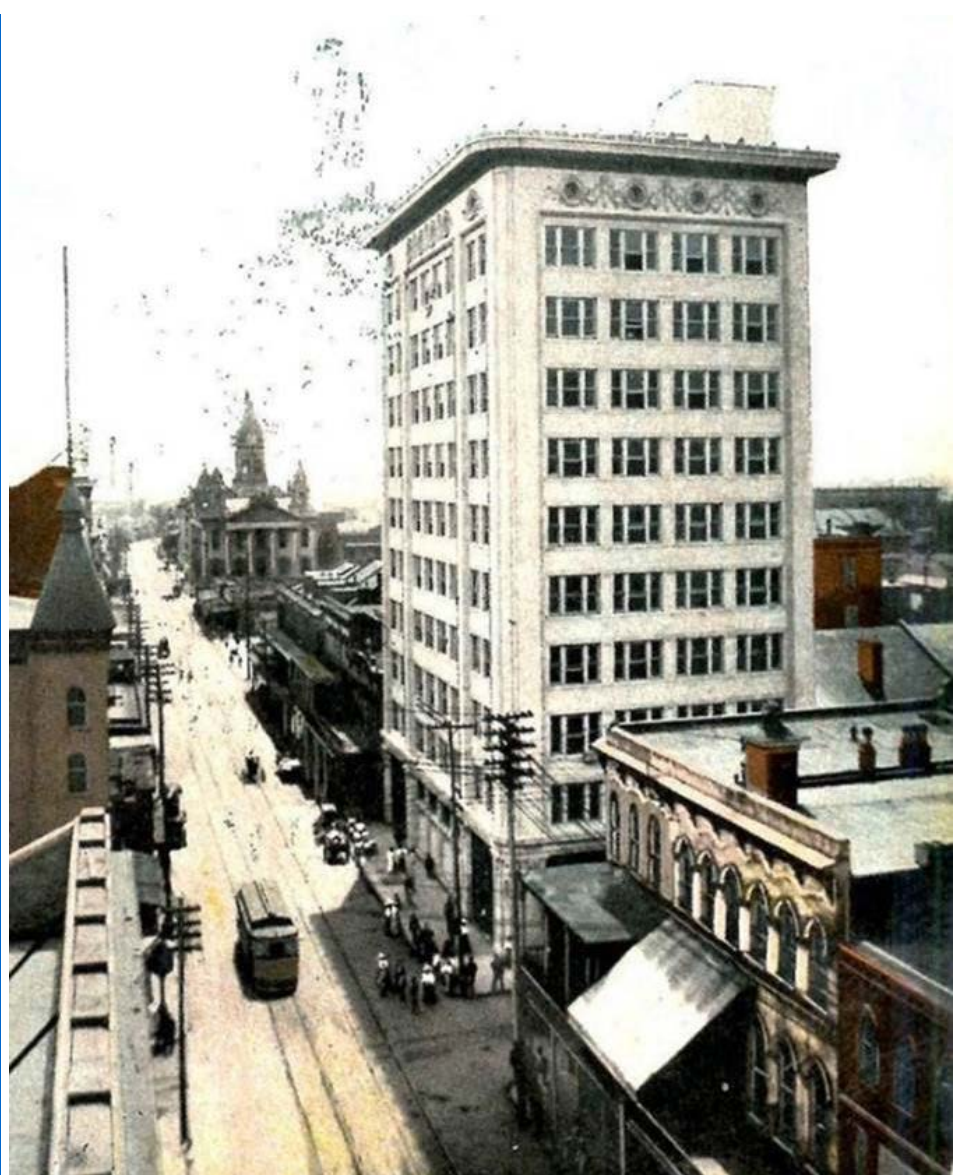
[Section 1304](#) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act allows an increase in the federal funding share of up to 5 percent on eligible projects that use innovations.

## **Just For Fun**

---

In 1893, the city got its first electric rail service.

A January, 1893 Register reporter reported it like this: “The Electric Railway Company started for the carriage of passengers yesterday morning at half past ten o’clock. The car made trips all day from the termini, Dauphin and Jackson, and Virginia and Marine, and was crowded every trip. Mr. Charles James, of Milwaukee, Wis., a victory in the city, paid the first fare received by the new enterprise.”



## In the News

### Here are the Coastal Alabama road projects you could run into on Friday, Jan. 23

By [Angela Levins | alevins@al.com](mailto:alevins@al.com)

Here is a look at the road projects underway in Mobile and Baldwin counties that could hamper your commute.

#### **Mobile:**

Royal Street: Between Dauphin and Conti streets, work on the Van Antwerp building continues to hamper traffic from time to time. Be cautious of pedestrians and workers.

Satchel Paige Drive: Satchel Paige Drive between Government and Bolling Brothers boulevards is closed to traffic. The road is being widened to a four-lane divided road. Work is expected to take about three months. The road project is part of the McGowin Park Shopping Center construction.

#### **Mobile County:**

Jackson Creek Bridge: Old Pascagoula Road is closed between Ramsey Road and March Road. Bridge being replaced. Project estimated to last a year.

Schillinger Road South: Between Cottage Hill Road and Halls Mill Creek. Widening project expected to take two years to complete. Construction could cause lane shifts, but roadwork will not close area to motorists.

#### **ALDOT Mobile County:**

I-10: Resurfacing and bridge work from Halls Mill Creek to the west end of the George C. Wallace Tunnel. Drivers should expect nighttime closures Sunday to Thursday from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. Work is expected to be completed next summer.

U.S. 90: From Halls Mill to Pine Hill Drive. The mainline is paved on the US-90 resurfacing project. The crews are finishing turn lanes and shoulders and are still expected to have most of the work complete by the end of Jan. 2015.

Welcome Center: The Welcome Center at the Alabama/Mississippi line is shut down until at least spring 2016. Temporary welcome center open at 5651 Hwy. 90, Theodore, AL 36582, 251-865-4741.

Directions: Take Exit 15-A on I-10, 2nd light and take a left, follow service road and the temporary welcome center is on the left.

#### **ALDOT Baldwin County:**

I-10: CR 68 connector to Baldwin Beach Express. Work is about 95 percent complete. Drivers may see an occasional lane closure on CR 83 for completing remaining work.

Little Lagoon Pass bridge remains under construction. ALDOT reports that the work is about 65 percent complete. There is a detour bridge next to the Little Lagoon Pass bridge. Expect minimal traffic delays.

---

### **Increasing Investment in U.S. Roads, Ports, and Drinking Water Systems through Innovative Financing:**

The Administration released an extensive fact sheet outlining new steps it is taking through its *Build America Investment Initiative*. New steps consist of a new Water Finance Center at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; *Rural Opportunity Investment Initiative* at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and new infrastructure tax proposals to encourage public-private partnerships (P3s), including the creation of a new kind of municipal bond, Qualified Public Infrastructure Bonds (QPIBs). QPIBs are similar to Private Activity Bonds (PABs), but can be used on a wide range of infrastructure projects in addition to roads, tunnels, and bridges. Click [HERE](#) for more from the White House on these and other initiatives announced by President Obama last week.

---

**Foxx Announces New Initiative to Challenge Mayors and Local Elected Officials:** Today, Secretary Foxx launched a new initiative, *Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets*, as part of the *Safer People, Safer Streets* initiative launched last September. This new initiative includes an invitation to the Mayors' Summit for Safer People, Safer Streets and a challenge to significantly improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation safety over the next year. The Mayors' Challenge will showcase effective local actions to improve safety, empower local leaders to take action, and promote partnerships to advance pedestrian and bicycle safety. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

---

### **Amid concerns about mounting crashes, Baldwin County officials endorse new traffic light at Baldwin Beach Express and County Road 32**

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

Bob Engel can remember when County Road 32 in rural Summerdale was named "Dixie Road," when farmers could herd cattle across it without having problems.

He can also recollect the year it was paved: 1957.

But the east-west road that runs from Point Clear to the eastern fringe of the county, has a key intersection with beach-bound tourists taking the new, 12.8-mile Baldwin Beach Express from Interstate 10 to the Foley Beach Express.

As such, it's become a high-crash intersection where Engel's wife, Vivian, can cite at least nine crashes - all non-fatal - since the [Express opened last year](#).

The last one occurred Saturday. Earlier this month, [another crash occurred when a SUV pulled in front of a semi-tractor trailer](#).

"We've gotten used to the idea (of having the four-lane Express next door) but since it's opened and we've seen how traffic has picked up this winter along it, I can imagine what it will be like this spring," Vivian Engel, 81, said Tuesday. "They've taught people that it is an expressway, but they don't ever slow down."

The Baldwin County Commission, aware that the intersection of the Express with County Road 32 has led to some devastating crashes, unanimously approved a competitive bid process for installing a new, hurricane-proof traffic signal.

The approximately \$200,000 project includes the installation of traffic poles and lights on a permanent display that will replace temporary traffic lights that are hung on wiring.

The current lights include a flashing yellow light along the Baldwin Beach Express, and flashing red lights on County Road 32.

County Engineer Cal Markert said the county plans to install temporary traffic signals on the Baldwin Beach Express and County Road 32 that will include red lights in both directions, within three to four months.

He said it will take "four to six months" for the poles to get made, delivered and installed.

"We're moving as quick as we can from an engineering stand point to get those traffic lights put up," Commissioner Tucker Dorsey said. "The temporary light should be up in less than three months, and at the same time, production is going into the hurricane-ready pole lights so we have traffic control."

A traffic light wasn't installed at the Baldwin Beach Express when it was opened last year, largely because traffic counts didn't warrant one.

But the intersection, according to Vivian Engel, has become so dangerous that she's fearful someone will get killed in a high-speed crash.

On Tuesday, sounds of squealing brakes could be easily heard from the Engel's rural property.

"Hopefully no one gets killed (before the new lights are installed)," she said.

## Transportation Research

---

### Freight Congestion:

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) recently released the findings of its 2014 *Congestion Impact Analysis of Freight-Significant Highway Locations*. The research assesses the level of truck-oriented congestion at 250 locations on the national highway system, and is developed in conjunction with the FHWA-sponsored Freight Performance Measures (FPM) initiative. The locations detailed in this latest ATRI report represent the top 100 congested locations. Click [HERE](#) to see the complete list.

---

### Creating Smart Paths for Connected Cities

February 26, 10:30AM – 12:00PM ET

This webinar is intended to inform participants about the new Connected Cities Research Program, a project of U.S. DOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO). The webinar follows the release of the ITS JPO white paper, [The Smart/Connected City and Its Implications for Connected Transportation](#), which provides a foundation for the discussion. Click [HERE](#) to register.

---

### WEBINAR: National Performance Measures Research Data Set

February 5, 2015, 1:00 PM

FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations is hosting its next Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar for the National Performance Measures Research Data Set (NPMRDS), which is the probe data that FHWA is using internally for passenger and freight analysis and making available to States and MPOs. At this webinar, FHWA and its contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. Click [HERE](#) to register, and [HERE](#) for more information on the data set.

---

**GAO Publishes Report on Surface Transportation Performance Measures in MAP-21:** On Friday, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published the results of a review on the implementation of the MAP-21 surface transportation performance measures. Click [HERE](#) for the final report, entitled *Surface Transportation: DOT Is Progressing toward a Performance-Based Approach, but States and Grantees Report Potential Implementation Challenges*.