



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, July 22, 2016

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Contact Us

<http://www.mobilempo.org>
transportation@sarpc.org

Kevin Harrison, PTP
Director of Transportation
kharrison@sarpc.org

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

The deadline for the ADA Transition Plans has been extended until September of 2016. This is no matter to the local governments of the Mobile Urbanized Area, as they have been on the ball and their ADA Transition Plans for Public ROW are either adopted or about to be adopted (please see *Mobile MPO Updates*). The WAVE Transit has released the **"MY STOP" Mobile App**; very exciting, please is *In The News*. This week's *Just For Fun* will make you want to hurl....a car off of a cliff...

Have a great weekend!

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



www.mobilempo.org

check us out on FACEBOOK

Mobile MPO Updates

ADA TRANSITION PLANS

The ALDOT deadline of July 20th to have an adopted ADA Transition Plan for Public ROW within an Urban Area has been extended until September of this year. We will have an MPO meeting in September to adopt the Mobile MPO Self-Certification, as we can say will sincere honesty, that yes we have nine ADA Transition Plans for Public ROW. We are currently working on a Mobile MPO ADA Web page that will eventually have links to the nine plans, and ADA Coordinators.

The inventory is complete, public meetings have been had, and final plans have been adopted (still waiting on one). I want to thank everyone for getting these plans adopted as fast as you have been. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Harrison.

MPO Policy Board Met Last Week.

There was a MPO Policy Board last week. Items on the agenda included a review the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as it has been slightly modified to include the purchase of Inrix data to get a sample of truck Origin- Destination data. Also, we reviewed the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and approved several amendments:

TAP FUNDS

- City of Satsuma; Sidewalk Improvements on Ryals Street, S. Vaughn Drive, Granada Avenue, Harrison Drive, Thomas Road and Powers Road; FY 2016; \$399,080 (Fed)
- Mobile County; ADA Compliance Tap Project; FY 2016; \$200,000 (Fed)
- City of Mobile; Sidewalks Along Bit and Spur from Old Shell Rd to University Blvd. FY 2016; \$159,574 (Fed)
- The City of Mobile; Old Shell Rd Sidewalk Improvements from Union Ave to Hyland Avenue; FY 2016, \$192,078 (Fed)

FTA 5310 FUNDS

- Independent Living Center; FY 2017; \$32,000 (fed) for capital
- Independent Living Center; FY 2017; \$40,950 (fed) for operating
- City of Satsuma; FY 2017; \$21,397 (fed) for operating
- Mobile ARC; FY 2017; \$47,695 (fed) for operating

INTERSTATE MAINTENANCE FUNDS

- I-65 NORTHBOUND/SOUTHBOUND BRIDGES (BIN #13807) OVER COTTAGE HILL ROAD MP 2.496 TO MP 2.728 PARTIAL BRIDGE DECK REPAIR/REPLACEMENT; FY 2016; \$1,700,828(total)

HSIP FUNDS

- DELETE Projects: CN, UT and ROW for Interchange Modification on SR-17 (US-45) at SR-158 Ramps To Install Roundabout Design; FY 2017

FTA 5310 FUNDING

The Mobile MPO is the Designated Recipient of the FTA 5310 Urban Area funding. Available this fiscal year was \$110,042 (federal) for operating and \$387,964 (federal) for capital. We had \$342,500 applied for operating, although we only had available \$110,042. We only had \$32,000 applied for capital, which leaves a balance of almost \$356,000 available this year! Congratulations to the applicants that were awarded operating funds; Independent Living Center, City of Satsuma, and the Mobile ARC. Applications for the round of capital funding that were due July 15th, are still under review; we will keep you posted.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDING

The Mobile MPO is also the Designated Recipient of Urban Area TAP funds. We had available this fiscal year \$551,000 in federal funds. Congratulations to Mobile County for their ADA Compliance TAP Project, and the City of Mobile for Sidewalks along Bit and Spur form Old Shell Rd to University Blvd and Old Shell Rd Sidewalk Improvements from Union Ave to Hyland Avenue. We are now scheduling the pre-agreement meetings on these projects.

Projects Within Region Let July 29th, 2016

Mobile County

For constructing the Additional Lanes and Interchange Modifications (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Bridge Replacement, and Signals) on I-65 at CR-41 (Celeste Road) in Saraland. Length 0.207 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$4,925,026 to \$6,019,476

For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the Mississippi State Line to east of the intersection of Ramsey Road (MP 5.730) east of Grand Bay. Length 5.729 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,464,508 to \$1,789,954

For constructing the Installation of Centerline Rumble Strip along SR-42 (US-98) from a point near the Mississippi State Line (MP 0.290) to MP 7.089. Length 4.040 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$66,183 to \$80,890

For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-13 (US-43) from just south of the junction of SR-16 (US-90) in Prichard to just north of the intersection of SR-158 in Saraland. Length 4.691 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,524,351 to \$1,863,095 .

Baldwin County

There are no projects at this time.

Escambia County

There are no projects at this time.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

Both chambers are on recess for a seven-week recess period during party conventions and the usual August break. They will return after Labor Day, on September 5.

House transportation chair: Trump hasn't outlined infrastructure plans, but is committed to issue

By [Melanie Zanona](#) - 07/19/16 12:03 PM EDT

Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said [Donald Trump](#) has not yet offered specifics for how he plans to fix the nation's crumbling infrastructure. When pressed after a breakfast at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland about whether Trump has given the GOP chairman details on his infrastructure vision, Shuster [told Business Insider](#) "not particular." But Shuster, who [endorsed the presumptive Republican nominee](#) back in April and is serving as a delegate at the presidential nominating convention this week, emphasized that Trump has committed to major investments in the transportation system.

"Again, Mr. Trump has been talking about transportation and infrastructure," he said. "A couple weeks ago he said he's going to be the greatest infrastructure president in the nation's history."

During a [blistering attack](#) on likely Democratic opponent Hilary Clinton last month, Trump said that he is the only presidential candidate who can restore the country's decaying roads and bridges.

The real estate mogul vowed to "build the greatest infrastructure on the planet earth — the roads and railways and airports of tomorrow."

"When I see the crumbling roads and bridges, or the dilapidated airports or the factories moving overseas to Mexico, or to other countries for that matter, I know these problems can all be fixed, but not by [Hillary Clinton](#)," Trump said. "Only by me."

Trump has yet to unveil any infrastructure plan on his campaign website.

Shuster said Trump has big footsteps to follow if he wants his presidency to have a great impact on infrastructure.

"That's a tall order because Abraham Lincoln was an infrastructure president," he said. "Teddy Roosevelt was an infrastructure president. The Panama Canal. And Eisenhower. All Republican presidents. Infrastructure is a Republican issue, but over the year we've lost. We've got to get back to figuring out how to build out and rebuild our national transportation. It's essential to having a strong economy."

USDOT Build America Bureau Opens

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the opening of the Build America Bureau this week. The Bureau seeks to streamline credit opportunities and grants, provide technical assistance, and encourage best practices in project planning, financing,

delivery, and monitoring. The focus of the new Bureau is aimed at continuing the work of the Build America Transportation Investment Center (BATIC) and housing the \$800 million FASTLANE grant program

Funding Opportunities

Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets Extended

September 2016

Last year, Secretary Foxx challenged city leaders to raise the bar for bicyclist and pedestrian safety by joining a year-long Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets effort. Mayors and other elected city officials created local action teams to advance safety and accessibility goals by taking on challenge activities. Over the course of the year, USDOT invited Challenge Cities to participate in forums, webinars, and learn about available resources to help them accomplish their goals. The challenge is now open until September 2016. Interested cities can still join the more than 200 Challenge cities committed to improving walking and biking by emailing pedbikesafety@dot.gov

Creative Placemaking Grants and 2017 Guidelines Announced

Creative placemaking is increasingly a tool of choice for those working to forge solutions to community development challenges. As one of the leaders in the creative placemaking field, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announces its latest round of funding through its signature creative placemaking program, Our Town. NEA will award \$4.3 million in grants to fund 64 projects in 36 states in cities ranging from Los Angeles, California to Lewiston, Maine. Guidelines and application materials for 2017 Our Town funding are posted on NEA's website. All 2016 Our Town projects are available in the related content section.

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Deadline: Rolling

Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Through the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. EDA is employing a new two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO. Proposals will be reviewed by EDA within 30 days of receipt; and following the proposal review, full applications will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt.

EDA releases FY 2016 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Funding Opportunity, announces new grant process to stream application process

EDA recently released the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) notice announcing the availability of funding through the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. The Public Works program is designed to provide funding for design, construction, or renovation of critical public infrastructure needed to create or retain jobs in a locality. The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides resources for both design, construction and renovation as well as technical assistance to support long-term job creation/retention in cases of sudden and severe economic events.

This funding solicitation also announced that EDA is moving towards a two-step application process where applicants can submit a proposal at any time to determine alignment with EDA priorities before submitting a full application. This means there are **no longer any quarterly deadlines for the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact EDA's state representative to develop their project and EDA application. To learn more about EDA's grant programs and opportunities, please feel free to contact Diane Burnett at dburnett@sarpc.org.

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](#)

Just For Fun

July is almost over and I reflect on how I spent my fourth.... It was fun.... but not driving cars off of cliffs type of fun. Every fourth of July this sleepy little town in Alaska drives vehicles off of cliffs, and it is pure entertainment. They are empty of course, and it is truly frightening, but entertaining. They have a parade, a big party, then they hurl cars off of a cliff. You know what South Alabama needs? More 300 foot cliffs, *Just For Fun*.



In the News

The Wave Transit System Introduces the “My Stop” Mobile App -The Official Mobile App for Public Transportation in the City of Mobile!

MOBILE, AL – The “My Stop” Mobile App has arrived! The Wave Transit System’s new mobile app is designed to connect riders with their preferred travel destinations by using public transit easily and more efficiently. By launching this free app, riders and citizens can access real-time schedule data, up to the minute bus arrivals, and service alerts.

The Wave Transit System is dedicated to making public transit accessible, user friendly, and a viable transportation option in the City of Mobile. “Wave Transit Riders that utilize daily bus service and citizens that are exploring public transit for the first time, will find this app very useful and convenient,” said Booker Tyrone Parker, Wave Transit System General Manager. The new “My Stop” Mobile App gives The Wave Transit System an opportunity to better serve existing riders, customers, and attract new passengers by streamlining time and travel.

“My Stop” Mobile App features include:

- Route Information
- Real Time Bus Arrivals
- Nearest Stops\Addresses
- Alerts - Service Changes and Detours

The Wave Transit System serves as the public transportation provider for the City of Mobile, operating (13) thirteen fixed routes. Download the “My Stop” Mobile App, today! It is available on either the App Store or Google Play. Visit www.thewavetransit.com for additional information.

The City of Mobile’s Capital Improvement Plan is fixing sidewalks and drainage issues.

Via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SandyStimpsonMobile/videos/1135261519864362/>



Mayor Stimpson: “To me, one of the most significant things of the Capital Improvement Plan is addressing the broken infrastructure in the City of Mobile . There is an estimate \$250 Million worth of broken sidewalks, streets, drainage, and so forth, and so the Capital Improvement Plan is a systematic approach to fixing the most important things first, spreading it out geographically across the city, so that citizens see things being fixed in their community.”

Not Alabama, but interesting discussions going on in Connecticut...

Senate Majority Leader: “mileage tax” is a non-starter

HARTFORD — While the state [Department of Transportation](#) may study the issue of a mileage-based tax on state motorists, Senate Majority Leader [Bob Duff](#) announced Wednesday that the idea will receive no support and is a non-starter.

“I do not support a mileage tax,” Duff said in a statement. “The Department of Transportation can study it nine ways to Sunday, up, down, sideways and diagonally. It is an unproven idea and the Senate [Democrats](#) will not advance any future proposal to consider a mileage tax for a vote.”

Members of the Republican minority this week seemed to seize on the DOT study as a potential campaign issue, blasting the agency, Gov. [Dannel P. Malloy](#) and majority Democrats. Revenue for the state’s [Special Transportation Fund](#), mostly through taxes on fuel, have declined in recent years as gasoline prices have stayed closed to \$2.00 a gallon rather than \$3.00 and above.

“The Republicans continue to use this as a fear mongering Trump-like tactic,” Duff said. “Say it long enough and loud enough regardless of the truth and hope people will believe it. This issue was settled last year with strong statements in opposition from the Legislature. Case closed.”

If you are interested:

The purpose of this message is to notify you of the TRB’s Community Impact Assessment State of the Practice [Survey](#). The [TRB Community Impact Assessment Subcommittee](#) is collecting information from State DOTs and MPOs on their current practice used to assess community impacts during transportation planning and project development. The information collected may be used to help inform an upcoming update of FHWA’s Community Impact Assessment Guide. On behalf of TRB we are asking for your assistance to help disseminate the survey to transportation planning practitioners involved with community impact assessments at the State or regional level. The deadline for survey entries is August 5, 2016. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Fleming El-Amin at fleming.el-amin@dot.gov or 202-366-0233.

Transportation Research

FHWA has just published the [Bike Network Mapping Idea Book](#).

This resource highlights ways that different communities have mapped their existing and proposed bicycle networks. It shows examples of maps at different scales, while also demonstrating a range of mapping strategies, techniques, and approaches. It is intended to serve as a resource as communities work to identify, plan, and improve their bicycle networks.

AASHTO Releases Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Portal

AASHTO has developed a portal for information on federal surface transportation authorization. This is a regularly updated resource on MAP-21 reauthorization and implementation of the [Fixing America’s Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#). Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Advancing Collaborative Planning: Summary of a Focus Group on Transportation and Economic Development

by Carrie Kissel

In March 2016, the NADO Research Foundation held a focus group on the link between transportation and economic development, and how state departments of transportation and regional planning and development organizations can work together to better plan for those issues in an integrated way. The focus group participants included regional, state, and federal agency staff and others with experience in both transportation and economic development programs. During the conversation, the focus group participants developed a definition of economic development that emphasizes doing economic development and transportation planning differently, and can be used to help frame related planning efforts:

Economic development in transportation involves deliberate interventions to produce tangible benefits that are specific to the context, are sustained over time, and make a place more resilient.

This new report, [Advancing Collaborative Planning: Summary of a National Focus Group on Transportation and Economic Development\(PDF\)](#), explores how the participants’ definition of economic development can be applied in transportation planning. The report documents the themes of the focus group discussion, including economic development impacts, resilience, and state department of transportation (DOT) and regional planning and development organization roles in working together. Read about the highlights of the discussion and about noteworthy practices shared by participants that can institutionalize consideration of transportation and economic development together.

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.

[See the Future of Transportation](#)

