



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, July 5, 2013

Volume 7, Number 1

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Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

Click Here to see when and where federal and state projects will be happening in your area.

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We hope everyone has had a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration. The selection committee met this week for the Mobile MPO Urban Area Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds. We had over 1.4\$ million worth of applications. Also, don't forget about your 5310 applications; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. There is a lot of news worthy items this week, please see *In The News* and you may be blindsided in this week's *Just For Fun*. Next week is the first 2013 Technical Outreach Workshop for state and local agencies offered by FHWA-Alabama Division; please see *Transportation Research*.

Have a great weekend!

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



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Mobile MPO Updates

TAP FUNDS

Last Friday was the deadline to apply to us, and ALDOT, for TAP funds. We received 6 applications worth \$1,407,249 of projects. The total dollar amount the Mobile MPO has been apportioned is \$513,441 of federal dollars, which is \$641,801 of programmable funds. The project selection committee will reconvene on July 23rd. The project ranking process is a quantitative, transparent process [\[HERE\]](#). The Mobile MPO award announcement will be on July 23rd; the applications received by the Mobile MPO include:

City of Chickasaw, sidewalk on West Grant Street from Grand Avenue to Iroquois Street: \$180,321

City of Mobile, sidewalks of Old Shell Rd from Ridge Lawn Drive West to McGregor Avenue: \$154,899

City of Mobile, upgrade sidewalks and ramps to ADA Compliance various downtown locations: \$358,000

City of Saraland, bicycle, sidewalk and access management on US 43 between Everett Street and Celeste Road: \$186,650

City of Saraland, sidewalk to Adams Middle School, Dixon Park, and Bayou Sara Park: \$191,750

Mobile County, extension of Sidewalk along US 98 from Ed George Rd to Semmes community Center: \$335,629

The Alabama Department of Transportation received 78 applications including applications from: Baldwin County, Bay Minette, Brewton, Chickasaw, Daphne, Fairhope, Flomaton, Foley, Gulf Shores, Magnolia Springs, Mobile County, Orange Beach, Saraland, and Spanish Fort,

The Alabama Department of Transportation receives \$16,779,737 of federal dollars for TAP. Of that amount, \$1,732,289 goes toward Recreation Trails leaving \$15,047,448 programmable federal funds for the 78 applications.

5310 Applications

ALDOT has announced it has opened the application period for FTA 5310 funds (SAFETEA-LU, not MAP-21). If you are planning on applying for these funds, applications are due into us by August 2, 2013 5:00 PM. Please be sure you have coordinated with Mr. Tom Piper as being part of the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan prior to submitting application. For more information please see [\[HERE\]](#) and *Funding Opportunities* below.

Transit Development Plan

This will be a third party contract to develop a 10 year plan for not just the Wave Transit, but all transit within the MPO study area. Airbus coming to Mobile has created a business-friendly climate [\[HERE\]](#), and now that you can take the Wave to Megabus, let's get an innovative plan in place to quickly and efficiently tie all passenger modes together, within the MPO study area. We will keep you posted on this...

South West Region

For those of you unaware, starting July 1st, the 9th Division of ALDOT is to be called the South West Region for ALDOT's pilot reorganization program. The South West Region covers Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia,

Mobile, Marengo, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox.

Vince Calametti said *"We are not losing a division, we are gaining a region. We will be able to make more decisions at local level, and be able to provide better service"*.

Public Awareness Campaign Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety

As part of a public awareness campaign that we discussed at the last BPAC meeting, we have assisted Team Share the Road in developing the attached bicycle safety brochure. We will be printing these out next week and we will have them available for anyone that would like to have some to hand out. We would like to also develop a brochure geared toward drivers and their interaction with cyclists and pedestrians. If anyone has any ideas for this, please let us know.

Click [HERE](#) to view the brochure.

Projects Within Region Let June 28, 2013

BALDWIN COUNTY

for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing, Bike Lane Addition, and Traffic Stripe on CR-4 (Cotton Creek Drive) from the intersection of SR-59 to Cotton Creek Bridge in Gulf Shores. Length 2.262 mi.

for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Bayview Drive and Ridgewood Drive East of North Main Street in Daphne. Length 1.894 mi.

for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-71 (College Avenue) over Rock Creek in Robertsdale. Length 0.183 mi.

for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-42 (US-98) from SR-104 (MP 43.685) to CR-98 (MP 52.241) in Barnwell. Length 8.555 mi.

for constructing the Widening (Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave) on SR-181 from south of CR-48 to south of CR-30 in Fairhope. Length 1.188 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

for constructing the Access Improvements (Widening and Lighting Relocation) on the Service Road south of the Bankhead Tunnel going onto SR-16 (US-90/98) in Mobile. Length 0.123 mi.

Legislative Updates

Congressional Members Introduce Measure to Revitalize Transportation Infrastructure with \$50 Billion in TRIP Bonds

Four members of Congress joined forces on Thursday to introduce a measure that would allocate \$50 billion to the Transportation and Regional Infrastructure Project (TRIP) bonds program, allowing state transportation departments to leverage private investment to help fund upgrades to the nation's transportation infrastructure.

The bipartisan measure was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), and Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and would make available up to \$50 billion (\$1 billion per state) in bonds over a six-year span for transportation infrastructure projects. The principal amount of the bonds would then be covered by a state match put into a trust fund and invested for the life of the bonds. In place of interest payments, bondholders would then get federal tax credits that could be applied against federal income tax liabilities.

"America's economic future depends on expanding, maintaining and repairing its infrastructure," Wyden said in a statement. "TRIP bonds provide an innovative, effective and low-cost way to help states improve our infrastructure by leveraging private funding."

Several industry leaders have come out in support of the plan.

"Given the tremendous transportation investment needs facing our country, TRIP bonds provide supplemental project financing capacity directly to those who construct and manage transportation facilities—the states and their transportation agencies," said Bud Wright, AASHTO executive director. "We applaud Sen. Wyden, Sen. Hoeven, Rep. Whitfield, and Rep. Schwartz for their bipartisan, bicameral support for transportation infrastructure improvements that underpin economic growth and quality of life for all Americans."

Additional information on the measure is available [here](#).

Former Charlotte mayor sworn in as new Transportation chief

Former Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Anthony Foxx (D) was sworn in as the 17th secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) on Tuesday, according to Obama administration officials. Foxx took the oath of office to assume the Cabinet post in a private ceremony at the DOT's headquarters at about 11 a.m., the agency said. The newly installed Transportation secretary was unanimously confirmed by the Senate last week. He said in a statement after his swearing-in ceremony that he planned to continue the work on improving transportation safety that had been done by his predecessor, former Republican Rep. Ray LaHood (Ill.).

"Safety will remain our top priority at DOT," Foxx said in a statement. "At the same time, I will work to improve the efficiency and performance of our current transportation system while building the infrastructure we need for future generations," said Foxx. "In doing so, I look forward to bringing my 'on the ground' experiences as a mayor, while embracing the tremendous knowledge, skill and ingenuity of the DOT workforce and our many stakeholders." Foxx resigned his mayoral post on Monday, clearing the way for to join President Obama's second-term Cabinet. The former two-term mayor was tapped by Obama in April to replace LaHood, who has served as Transportation secretary since the beginning of Obama's presidency and announced his retirement earlier this year. Foxx, who is seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party, beat out several rumored candidates who were better known in Washington, like National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Deborah Hersman, for the DOT secretary post.

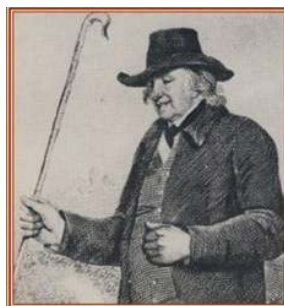
The DOT released a photograph of Foxx taking the oath of office for his new position. The new Transportation secretary is not expected to make public comments until after the July 4th holiday.

Funding Opportunities

FY 2013 SECTION 5310 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Modal Programs Bureau, is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Elderly Individuals & Individuals with Disabilities (E & D, Section 5310) Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for transit related services that assist the state's population of elderly & disabled individuals. 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 non-profit corporations or associations are not readily available in the area 3. Governmental agencies approved by the ALDOT to coordinate transit services for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. The total estimated federal funding available for eligible Section 5310 projects is \$2,327,856. A local match of 20% is required for this capital program. The selection process may be based on the following criteria: financial and management capability; service needs; proposed services; utilization of requested equipment; and service coordination. Projects funded through these programs must be derived from a locally regional coordinated transportation plan. The application package provides specific eligibility requirements, match requirements, and eligible activities. The application and state management plan can be found at <http://www.dot.state.al.us/moweb/transit.htm>. Completed grant applications must be submitted to the appropriate regional planning council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Section 5310 transportation services are proposed. Each regional planning council must review grant applications to ensure compliance with federal coordination requirements prior to formal submission to ALDOT. Only those grant applications submitted for funding consideration by the Regional Planning Councils will be considered for funding. The deadline for submissions to the appropriate regional planning council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Section 5310 transportation services are proposed is 5:00 P.M. on August 2, 2013. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. Postmarked submissions will not be accepted. All applications will be reviewed, evaluated, prioritized, and approved by ALDOT prior to the development and submission of a consolidated grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region IV office for funding consideration. If there are questions or comments concerning the grant application or if more information is needed in another language or alternative formats, contact Sharon Coats, ALDOT, Modal Programs Bureau, 1100 John Overton Drive, Montgomery, AL 36110; (334) 353-6443 or coatss@dot.state.al.us. ALDOT does not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, or national origin.

Just For Fun



John Metcalfe, a Scot born in 1717, built about 180 miles of roads in Yorkshire, England. His well drained roads were built with three layers: large stones; excavated road material; and a layer of gravel. Jack was, in fact, the first road engineer of distinction, preceding Telford and Macadam. His specialty was his ability to build solid roads across bogs and marshland, which no one previously had managed to do. He was totally self-taught, and ordered his men to pull and bind heather and ling, in very tight bundles and lay one row on top of the other to absorb the water, then lay cartloads of stone and gravel on top, with a cambered surface and good drainage on either side. His roads were solid and comparatively cheap to maintain. Rather extraordinary, considering John Metcalfe was totally blind! [\[HERE\]](#)

In the News

Joint Technical Assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps

The Department of Justice/Department of Transportation have issued "Joint Technical Assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps" when streets, roads, or highways are altered through resurfacing. This technical assistance has been by the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Transportation, to provide clarity on ADA issues. This document is now available at the following FHWA web links:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada.cfm>

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/accessibility/>

Redistricting deadlines approach (from the ACCA)

The deadline to complete redistricting before the 2014 elections is just five months away. This applies to counties that: 1) have not redrawn districts since the 2010 census, and 2) want to use revised district lines for the 2014 election cycle. Mary Pons has prepared "[Redistricting the County Commission](#)" to advise you about the process in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court Ruling that struck down requirements for preclearance.

Ride the rails from Birmingham to The Big Easy or The Big Apple (photos)



by [Mark Almond | malmond@al.com](#)

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BIRMINGHAM, Alabama--The Golden Age of Railroadng ended nearly 100 years ago but it is still possible to take a train trip from Birmingham. A 1929 issue of Birmingham Magazine showed schedules for 47 passenger trains per day from Birmingham on nine different railroads. Today Amtrak operates a single route through Birmingham. The Amtrak Crescent departs downtown Birmingham twice daily. One train departs southbound around noon and arrives in New Orleans about 7 ½ hours later. A northbound train leaves at 2:24 p.m. enroute to Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington D.C. with the final stop in New York arriving more than 22 hours later. Both trains make brief stops in Anniston and Tuscaloosa. The Birmingham Amtrak station is basically an underground tunnel to the trackside platform. It has been criticized for its rundown, primitive condition. ([Continue reading](#))

Daphne approves bicycle safety ordinance calling for motorists to obey 3-foot rule



By [Marc D. Anderson | manderson@al.com](#)

DAPHNE, Alabama -- In an effort to increase safety and awareness of cyclists, the City Council on Monday approved an ordinance toughening the state's rules of the road that says bicyclists have the same right as motorists. Under the new city ordinance, a motorist passing a bicyclist must be at least three feet away from the bike rider and must not make a right-hand turn after passing unless it is at a safe distance. If the law is violated a fine can be issued between \$50 and \$500 or the offender can be given community service as an alternative. "We're encouraging all of our citizens to be courteous around these bicyclists," Council President Ron Scott said before the unanimous vote. "We want to have a safe community and we've had too many people either injured or killed riding bikes." ([Continue Reading](#))

For more information about Team Share the Road, including its new campaign to get Share the Road license plates made, visit www.teamsharetheroad.org.

Alabama Supreme Court throws out \$7.5 million wrongful-death verdict against Mobile contractor



By [Brendan Kirby | bkirby@al.com](mailto:bkirby@al.com)
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The Alabama Supreme Court has reversed a \$7.5 million judgment against a Mobile-based contractor accused of a shoddy road-paving project that led to a fatal traffic accident in Clarke County. A Clarke County Circuit Court jury in September 2010 awarded \$7.5 million to the estates of Danny Balch, Bernard Balch and Armie Butler, who died in a 2007 crash on Alabama 84.

The plaintiffs contended that Hosea O. Weaver and Sons was negligent in its resurfacing of the highway in 2001 and 2002. They argued that the repaving created a deep and dangerous edge drop-off that caused the fatal accident in 2007. On Oct. 18 of that year, according to court records, the car that the victims were riding in crossed the centerline and collided with an oncoming tractor-trailer. Attorneys for the plaintiffs pointed to expert testimony that the accident occurred because Hosea Weaver did not comply with road-resurfacing specifications.

But the Supreme Court, in a decision handed down last week, ruled that the judge never should have let the case to go a jury. ([Continue reading](#))

Federal appeals court: Alabama discriminates against railroads in payment of state fuel tax

[Print](#)



By [Kent Faulk | kfaulk@al.com](mailto:kfaulk@al.com)
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FILE PHOTO

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama - A federal appeals court today ruled that Alabama discriminated against railroads by forcing them to pay a sales tax on fuel when it exempts its competitors - trucking and barge companies. The U.S. 11th Court of Criminal Appeals issued its opinion in CSX Transportation, Inc.'s appeal in its 2008 lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Revenue. CSX pays a 4 percent sales tax whenever it purchases diesel fuel in the state, according to the appeals court opinion. "CSX's main competitors in the state--interstate motor and water carriers--do not," according to the opinion. ([Continue reading](#))

Transportation Research

The **Congressional Budget Office** released the presentation given to the Women in Government Relations conference that addressed [The Federal Budget: Outlook and Challenges](#).

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** released, [Our Built and Natural Environments: A Technical Review of the Interactions Among Land Use, Transportation, and Environmental Quality](#). This report discusses trends and relationships in land use, development, and transportation and their environmental implications.

Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) symposium

Below is a link to a recent announcement by the Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) symposium, which will be held over two days in October 2013. TRB has issued a call for papers focused on innovations in freight modeling. More information about the symposium and the call for papers can be found in the link below:

<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/169110.aspx>

Upcoming webinar detailing the Florida DOT's approach to Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

ContextSensitiveSolutions.org and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities is pleased to present a free webinar on "Adopting CSS: the Florida Greenbook," Florida's experience integrating design flexibility and context sensitivity from planning through final design.

The webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 10th, 2013, from 2:30 - 4:00 PM EDT, and is brought to you by FHWA, in partnership with the Project for Public Spaces and Sevatoc.

[Register Now](#)

2013 Technical Outreach Workshop for state and local agencies.

The FHWA-Alabama Division is offering its first 2013 Technical Outreach Workshop for state and local agencies. Workshop details are provided below:

Date: July 11th (8:30am – 4:30pm)
Location: ALDOT 4th Division Auditorium
240 Highway 280
Alexander City, Alabama 35011

The workshop sessions will address the following topics:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
- FHWA's Emergency Relief (ER) Program
- Safety (e.g. MUTCD and Low Cost Safety Improvements)
- Right-of-Way

This training is designed for State DOT and local government personnel, MPOs, including engineers and planners, particularly local government personnel typically not involved in the Federal-aid highway program. Further details are included on the attached flyer. Feel free to forward this information to other individuals and organizations (e.g. rural planning organizations, city and county engineers) who may be interested in this opportunity.

If you are interested in attending this workshop session (or hosting another session), please register with FHWA by email or phone.
