



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, June 10, 2016

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In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- RPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET JUNE 24th, 2016
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- JUST FOR FUN
- IN THE NEWS
- TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

Recently Completed

- Planning Studies
- Destination 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
- Toole Design Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile
- 2016 Unified Planning Work Program
- 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program
- Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

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South Alabama Regional

Today is Chris Miller's last day at SARPC, as he has taken new position in Texas. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors, and thank him for his leadership, and friendship.

Last Friday was the deadline for 2016 TAP and FTA 5310 URBAN. WE HAVE MORE MONEY. We have announced a second round for both Urban funding sources, deadline is July 1st for TAP and July 15th for 5310, AND **ALDOT FTA 5310 Funding is announced** (Please see *Funding Opportunities*). There was \$500 Million available for **TIGER Grants**, there is \$9.3 BILLION worth of applications, and there is a [new mode of transportation](#) in downtown Mobile... (please see *In The News*). Stay out of that left lane...*Just For Fun* and **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

MPO FUNDING

The Mobile MPO apportionment was increased with the passing of the new FAST ACT Transportation Funding Bill. The per capita amount was \$6.8 Million per year under the bill MAP-21. That has been increased to \$7.1 million per year, which equates to being able to program almost \$9 million per year once the 20% local match is included. Our Attributable funding schedule has been moved around a bit; however, even though we had an increase in potential funding, we are still negative in terms of budgeting projects in year 2020 and 2021.

ADA TRANSITION PLANS

The FHWA has required that every city and county in the state have an ADA Transition Plan, and Urban Areas will have a one year deadline (July 20th, 2016). Each City in the Mobile MPO Study Area and Mobile County now has an appointed ADA Coordinator which creates a nine member ADA Subcommittee of the MPO. The inventory is complete for all urban local governments within the Mobile MPO, and the consultant is now working with the ADA Coordinators on the text of each of the ADA documents, grievance procedures, and the potential for a full ADA Transition plan, not just Public Rights of Way. The deadline for Mobile County and the cities within the Mobile MPO to have an adopted ADA Transition Plan for public Rights of Way, is July of this year. Plans are being drafted now and public meeting dates are being set.

RPO Updates

Last week, SARPC hosted an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Workshop. As you may be aware, the Federal Highway Administration has ramped up enforcement of ADA laws as they pertain to federal funding for road, bridge, sidewalks, and the like. Many of our member governments have been coming to us with ADA questions. There was a lot of good discussion that helped clear up what is expected in order to receive federal funding. One of the speakers was Mr. Graham Sisson, the Executive Director of GOOD, (Governor's Office on Disability). He will be speaking on the city/county responsibilities of municipal/county buildings, properties, etc. There were presentations on the ADA requirements of public ROW (sidewalks) and vertical, or buildings side of it as well.

Projects Within Region Let June 24th, 2016

Mobile County

For constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-63 (Wilmer-Georgetown Road) over Big Creek north of Wilmer. Length 0.672 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,063,774 to \$3,744,613.

For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-42 (US-98) from the junction of Stimpson Lane to the intersection of SR-16 (US-90/Broad Street) in Mobile. Length 4.749 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,724,649 to \$2,107,905.

Baldwin County

There are no projects at this time.

Escambia County

There are no projects at this time.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

With just 19 legislative days remaining before the current FAA extension expires, lawmakers and stakeholders are growing concerned about another short-term extension. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) is still showing no interest in taking up the Senate version that passed with a 95-3 vote in April. The FAA has not had a long-term reauthorization since 2012.

While there has been no movement on the FAA reauthorization, the House this week [passed a bill](#) to help speed up airport security lines. The bill focuses on TSA assessing its staffing model, creating a Staffing Advisory Committee to coordinate with local airports and stakeholders, and other changes.

Yesterday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx [addressed the Senate Commerce Committee](#) to update lawmakers on the implementation of the FAST Act. His testimony included updates on grant programs such as FASTLANE and project delivery proposals. Secretary Foxx also faced questions ranging from rail infrastructure loans, education for drug-impaired driving, and the Takata airbag recall.

[Learn about Planning for a Healthier Future – a New Resource](#)

June 22, 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Join Transportation for America (T4A) for the launch of the *Planning for a Healthier Future: Incorporating Health, Equity, and Environmental Performance Measures in Regional Transportation Plans* guidebook. Given the forthcoming rulemaking from USDOT that will require all 400-plus MPOs and 50 state DOTs to develop transportation performance measure frameworks, T4A is releasing a new resource to help communities and advocates better their public health, address their social equity concerns, and improve their environmental quality through best practices and strategies.

Funding Opportunities

2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Announcement - due July 1st at noon

We only had 2 applications turned in last Friday for TAP. We have \$192,095 (federal) available for FY 2016. We have announced a “*call for projects*” OPEN TO ALL 9 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS. Those that applied for the first round that was due June 3rd, are eligible to apply for this money as well. One project will be selected.

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as the recipient of Urban Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, is announcing the availability of the FY 2016 TAP funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$192,095 (federal) and the minimum match is 20% **only cities and counties that are members of the Mobile MPO may apply.**

New this round of funding is that estimates for the application’s budget must be developed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Alabama.

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.

Ten (10) copies of the application are due no later than 12:00 p.m., Friday, July 1st, 2016. Applications (paper only) are due to the Transportation Planning Department of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) at:

SARPC
110 Beauregard Street, Suite 207
Mobile, AL 36602

You can pick up an application at our offices, or we can mail you the application and guidelines. Electronic versions of the applications are available online at www.mobilempo.org. Click the Mobile MPO tab, then the Transportation Alternatives tab.

ALDOT’s Rural FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Funding

due July 15th

ALDOT has announced the annual grant application for federal assistance provided through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The "Vehicle Inventory Form" is provided in the application in Microsoft Word, but is upon request also available electronically in Excel. Applications are turned into to the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) by July 15th, as SARPC must endorse the application.

Please note that the one-year sit out rule is waived for this grant application cycle.

All projects funded through Section 5310 must be derived from locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation planning process. ALDOT has designated the 12 Regional Planning Councils to coordinate transportation services in their regions.

Please read the application in its entirety before starting to complete it. Immediate attention must be given to the public hearing requirements, authorizing resolution, and the required Planning Council endorsement (contact information is located in Appendix A).

ALDOT mailed the applications, and it will soon be available on the ALDOT web page. You can contact Kevin Harrison for ALDOT's application for FTA 5310 Rural at kharrison@sarpc.org.

Completed *ALDOT grant applications* must be submitted to the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission by **noon on July 15th, 2016**. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. **Postmarked submissions will not be accepted.**

Mobile MPO Urban FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Funding due July 15th

The Mobile MPO regular round of FTA 5310 Urban funding for FY 2016 was due June 3rd. Of the available \$110,000 of operating, we have \$342,000 applied for; *there are no more operating funds available* this FY. However, of the \$387,000 available for capital, we still have \$350,000 available. We have announced another round of CAPITAL ONLY funding due July 15th at noon.

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the Designated Recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 *Urban Area Funding* for the Mobile Urban Area. Our funding under the FAST ACT has been increased to \$314,000 annually.

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. FTA provides funding for transit related services that assist the Mobile Urban Area's population of seniors & individuals with disabilities.

The application package provides specific eligibility requirements, match requirements, and eligible activities. The application and program management plan can be found at <http://www.mobilempo.org/5310.html>. (*web site says June 3rd, but applications are due July 15th*)

Completed grant applications must be submitted to the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission by **noon on July 15th, 2016**. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. **Postmarked submissions will not be accepted.**

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.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Infrastructure Projects

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced the availability of credit assistance for critical infrastructure projects across the country through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. Secretary Foxx encouraged states and cities across the country to submit letters of interest for direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit through TIFIA as a result of the recently enacted Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

"The TIFIA credit program has a strong record of success in stimulating local economies and bringing critical transportation projects to communities that need them," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "This year, the added flexibility and streamlined review process should make it easier for a variety of applicants to take advantage of the funding opportunities, and to bring significant infrastructure developments to their neighborhoods."

The FAST Act authorizes \$1.435 billion in capital over five years for the TIFIA credit assistance program. Historically, one dollar of TIFIA Program funds supported a TIFIA loan of approximately 14 dollars and resulted in infrastructure investment of up to 40 dollars, when taking into account other state, local and private sector investments.

A wide range of surface transportation infrastructure is eligible for TIFIA credit assistance, including highways, passenger and freight rail, public transit, intermodal freight facilities, and international bridges and tunnels. The FAST Act expands eligibility to include transit-oriented development and the capitalization of a rural projects fund within a state infrastructure bank.

In addition, for eligible small projects, the FAST Act allows TIFIA to reserve funding to offset the fees charged to applicants by TIFIA for financial and legal services. Because of the flexibility provided by the TIFIA programs, many qualified, small-scale and large-scale projects that might otherwise be delayed or shelved can move forward quickly, providing an immediate boost to jobs while laying a foundation for continued economic growth.

To date, the TIFIA program has provided \$22.7 billion in credit assistance to support more than \$82.5 billion in transportation infrastructure investments to help build 56 major transportation projects around the country. Updated information regarding TIFIA's loan portfolio is available [here](#).

DOT's Build America Transportation Investment Center (BATIC), which was announced in 2014, has expanded TIFIA's ability to meet the needs of the nation's transportation system. BATIC serves as a single point of contact and coordination for states, municipalities, and project sponsors looking to utilize federal transportation expertise, apply for federal transportation credit programs, and explore ways to access private capital in public private partnerships (P3s). Since BATIC's formation, DOT has closed over \$8 billion in financing to support \$21 billion in projects.

BATIC has also increased the number of non-traditional DOT credit program applicants, most significantly TIFIA-eligible inside-the-gate port projects. BATIC has facilitated interdepartmental coordination for mega-projects that need to access multiple DOT credit programs. It is also providing project finance capacity building resources for states and municipalities in conjunction with the BATIC Institute: An AASHTO Center for Excellence, which includes best practices papers, a P3 case study webinar series, and peer to peer exchanges on finance and development.

The TIFIA Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is available [here](#). Additional information about the TIFIA program is available at <http://www.transportation.gov/tifia>.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Industrial Access Road and Bridge

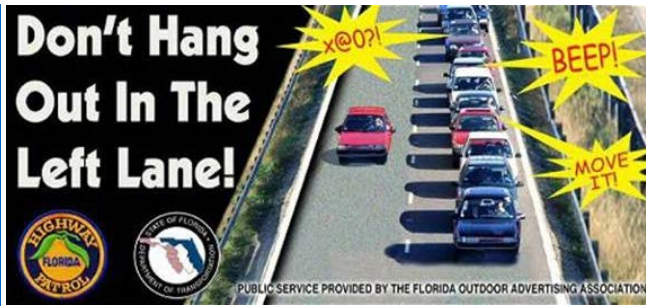
Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) 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

National Motorists Association Declares June "Lane Courtesy Month" It's true... [HERE](#)





So remember, when you are tailgating the person on the Bayway that is going 55 in the left lane, calm down, take a deep breath, back off and stay in the right lane. The left laners are calling it "Instant Karma" when a tailgater wrecks because the left lane is not going fast enough like [HERE](#) and [HERE](#); AND you may get a ticket for tailgating!!!

June is "Left Lane is for Passing Only" month, but quite frankly, it should be celebrated every month, *Just For Fun*.

In the News

I-10 Eastbound Water Street On-Ramp Closure and improvements to Canal Street, Claiborne Street, and Texas Street Interchange

You are cordially invited to attend the Public Involvement Meeting scheduled by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on the proposed project listed above. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 14, 2016, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**, in the Killian Room at the International Trade Center located at 250 North Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602. The meeting will be a "walk-in" information session with exhibits of the proposed project on display. It will follow an "open house" type format. There will be no speeches or formal presentations, so you may attend anytime between the above-mentioned hours. Representatives of the Alabama Department of Transportation will be on hand to discuss the project with you and answer questions. Comment sheets will be provided, which you may fill out and turn back in at the meeting, or send to us by mail, fax, or e-mail to swinfo@dot.state.al.us within ten business days after the meeting.

On land and in the bay: Duck Boat tours are preparing Mobile launch.



By [Jared Boyd | JBoyd@al.com](mailto:JBoyd@al.com)

Email the author

on June 06, 2016 at 7:45 AM, updated June 06, 2016 at 8:39 PM



<http://www.gulfcoastducks.com/>

A new amphibious visitor is planning to make a home on the Causeway, as Gulf Coast Ducks prepares the launch of their tours of downtown Mobile.

Business owners Scott Tindle and Matt Zarzour have worked out several negotiations in the year-long process to bring this unique tour experience to Mobile. One last agreement looms in the balance however, with the Mobile City Council voting on a proposal to build three ramps to allow Duck Boats access in and out of the Mobile Bay. Tindle and Zarzour remain confident that the members of the Council will vote in favor of their venture.

In fact, Tindle and Zarzour say they have worked closely with city officials to make Duck Boats possible.

"This is a mayoral initiative," Tindle explains, stating that he and his partners put the business together in a direct response to Mayor Sandy Stimpson's "Destination Mobile" plan, a vision Stimpson crafted as a new identity for the city's tourism industry. [HERE](#)

TIGER Works for America

Posted by Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx

Once again, demand for our TIGER competitive grant program has been overwhelming.

With 337 applications coming from urban areas and 248 from rural communities, the continued high level of interest in this widely successful program underscores the desperate need for transportation investment nationwide. In its eighth year with \$500 million in available funding, TIGER applications totaled \$9.3 billion. Communities across the country know that if we want a strong, multimodal transportation system that will meet our needs in the future, we need to make meaningful investments today.



Seven times since 2009, this Department has unleashed our TIGER program across America. And seven times, this intensely competitive program has awarded grants to vital projects that improve transportation and provide real benefits to real people from coast to coast.

The 2015 TIGER round, alone, has enabled communities to leverage \$500 million in federal investment to support \$1.4 billion in overall transportation investments. The 381 projects in all 50 states who have received this funding since 2009 tell the story: Transportation investments change communities and change lives.

Take a look at Atlanta where a \$47.6 million TIGER grant to construct a new east-west streetcar line will connect many of the residential, cultural, educational and historic centers downtown, and provide enhanced transit options in a major metropolitan area. In New Mexico, TIGER funding investment in US-491 – a major trucking route with high volumes of commercial traffic- is expected to improve safety, increase transportation efficiency, and create potential economic development opportunities for the Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico. And \$100 million toward Chicago's one-of-a-kind CREATE partnership projects will add capacity and reduce delays for freight and commuter trains, reduce delays to motorists using at-grade crossings, as well as improve roadways, sidewalks, and curbs under railroad viaducts to enhance safety and security for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In short, TIGER is a program that works for America. It has delivered in the past; and the 2016 TIGER grant program awards will continue live up to that high standard.

Construction approved for bike lanes along parts of Springhill Avenue

BY CHRISTIAN JENNINGS THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH 2016

MOBILE, Ala. (WPMI) — The Alabama Department of Transportation has plans to resurface a nearly five-mile section of U.S. 98 in Mobile, from Broad Street to Stimpson Lane. With the project will come new bike lanes on a small section of the busy roadway downtown.

Officials said Thursday that Springhill Avenue between N. Catherine and Broad streets is a dangerous place for cyclists. ALDOT hopes that by September, construction will begin in that area and bike lanes will soon be a reality.

Avid bikers like Jeff Dequattro know first-hand the areas of Mobile where riding is especially dangerous. Springhill Avenue is one of those places.

"There's a community back there that relies heavily on bicycles for their only means of transportation. There aren't good ways to cross the street on Springhill and there isn't infrastructure or room to cycle. So this will change that," said Dequattro, who is the Executive Director of the Delta Bike Project.

That's why the city teamed up with the Alabama Department of Transportation this summer. Plans are in the works to install bike lanes in this heavily traveled part of downtown.

"For Springhill they're bringing the travel lanes from six lanes to five lanes, and adding a bike shoulder on either side," said Dequattro. "I know Alabama is listed by American League of Cyclists as the 50th most bicycle friendly state in the country, and Mobile is also in the bottom."

According to the University of Alabama's Center for Advanced Public Safety, there were 238 bicycle involved crashes in Mobile County over the past five years. Six of those were fatalities. In 2016 alone, 15 crashes have been reported. Eleven of those were with injuries.

City officials want to see those numbers go down.

It will cost about \$2.8 million for the resurfacing and bike lane additions. Once construction begins, the project should be complete in about four to six months.

Watch a historic Alabama bridge being blown up

Bob Gathany | bgathany@al.com By Bob Gathany | bgathany@al.com
Email the author | Follow on Twitter

Wednesday morning precisely on time, the Alabama Department of Transportation blew up another section of the B.B. Comer Bridge across the Tennessee River in Scottsboro, Alabama.

The B. B. Comer Bridge was a two-lane, 2,143-foot (653 m) long bridge spanning the Tennessee River along Alabama State Highway 35. The bridge is named after Alabama governor Braxton Bragg Comer, who served from 1907 to 1911. Construction of the bridge was carried out by the Kansas City Bridge Company for the Alabama State Bridge Corporation. Its construction commenced in 1929 and was complete by 1931.

The truss structure was the only remaining bridge of the 15 memorial toll bridges constructed by the Alabama State Bridge Corporation. Watch it [HERE](#)



Transportation Research

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.

Pursuing Equity in Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning

FHWA released a new [report](#) for transportation practitioners and decision-makers on considering equity in transportation planning. The paper defines equity in the bike and pedestrian program context, highlights recent research, and shares best practices and resources for fixing inequity.

2015 American Community Survey Release Schedule Announced

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced it will release the [2015 one-year American Community Survey \(ACS\) census data](#) on September 15 and the 2011-2015 five-year estimates on December 8. Census will release supplemental materials on July 21 with the 2014 ACS 1-Year Supplemental Estimates and 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year Replicate Estimates. The supplemental estimates will consist of 58 detailed tables and will be released on American FactFinder (AFF) and the application program interface (API). The replicate estimates will consist of the original estimate and the 80 replicate estimates for 107 tables and will be released on the FTP site with links available on AFF.

[See the Future of Transportation](#)
