



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, June 28, 2013

Volume 6, Number 13

In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET JUNE 28th, 2013
- 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

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

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

Today, Friday, June 28th is the deadline for both the State's and Mobile MPO Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant Applications. ALDOT has announced the **FY 2013 5310 application process is now open**, please see MPO Updates. What in the wide world of sports is the **Alabama Transportation Accountability Act, AND Megabus at the Wave?** Please see *In The News*. A different kind of *Just for Fun* this week.

The Great Race is [HERE](#) Sunday- The finish ceremony is set for 2 p.m. Sunday at Bienville Square. There are some great old cars racing from St. Paul, MN to Mobile, AL- check it out! (I hope they have air conditioning)...

Finally, congratulations to **Coach Tom Piper and Coach Monica Williamson of our staff** for making it to State finals with their Cal Ripken League baseball and ASA softball teams. The Matthews Park 8yr old Rookies are number one in the State, and the Robertsdale 16U girls softball are second in the State. Congrats to some great coaches!

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



www.mobilempo.org

706-1CAR

Mobile MPO Updates

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

Although we have submitted our DRAFT Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2014, the final document MAY (*subject to approvals*) be amended to include a 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 (see *In the News*), 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 will be called the South West Region for ALDOT's pilot reorganization program. The South West Region will cover 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 To Be 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

Senate Confirms Mayor Foxx Unanimously

The U.S. Senate voted to confirm The Honorable Anthony Foxx as the 17th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation by a vote of 100-0 yesterday. Read more at [NARC Transportation News and Information](#).

House members revive infrastructure bank proposal

A bipartisan group of more than 30 House members is reviving an idea for a national infrastructure bank to pay for road and transit projects. The lawmakers' latest proposal calls for the creation of a \$750 billion fund for infrastructure improvements that they said would be financed mostly by private companies.

Previous infrastructure bank proposals that called for federal seed money have run into opposition from conservatives. Some opponents also argued that it would be better to let states establish their own infrastructure funds instead of creating a national one in Washington. [\[HERE\]](#)

LaHood: Prospect for new highway bill 'not good' in House

Outgoing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Thursday that the prospects for a new surface transportation bill being passed by the House under his successor are "not good." LaHood was speaking at the National Press Club in Washington on Thursday morning, about an hour before the Senate is scheduled to vote on President Obama's choice to replace him, Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Anthony Foxx (D).

LaHood expressed confidence that the Senate would pass a transportation bill when the current funding measure expires in September 2014. But he was much more pessimistic about the chamber he was a member of from 1994 to 2009, the House. [\[HERE\]](#)

Senate Offers a More Multi-Modal 2014 Transportation Budget Than the House [\[HERE\]](#)

Last week, a House panel envisioned some big cuts to next year's transportation budget. TIGER and high-speed rail would get nothing, Amtrak would get slashed, and ixnay on all that green "livability" crap. (And that's practically a quote.)

The recent collapse of a bridge over the Skagit River in Washington state inspired the Senate to include a \$500 million program for bridge repair in its 2014 budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee voted this morning on the budget its own transportation subcommittee put together, and the end product couldn't have been more different. Where the House allowed for \$44 billion in discretionary spending, the Senate wants to budget \$54 billion. To hell with the Ryan budget and to hell with the sequester, too.

Many experts see all this budgeting as an exercise in futility, however. In recent years, the House and Senate have been so unable to see eye to eye on budgeting that they've passed a series of continuing resolutions, basically freezing current budget levels in place. That looks like a likely outcome for 2014, as well. That's not the worst thing in the world, since the budget that's been frozen in place since 2011 contains funding for TIGER, sustainability grants, high-speed rail and other important discretionary programs.

Copy of the Senate Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill: [\[HERE\]](#)

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.

Applications DUE TODAY for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): ALDOT AND URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS

ALDOT TAP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

ALDOT has announced the release of their application process; applications are due to the State by June 28th. Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for the TAP funding, and the Alabama Department of Transportation has mailed the application to each city and county in the SARPC region. ALDOT TAP Applications are only available at ALDOT. If you are a city or county and have not received an application, please let us or ALDOT know. Mr. Cecil Colson is the program manager for the TAP funds; his phone number is (334)353-6403.

MOBILE URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

The application the Mobile MPO Transportation Alternative Program Funds is **available** [\[HERE\]](#) and due to the SARPC by 5:00 PM, June 28th. You must be a municipality within the Mobile Urban Area or Mobile County to apply for these funds. Eligible Activities are:

*If you are a city within the Mobile MPO or Mobile County, and have a project in mind, it is possible to apply for the Mobile MPO TAP funds, **AND** the ALDOT Statewide TAP funds. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Just For Fun

This week's *Just For Fun* may not pertain to transportation...or does it? One of the eight Planning Factors that we promote through our LRTP, TIP and UPWP is: *to protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.* The city of Orange Beach has installed an osprey cam so you can look at a live feed of the ospreys and their juveniles <http://www.ospreycamera.com/>. These osprey represent a healthy environment and is certainly a quality of life indicator; it is just plain awesome to watch these birds.



This project is funded by: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Nature Conservancy and the Alabama Coastal Foundation. Thanks also to Baldwin EMC for the osprey platform and camera installation. Computer hardware and bandwidth

supplied by the [City of Orange Beach](#) - it, engineering and environmental departments.

In the News

Phil Williams proposes Alabama Transportation Accountability Act, forcing disclosure of road dollars



By [Challen Stephens | cstephens@al.com](mailto:Challen.Stephens@al.com)



Alabama Rep. Phil Williams, R-Monrovia

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- As Huntsville complains about lengthy delays in state road projects, Alabama Rep. Phil Williams says he has a plan to force Montgomery to show taxpayers where all the money goes. But the Alabama Department of Transportation says there isn't that much money being spent, and that the contract costs are already online. "The plan will be to force state government to be open and transparent with road project dollars on a county-by-county basis," said Williams, calling his online reporting requirement the Alabama Transportation Accountability Act of 2014. He said his bill, which would not come up until session next year, would require the Alabama Department of Transportation to update a web site each month, reporting where money was spent in the preceding weeks. "So if Mayor (Tommy) Battle sees he loses a project, if some other project suddenly sees a plus up, it will help him understand how to combat the problem," said Williams. [\[HERE\]](#)

UA researchers launch online survey for input on area transportation needs



By [Mike D. Smith | msmith@al.com](mailto:Mike.D.Smith@al.com)



Traffic along I-59 northbound through Birmingham on April 30. A University of Alabama survey wants the region's residents to complete a short online survey to help planners determine transportation needs. *The Birmingham News* file photo (Mark [Almond/malmond@aj.com](mailto:Almond@malmond@aj.com))

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- An [online survey](#) aims to identify regional transportation needs through the eyes of people who drive roadways or use public transit. The survey, through the University of Alabama's University Transportation Center for Alabama, asks drivers their views on how reliable and accessible their transportation links are, and what impacts transportation has on the region. The data will be shared with transportation professionals as a tool for planning decisions to hopefully meet those needs said Steven Jones, Jr., associate professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering at the university. The survey helps bring the ideas of everyday people into the planning process, he said. "There's been more and more attention paid to the important aspects of public transportation and stakeholder input," Jones said. "It's a way of making projects ultimately more accountable to the people who are obviously the end users." All answers are confidential. The multiple choice questions also ask people's opinions on access to different modes of transportation, safety and air and noise pollution.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

MEGABUS

Megabus is soon to be located at GMO building. Starting July 10, 2013, the Megabus will be departing from the GMO building at the WAVE Transit. Currently, the Megabus departs from the parking lot on SE corner of St. Louis St. and N Jackson St. The Megabus provides 6 trips in / out with service to New Orleans, LA, Montgomery, AL and Atlanta, GA at a discounted rate. All booking will be online and no ticketing will be available at the GMO building. For those that live in proximity to the WAVE Transit's fixed route service, this is good news. You can take the WAVE Transit to the Megabus! For online booking: <http://us.megabus.com>



FHWA/AASHTO Launch Freight Partnership V Registration

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) launched registration for their fifth Freight Partnership meeting, July 31- August 2, 2013 in Washington, D.C. The theme of this meeting is: *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) – Focus on Freight*. Regional Planning Organizations can register [HERE](#) for no cost. For more information, contact [Crystal Jones](#) at 202-366-2976.

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 Sevatec.

[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.

-