



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 7th, 2014

Volume 9, Number 10

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Recently Completed Planning Studies

Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

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There has been a **6th round of TIGER Funding announced** due April 28th, 2014, please see *Funding Opportunities*. Don't forget it is time to apply for TAP Funds in *Funding Opportunities*. There is a lot of chitter chatter about the President's proposed budget that **includes a \$302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal** that will improve America's highways and transit networks; please see *Legislative Updates*. Finally, "just park it" in this week's *Just For Fun*.

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



www.mobilempo.org check us out on FACEBOOK
706-1CAR

Mobile MPO Updates

JOINT MOBILE MPO Policy Board and TCC/CAC MEETING

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room at 110 Beauregard Street. The MPO will vote on the following items to be included into the Transportation Improvement Program from recommendations of the Technical Coordinating/Citizens Advisory Committee:

National Highway Funds

CN	Resurfacing on SR-158 from west of SR 213 to SR 13 (US 43)	FY 2014	\$1,639,613
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New Freedom (Rural/State)

TR	Mobile Bay Transportation, Rural, Capital	FY 2014	\$73,012
TR	Mobile Bay Transportation, Rural, Operations	FY 2014	\$164,250
TR	Mobile ARC, Rural, Operations	FY 2014	\$489,060
TR	Mobile ARC, Rural, Operations	FY 2015	\$513,512
TR	Mobile ARC, Rural, Operations	FY 2016	\$539,188

JARC Funds (Rural/State)

TR	Mobile Bay Transportation Rural, Operations	FY 2014	\$146,000
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Additional information may be obtained from the Transportation Planning Coordinator at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 433-6541. Written comments regarding the projects are welcome and may be submitted to:

Transportation Planning Coordinator
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
P. O. Box 1665
Mobile, AL 36633-1665
(FAX 433-6009).

Physically challenged persons who need special accommodations should contact SARPC in advance so arrangements can be made to meet their needs.

Projects Within Region Let February 28th, 2014

BALDWIN COUNTY

- Constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from just east of the I-10/SR-16 (US-90) Eastbound Ramp (MP 44.748) to just west of SR-181 (MP 47.978). Length 3.229 mi.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-21 from 0.2 miles south of I-65 (MP 7.947) to the south abutment of the Little River Bridge. Length 10.760 mi.
- Constructing the Resurfacing (High Performance Chip Seal) and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31/Twin Bridges Road) from 0.39 miles east of the Railroad Overpass at MP 57.950 to 0.27 miles west of the Little Escambia Creek Bridge east of Flomaton. Length 1.150 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

- Constructing the Intersection Improvements for CR-358 (Three Notch Road); CR-328 (Dawes Lane); and CR-328 (Dawes Lane Extension) in Mobile. Length 0.100 mi.
- Constructing the Sidewalks and Crosswalks on 12th Avenue and Kansas Street in Chickasaw. Length 0.794 mi.
- Constructing the Welcome Center Replacement (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Demolition, Building, Lighting, Landscaping, Sewer, and Lagoon Removal) on I-10 at the Alabama/Mississippi State Line.
- Constructing the Reconstruction (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Signing and Signals) of Wilson Avenue from SR-17 (St. Stephens Road) to 12th Avenue in the Cities of Prichard, Mobile, and Chickasaw. Length 2.477 mi.
- Constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the Halls Mill Creek Bridge to the Pavement Joint at Pinehill Drive in Mobile. Length 5.203 mi.

What's Under Construction?

Legislative Updates

President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget Blueprint Released This Week:

The Budget would increase total U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) spending more than 25% over last year's appropriated amounts. In addition, the Budget proposes spending \$302 billion (B) over four years to reauthorize the nation's surface transportation programs, which expire October 1, 2014. This represents a significant increase in annual spending, though this total includes dedicated rail funding which has not previously been included in surface transportation authorizing legislation. This additional spending and the current shortfall in the highway trust fund (HTF) would be covered by a \$63B transfer to the HTF using "transition revenue" from "pro-growth business tax reform." In addition, the proposal includes a performance measure to prioritize "fix it first" projects; \$10B over four years for a dedicate freight program; a substantial increase in funding for transit and passenger rail programs (increasing funding from \$12.3B to \$22.3B in 2015); and \$5B for competitive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants.

The Budget also proposes to improve the Federal permitting process by creating a new Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center and a Permitting Dashboard to be managed by DOT's Office of the Secretary. The Center will coordinate activities across nearly twenty Federal agencies and bureaus responsible for approval of transportation and infrastructure projects. The dashboard is envisioned as a public website to track project schedules and metrics for major projects.

The Budget also includes \$9B in competitive funding, including \$4B to "incentivize innovation and local policy reforms to encourage better performance, productivity, and cost-effectiveness in our transportation systems." This competitive grant program, called Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation, would incentivize State and local partners to adopt reforms in areas including safety, peak traffic demand management, and others. Examples included in the budget include implementation of distractive driving requirements or inclusion of mass transit, bike, and pedestrian options in transportation plans.

U.S. Department of Transportation's Proposed Budget Invests \$90.9 Billion in Safe, Efficient,

Four-year, \$302 Billion Surface Reauthorization Proposal Would Help Address Infrastructure Deficit, Provide Greater Access to Ladders of Opportunity

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today praised the Administration's vision for transportation as outlined in his \$90.9 billion budget requested for the U.S. Department of Transportation. These funds will lay a new foundation for economic growth and competitiveness by addressing our growing infrastructure deficit, investing in our national infrastructure network, increasing safety and efficiency, and providing greater access to ladders of opportunity.

"President Obama has offered the kind of aggressive transportation budget our country needs – one that replenishes the Highway Trust Fund today while also helping ensure the country has a safe, efficient transportation system for tomorrow," said Secretary Foxx. "These funds will do everything from helping communities tackle their transportation to-do lists to improving access to ladders of opportunity. And we will do everything at the Department of Transportation to make this budget a reality, including sending a bill to Congress to support it."

The centerpiece of the President's FY 2015 budget for the Department is a four-year, \$302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal that will improve America's highways and transit networks, continue building on the Department's overall safety record, while also ensuring a stable funding source for rail. The proposed budget would be paid for with \$150 billion from transition revenue generated from business tax reforms, along with current revenues from the gas tax. [\[HERE\]](#)

House Hearing: Overview of Public-Private Partnerships for Highway and Transit Projects:

The Panel on Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) met on Wednesday, March 5 to receive testimony on the role public-private partnerships play in the delivery of highway and transit projects. P3s are contractual agreements between public- and private-sector entities that allow for the procurement and delivery of a facility or service for public use. Though it is not a complete solution for solving the HTF crisis, increasing private sector involvement in highway and transit projects may help alleviate some federal financing pressure, experts told House lawmakers. They said that it is just one of many areas that lawmakers should consider. Joseph Kile, Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies at the Congressional Budget Office, stated that "on the basis of evidence from a small number of studies, it appears that such partnerships have built highways slightly less expensively and slightly more quickly, compared with the traditional public-sector approach." James M. Bass, Interim Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Texas DOT, claimed that "P3s in Texas have, and continue to play a vital role in how we deliver critical transportation projects...the private sector is flush with funds to invest in infrastructure projects and it is Congress' duty to continue to create an environment for those funds to be utilized," Phillip Washington, General Manager Regional Transportation District, said that "we encourage Congress to lean further forward with P3s, along with other innovative financing methods in the new transportation reauthorization bill". Richard A. Fierce, on behalf of The Associated General Contractors of America, concluded by saying that "with current and future public funding challenges at all levels of government, P3s offer the promise of delivering high-quality infrastructure in a timely and cost effective way, and can provide up-front capital for projects that could not be done otherwise."

Highway Trust Fund Must be Saved in Transportation Battle, Says Senate EPW Chair Boxer

The Highway Trust Fund is in real danger and has to be preserved in order to make sure that transportation funding is available for state transportation departments, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, said during the opening plenary session of the annual AASHTO Washington Briefing held this week in Washington, DC.

Boxer spoke about a variety of issues related to the reauthorization of current surface transportation bill, MAP-21, which expires on Sept. 30.

"We need to save the Highway Trust Fund. Let me stress that — we need to save it. It is threatened with extinction. We're going to have to fight hard to keep it going the next five or six years at least," Boxer said. "We don't want to give up the HTF because if we lose it, we have to battle against everything else in appropriations, and there are a lot of other important things that go through that process."

Boxer also reiterated her desire to get a transportation funding bill through her committee soon, stressing recent Congressional Budget Office projections that show the HTF could run out of funding as early as August (see related AASHTO Journal story [here](#)). Boxer said she's hoping for a five- to six-

year reauthorization at current spending levels (plus inflation) with a focus on programs like TIFIA. "Now that we've fought and agreed on those reforms [in MAP-21], our job should be relatively easy—if it wasn't for the fact that we're facing a [HTF] shortfall," Boxer said. "Let me be clear—the pending HTF shortfall must be addressed by an infusion of funds, otherwise CBO estimates obligations for 2015 would need to be reduced to zero. Only old projects could be funded—no new projects. I've begun work on the new bill. It is going well. I have sat down with every single member of my committee and we know what the challenges are. I plan to mark up a bill in April." [\[HERE\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

President Obama, DOT Secretary Foxx Announce \$600 Million for Sixth Round of TIGER Funding
[Notice of Funding Availability](#) now available.

ST. PAUL – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will join President Barack Obama today to announce that \$600 million will be made available to fund transportation projects across the country under a sixth round of the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly successful Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The announcement will be made at the Union Depot in St. Paul, which received \$35 million in the first round of TIGER to renovate the facility and restore tracks. Combined with roughly \$480 million in federal funding for the Central Corridor light rail transit line, St. Paul's Union Depot is proof of the impact that transportation investment can make, leading to job creation, downtown revitalization and economic growth.

"President Obama knows that transportation means opportunity for so many Americans," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "TIGER investments answer the President's challenge to expand opportunity through a strong transportation system that connects Americans with a better way of life." [\[HERE\]](#) <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program –TAP FUNDS

Deadline: *May 2, 2014*

Only cities and counties can apply for TAP funds, and your jurisdiction will determine your application for TAP Funds. If you are in the Mobile Urbanized Area, you are eligible for the Urban Area TAP Funds available through the Mobile MPO at South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. If you are outside of the Mobile Urbanized Area you will apply to ADLOT for TAP funds (see below). The applications, guidelines and funding limits between the STATE TAP and the URBAN TAP *are slightly different*. Please be aware, and if there are any question please do not hesitate to call us. The federal guidance on TAP funds is here: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

MOBILE URBANIZED TAP FUNDS

The Mobile MPO announces the availability of the FY 2014 Transportation Alternates Program (TAP) funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$200,000 (federal). The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. Applications for Mobile Urban Area TAP Funds can be found [\[HERE\]](#).

ALDOT TAP FUNDS

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) announced application availability for the FY 2014 Transportation Alternates Program (TAP) funding. The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. ***ALDOT TAP Funding applications can only come from ALDOT*** [\[HERE\]](#).

GRANT: FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration**Open until the Program Ends or Funding is No Longer Available**

FHWA announced on February 19 the availability of \$30 million (M) in funding and requests grant applications for FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). On a rolling basis, AID Demonstration funds will award multiple projects that meet eligibility, requirements, and selection criteria. [\[HERE\]](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) is soliciting proposals

that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure, from fleets operating at marine and inland water ports. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions include verified emission control technologies such as exhaust controls and engine upgrades, verified idle reduction technologies, certified engine repowers, and/or certified vehicle or equipment replacement. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

Economic Development Administration

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

EDA provides strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas of the United States. Under this FFO, EDA solicits applications from both rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. Link to Additional Information: EDA's website Please contact Diane Burnett of SARPC staff for questions 706-4621. Also, don't forget SARPC has a revolving fund loan program. <http://www.sarpc.org/rf.asp> The RLF is a locally controlled source of capital used to finance small business start-up and expansion whose projects will create permanent jobs. By combining RLF and bank financing the borrower can realize an effective rate well below market rates.

Just For Fun

The U.S. Army and defense giant Lockheed Martin have unveiled new self-driving vehicle technology, a leap forward in protecting soldiers in hostile environments. The \$11 million Autonomous Mobility Appliqué System enables almost any Army vehicle to navigate autonomously through rural and urban environments and negotiate all sorts of obstacles, including traffic. It will be unmanned which will save some troops for sure.



http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2014/03/can_it_parallel_park_too_army.html#incart_river_default

But how smart does a vehicle have to be to park itself, and how can it be operator error if the car is supposed to be the one parking?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtOwVsrY-Q8>

In the News

Bicycling to opportunity...in safety

Cities and towns across the country are taking steps to make biking an option for their residents, but we have a responsibility to make sure that it's a safe option, too. Because, even though NHTSA reports national total crash fatalities at record lows, bicyclist and pedestrian deaths [have not followed suit](#).

We won't stand still at DOT and allow this crisis to build up over time. As I told the enthusiastic bicycling advocates yesterday at the [2014 National Bike Summit](#), our roads should be safe; they should be easy places to travel, no matter how we're traveling on them



SARPC HOSTING GPS WORKSHOP

The SARPC Transportation Planning Department will host a free half day GPS orientation class for users of Trimble GPS units. The class will be offered on March 19, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the SARPC Training Room on the second floor of the GM&O Building in downtown Mobile at 110 Bearegard Street.

The class will focus on GPS fundamentals using Terrasync and Pathfinder Office software workflow and will include Data Dictionary Creation, Data Collection an Attribution, Point, Line, and Polygon creation, Nesting and Segmenting, Post Processing, Data Exportation to GIS format, and File Geodatabase Creation. Seating is limited to twenty participants. If you are interested in participating you may register with Instructor David Wright at (256) 665-5589 email: david_wright@neigps.com.



<http://aldotapps.dot.state.al.us/preconstruction/index.html>

ALDOT has announced its second annual Preconstruction conference will be held APRIL 2-4, 2014. All attendees will walk away with a better understanding of the pre-construction process and the role each Bureau, Division and Region has in this process. The Pre-Construction Conference is a great opportunity for you to network with your peers in the transportation engineering field, allowing you to share and gather knowledge.

Transportation Research

Free Webinar on Pedestrian Safety and the Highway Safety Improvement Program

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announce a free webinar on HSIP funding for pedestrian safety:

Pedestrian Safety and the Highway Safety Improvement Program

Thursday, March 13

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

To register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/389727434>

This webinar will provide an overview of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and its applications for addressing pedestrian safety.

Karen Scurry (Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety) will provide an overview of the program and discuss the relationships between the different HSIP programs, eligibility requirements, resources for additional information, and examples of pedestrian focused projects that have used HSIP funds.

The webinar will also feature presentations from two states – Arizona and California – to focus on how HSIP is applied on the state and local levels. Providing these presentations will be Kohinoor Kar (Arizona Department of Transportation) and David Cohen (FHWA California Division).

The presenters will also participate in a question and answer session to answer questions from the attendees.

This webinar is one of the free webinars that FHWA offers quarterly as part of its Pedestrian Safety Focus States and Cities initiatives. FHWA's Safety Office is trying to aggressively reduce pedestrian deaths by focusing extra resources on the states and cities with the highest pedestrian fatalities and/or fatality rates. Webinar archives for this series, as well as listings of upcoming sessions, can be found at http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/training/webinars_FHWA.cfm.

PBIC offers free, public Webinars approximately every other month. To register for upcoming Webinars and to access archived presentations, please visit <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/training/webinars.cfm>.

Downtown Mobile Alliance Strategic Plan Survey

Hundreds of Downtown Mobile Stakeholders have already completed the survey that will help the Downtown Mobile Alliance develop a strategic plan for the next five years. Join them and make your opinion count! Already, we know that parking, abandoned buildings and lack of affordable residential opportunities are some of the issues you think should be addressed. Please take the survey and add your voice. It will take about 10 - 15 minutes, and at the end you can enter your name to be eligible for a Downtown Mobile Gift Card.

As always, thank you for your interest in Downtown Mobile!

[Take this survey](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Offers Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars and On-line Training Opportunities

Did you know the USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO) offers FREE training and web-based resources?

Throughout the year, the ITS JPO's Professional Capacity Building (PCB) Program offers on-line training opportunities and regularly hosts T3 Webinars on a wide range of topics related to ITS planning, design, procurement, deployment, operations, noteworthy practices, and lessons learned. [\[HERE\]](#)

ACS at National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference

Visit Census Bureau staff at the federal agency round robin. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the ACS.

Date: Monday, March 10th from 1:45 PM-2:15 PM


Location: Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC

ACS Attendees: Gretchen Gooding and Tim Gilbert

Learn more about the [NLC Congressional City Conference](#).

ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Dual Vintage Variables Webinar

Advanced users learn about the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) and how to work with dual vintages of variables included in the ACS PUMS files. This presentation will give a background of the ACS PUMS files before explaining how to work specifically with dual vintage variables in the 2008-



2012 ACS 5-year PUMS files, including Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA), Occupation, and Industry variables.

Date and Time: Thursday, March 13th from 1:00-2:00 PM

Presenter: Tim Gilbert

Learn how to log-in by visiting the Census Bureau's [Educational Resources](#) page.

The ACS provides reliable statistics that are indispensable to anyone who has to make informed decisions about the future. These statistics are required by all levels of government to manage or evaluate a wide range of programs, but are also useful for research, education, journalism, business and advocacy. If you have questions about this survey, please call Customer Services Center at 1 (800) 923-8282.