



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

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Today is the last day to comment on the Draft EIS of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge. Please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. What did archaeologists find under the dirt at I-10 Wallace Tunnel Interchange, plus the Crepe Myrtle Trail was awarded a National Park Service Grant; see *In The News*. "Are you talking to me?" in today's *Just For Fun*.

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



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Mobile MPO Updates

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR COMMENT ON THE I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE DEIS

There are several articles relating to the bridge this week since today is the last day to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Almost 400 comments and according articles below, all comments, with the exception of few, are in favor of the bridge.

- [Is 394 a low turnout for public comments on I-10 Bridge? ALDOT doesn't think so](#)
- [With 394 comments, I-10 Bridge supporters make last-ditch push for more public input: 'every _vote counts'](#)
- [Why did you not add a public comment on the I-10 project?](#)
- [Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge Information Site](#)

Take a video tour of the bridge:



The I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening project is a proposal to increase the capacity of I-10 by constructing a new six-lane bridge with 215 feet of Air Draft Clearance (ADC) across the Mobile River and widening the existing I-10 bridges across Mobile Bay from four to eight lanes.

The proposed project would be located in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

The official comment period for the proposed Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening Draft Environmental Impact Statement is [HERE](#).

For more information on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge bridge:

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ALDOT'S Web Site: <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

Build The I-10 Bridge Coalition Web Site: <http://www.buildthei10bridge.com/>

DESTINATION 2040

The MPO Staff is continuing to develop the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan titled Destination 2040. The objective of the plan is to identify, to the maximum extent feasible, the multi-modal transportation improvements which will be needed in the Mobile urban area between now and the year 2040 in order to maintain an acceptable level of mobility. The plan is multi-modal in scope, encompassing long-range plans for highway, public transportation, and bicycle/pedestrian networks. Regional growth, economic development, and accessibility within the study area along with environmental concerns necessitate that the long-range plan addresses not only improved vehicular travel but also improvements to other modes of transportation such as bicycling and walking. Preservation of the existing transportation system coupled with enhancement of all modal choices will contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life in the region. You can learn more about the plan [HERE](#).

Projects Within Region Let November 7th, 2014

Mobile/Baldwin County

- for constructing the Various Repairs to Bridges over the Delta River on I-10 . Length 6.079 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$10,770,562 to \$13,164,020 . A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for \$5.00. Plans may be purchased for \$110.00 per set.
- for constructing the Permanent Restoration of Damaged Sites at Various Locations as indicated in the plans.

Baldwin County

- for constructing the Roundabout Installation on CR-64 at the intersection of CR-13 in Daphne. Length 0.132 mi.
- for constructing the Resurfacing, Guardrail, Traffic Stripe, and Signal Upgrades on I-10 (to include the ramps and side roads) from the east end of the Bayway Bridge to east of the SR-59 Interchange in Loxley . Length 9.221 mi.
- for constructing the Intersection Improvements to include Additional Turn Lanes (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, and Signals) on CR-65 at the intersection of SR-42 (US-98) west of Foley. Length 0.220 mi.

Mobile County

- for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-17 (US-45) from north of the I-65 Interchange in Prichard to north of the intersection of SR-158. Length 5.240 mi.
- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-158 from just west of the I-65 Overpass to the intersection of SR-13 (US-43) in Saraland. Length 2.229 mi.

Escambia County

- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Sunset Drive from the junction of CR-1 to the junction of Virginia Drive in Atmore (Site #1); on Martin Luther King Junior Avenue from the Atmore City Limits to the junction of Northgate Drive (Site #2); on Virginia Drive from the junction of East Sunset Drive to the intersection of Northgate Drive in Atmore (Site #3); and on Northgate Drive from the intersection of SR-21 to the intersection of Virginia Drive in Atmore (Site #4). Length 4.877 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

2014 Midterm Elections Mean Changes for Transportation:

We will have more to share about the election after NARC's webinar next Thursday, November 13 at 2:00 PM EST, but a few quick transportation-related items are worth noting now.

Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) lost his election, and though the result was not unexpected, it does leave a spot for a new top Democrat on the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has expressed his intention to run for the seat; however, there may be some competition for the position. Yesterday, Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) announced his intention to vie for the seat as well. Democrats typically stick to fairly strict standards of seniority, and Garamendi has only been on the panel since 2009. DeFazio joined in 1987.

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) is expected to become Chair of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, a position he held from 2003-2007. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the current Chair, is expected to remain on the committee as the Ranking Member. Inhofe was Ranking and Boxer was Chair during passage of the most recent authorization legislation, MAP-21.

ASCE's New Report Card Bumps the Nation's Infrastructure Grade Up to a D+



The new 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure is available to download for smartphones and tablets at iTunes, Google Play, and www.infrastructurereportcard.org.

By Doug Scott

In a much anticipated release, ASCE's 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of D+, showing slight progress from the D in the last Report Card issued in 2009. It's the first time since ASCE started producing Report Cards in 1998 that the grades rose overall and in several sectors.

Released Tuesday, March 19, in Washington, D.C., the report provides our nation's political leaders, policymakers, business leaders, infrastructure stakeholders, the media, and the general public with expert advice from the civil engineering community about the condition of infrastructure across the nation.

"As civil engineers, ASCE believes that we are the stewards of infrastructure—we designed it, we built it, and we actually oversee the operations and maintenance of it in many cases," notes ASCE President Gregory E. DiLoreto, P.E., F.ASCE. "So as stewards, we have a responsibility with the Report Card to call attention to the state of the nation's infrastructure. We as Americans need to be proactive in monitoring and taking care of our infrastructure so that it will be here not only for us, but for our children and our grandchildren."

ASCE has produced four previous Report Cards in 1998, 2001, 2005, and 2009—as well as the *Progress Report for America's Infrastructure*, which was released in 2003. These assessments have highlighted the fact that America's critical infrastructure—principally its roads, bridges, drinking water systems, mass transit systems, schools, and systems for delivering energy—may soon fail to meet society's needs.

Funding Opportunities

Senior Transportation Grant Opportunity

Proposals Due: November 7

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) is seeking applications for a new Ladders of Opportunity Grant Program – Connecting Seniors to Public Transportation. To support successful aging of older adults, this grant program was created to provide funding to communities to develop and test interventions designed to encourage and facilitate increased access and usage of public transportation and mobility options. Each funded project will be required to partner with one of several national initiatives that support aging in place and currently operate in numerous local communities nationwide. Grants will be awarded to 5 communities at a maximum of \$20,000 each for approximately 5 months (late December 2014-

May 31, 2015)

USDA – Grants for Increased Economic Opportunity and Improved Quality of Life in Rural Areas

Deadline: November 12

On August 13, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a press release announcing the availability of nearly \$6 million in grants to qualified organizations under the *Rural Community Development Initiative*. These grants will be offered to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community. Submissions must be made to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

Just For Fun

In case you did not know, there is a movie being filmed right here in Mobile called *Bus 657*. It includes [Robert De Niro](#) among many other actors, and has been going on for several weeks. A lot of the filming has been right here outside the SARPC office (and the WAVE transit). This week, outside our window, we heard something that distracted us from our work and called us to the window. We cannot tell you what we saw (that would be like giving away the ending to a movie), but *Just For Fun*, check out these bus stunts...



Ctrl+click pic for video...



Ctrl+click pic for video...



In the News

Crepe Myrtle Trail Awarded National Park Service Grant Grant to Mobile United will create a strategic plan for the implementation of the Crepe Myrtle Trail (CMT)

Mobile, Ala. - Mobile United is pleased to announce that they are the recipient of a two-year planning and assistance grant through the National Park Service's Rails, Trail and Conservation Assistance Program. The grant will jump start planning and implementation of the Crepe Myrtle Trail.

Awarded through the National Park Service's Rails, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, the grant will provide staff assistance to engage stakeholders, plan the trails routes, create funding plans, and identify groups, individuals, business, local government officials, and nonprofits that will spearhead the project.

"The momentum and support behind the creation of a permanent Crepe Myrtle Trail is higher than it has ever been," said Mobile United Executive Director Katherine Pitman.

"More than a dozen organizations and 150 people participated in the inaugural Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride in June of this year and we're thrilled to be able to continue our work on this great project for Mobile. Mobile United is grateful for the assistance from the RTCA program to undertake this critical first step in engaging all stakeholders in this planning process," Pitman said.

What started as an idea in the 1990's, the Crepe Myrtle Trail arose as a solution to the lack of waterfront access in a waterfront City that aims to stretch a minimum of 14 miles worth of dedicated paths and shared lanes. The route begins at Three Mile Creek, runs through Downtown Mobile, hugs Mobile River, traverses the Peninsula of Mobile neighborhood and the beautiful shores of Mobile Bay and ends at the Dog River, while connecting at least seven existing parks, and other natural areas that have access.

What are they finding at I-10 Wallace Tunnel West Tunnel Interchange Project?



DOWNTOWN MOBILE, Ala. (WALA) – A team of archaeologists have found thousands of artifacts from centuries ago in downtown Mobile.

Diggers found an old outhouse, brier pipes, and parts of buildings from the early settlers of Mobile in the early 19th century, The brier pipes had faces carved into them.

"It's always nice to see a human face looking back at you out of the dirt," said Greg Waselkov with the University of South Alabama.

They also found a rice field and a barrel well they think belonged to the farmer.

"It turns out rice is actually kind of important to Mobile. It's the economic pillar that really kept this area going through the late 18th century," Waselkov said.

Those are just a few of the artifacts found. Even after the digging has stopped, researchers will use the artifacts to continue to learn about Mobile's history.

"We're still analyzing all the artifacts we have thousands and thousands of artifacts that we found in this area," Waselkov said.

The artifacts will be stored at the University of South Alabama. Some of the artifacts will have to be chemically treated to keep the material from disintegrating.

Recapping a chat with Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson



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on November 03, 2014 at 2:23 PM, updated November 03, 2014 at 2:34 PM

MOBILE, Alabama - From sales taxes to Water Street revitalization and economic development, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson touched upon a variety of issues during a 45-minute online chat at the AL.com building on Royal Street.

It was the second time Stimpson met with AL.com's crew for an online chat. [He previously participated in a live chat with the news organization in February](#) shortly after announcing free wireless Internet at Bienville Square.

"It's great to be in the new offices of AL.com on Royal Street, which is just a hub of construction activity right now of great things to come," Stimpson said.

Stimpson answered or addressed nearly 30 issues during the live chat that comes one day before the official [first anniversary of his swearing-in date as mayor](#). Click [HERE](#)

Public transportation is a path to a brighter future for Alabama: reader opinion



Stephen Stetson

Maybe you've been trying to make plans with some friends when one of them suggests, "I could just take the bus," leading to eye-rolling and sighs all around. "Must not be from around here," everyone thinks at once.

Or maybe you have wondered, while stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, why there isn't a fast train to take people from Birmingham to Montgomery, or maybe even extended tracks to link Mobile to Huntsville and create a fast, efficient north-south corridor.

Or maybe you visited a city in another state, used the public transportation there and wondered, "Why doesn't Alabama have something like this?"

The reasons behind Alabama's transportation shortcomings are numerous, and they're the subject of a new report released this month by Alabama State University's Center for Leadership and Public Policy. The full report, "Connecting Our Citizens for Prosperity," is available at ariscitizens.org.

The report analyzes why we're so reliant on cars and trucks in Alabama. It also discusses the dangers of being disconnected - and what we can do to improve the situation. Continue [HERE](#)

Transportation Research

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2011-2013 ACS 3-Year Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau just announced the release of the 2011-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates, the most relied-upon source for up-to-date socioeconomic information every year. The release covers a three-year period from 2011 to 2013 and more than 40 topics, such as educational attainment, income, health insurance coverage, occupation, language spoken at home, nativity, ancestry and selected monthly homeowner costs.

The statistics are available in detailed tables for the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 20,000 or more.

Visit the Census Bureau's American FactFinder to find statistics for your area. For more information about the ACS Data Release Schedule, new ACS products, documentation, and a list of new tables for the 2011-2013 ACS 3-Year release, please visit the 2013 Data Release page.

2013 ACS 1-Year PUMS

The PUMS files are a set of anonymized untabulated records that data users can access to create custom tables that are not available through pre-tabulated (or summary) ACS data products. To read more about how the PUMS files are created, browse code lists, or look up subjects, please visit our PUMS Documentation Page. To access PUMS data, please visit American FactFinder, our FTP site, or DataFerrett.

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 the Customer Services Center at 1 (800) 923-8282.

See the latest Stats In Action videos showing how statistics from the ACS are used to make decisions and future plans in communities across the U.S..

FHWA releases new BIKESAFE guide as part of DOT's effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released its new Bicycle Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System (BIKESAFE). This resource helps support the U.S. Department of Transportation's [new pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative](#).

BIKESAFE is an online guide for implementing countermeasures to improve the safety and mobility of bicyclists. It provides practitioners with information and tools to review and select engineering and roadway infrastructure improvements to reduce bicyclist injuries.

BIKESAFE is comprised of four sections: A guide of basic information, specific countermeasure details, case studies, and an expert system tool for countermeasure selection, as well as links to dozens of other helpful web resources.

Guide: This section helps practitioners better understand the issues facing bicyclists, how to analyze crashes, and how to implement new treatments.

Countermeasures: The Countermeasures section includes a comprehensive list of 46 engineering, education, and enforcement countermeasure options, as well as details of each countermeasure, including its description, purpose, considerations, safety effect, and cost.

Case Studies: There are 34 case studies, or success stories, that document one or more of the

countermeasures that have been implemented, along with the background of the problems, bicycle safety solutions selected, and the results of the treatments.

Selection Tool: The expert countermeasure selection system allows users to input the basic safety problem and site conditions. The expert system will propose a "short list" of candidate treatment options that likely would be suited to address the specific bicyclist safety problem for that situation.

This online version of BIKESAFE updates an eight-year-old version and is now available as an interactive tool, usable on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. BIKESAFE can be found at <http://www.pedbikesafe.org/BIKESAFE>

CDC Report on Cost of Car Crashes

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the 2.5 million people who visit emergency rooms following car crashes each year cost the economy more than \$50 billion. In the report, the CDC urges states to enact and enforce seat belt laws and sobriety checkpoints, and to push the use of booster seats for children. Click [HERE](#) for the report.