



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, September 2nd, 2016

Volume 19, Number 10

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South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
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Governor Bentley Awards \$3.7 Million to Improve Highway Safety (See *In The News*). **STATE TAP FUNDING Announced!!!!** See Funding Opportunities. The Mobile MPO meeting is September 14th at **9:30 AM** in the SARPC Board Room, and the TCC/CAC met this week (please see *Mobile MPO Updates*). There is a South Alabama RPO meeting scheduled (See *South Alabama RPO Updates*). What's your phobia? See this week's *Just For Fun*.

Happy Labor Day Weekend. A wise man once said: *"Don't speed, don't text and drive, and don't trust other drivers"*

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

The Mobile MPO's TCC/CAC met this week

The TCC/CAC met this week and recommended several agenda items to the MPO Policy Board which will meet on **September 14th, 2016 at 9:30 AM**. One of the items on the agenda was the Self Certification resolution. You may recall this was on the agenda in July of 2015. However, because of the ADA Transition Plans not being completed, we could not in good faith self-certify ourselves. One year and few months later, we do have nine adopted ADA Transition Plans for Public ROW. The TCC/CAC noted at Wednesday's meeting that the City of Mobile had not had their ADA Transition Plan adopted, and recommended approval of the Self Certification subsequent the adoption of the City of Mobile's Plan. Since Wednesday's meeting, the City of Mobile has adopted their Plan. The Self Certification will be on September 14th's Agenda. A couple other items include the adoption of the Unified Planning Work Program and an amendment to the TIP for FTA 5310 funds. There was a lengthy discussion on the Urban TAP Funds, however that discussion was tabled. A committee will most likely be comprised and we will seek guidance from the FHWA and ALDOT concerning the TAP funds and the FHWA recommendation for a multi-year schedule of projects. We will keep you posted.

Also, the Mobile MPO Congestion Management Process (CMP) is in need of an overhaul. Staff has been contemplating on what the CMP is lacking, and how to improve it. Next week is a workshop in Birmingham on integrating operations and maintenance into the MPO Planning Process to help us with our thought process. We are also looking into HERE data to replace the laborious travel time studies that we have conducted for the past 20 years. With today's technology and cell phone/GPS data, that data is already collected.

MPO Safety Performance Measures Fact Sheet

FHWA recently announced the availability of four new resources online to help states and other stakeholders implement the Safety Performance Management Measures Final Rule. The resources include a safety performance targets timeline and a list of data resources and training support. In addition, the [MPO Safety Performance Measures Fact Sheet](#) summarizes the requirements for MPOs and compares the different responsibilities with state DOTs.

ADA TRANSITION PLANS

The ALDOT deadline of July 20th to have an adopted ADA Transition Plan for Public ROW within an Urban Area has been extended until September of this year. We will have an MPO meeting on September 14th to adopt the Mobile MPO Self-Certification, as we can say with sincere honesty, that yes we have nine ADA Transition Plans for Public ROW. We are currently working on a Mobile MPO ADA Web page that will eventually have links to the nine plans, and ADA Coordinators.

The inventory is complete, public meetings have been had, and final plans have been adopted. I want to thank everyone for getting these plans adopted as fast as you have been. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Harrison.

FTA 5310 FUNDING

The Mobile MPO is the Designated Recipient of the FTA 5310 Urban Area funding. Available this fiscal year was \$110,042 (federal) for operating and \$387,964 (federal) for capital. The Independent Living Center, City of Satsuma, and the Mobile ARC were awarded operating funds for FY 2017. Mobile ARC, The Learning Tree, Independent Living Center, and Alta Pointe were awarded capital grants totaling \$377,164 federal dollars for 2017. Congratulations to the grantees.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDING

The Mobile MPO is also the Designated Recipient of Urban Area TAP funds. We had available this fiscal year \$551,000 in federal funds. Congratulations to Mobile County for their ADA Compliance TAP Project, and the City of Mobile for Sidewalks along Bit and Spur form Old Shell Rd to University Blvd and Old Shell Rd Sidewalk Improvements from Union Ave to Hyland Avenue.

The FHWA has recommended to us that we schedule it much like our STP Attributable funds. This could mean our next call for projects will be for those three years. There was a lengthy discussion at the August 31st TCC/CAC meeting, however that discussion was tabled. A committee will most likely be comprised and we will seek guidance from the FHWA and ALDOT concerning the TAP funds and the FHWA recommendation for a schedule of projects. We need to think about the funding agreements, a ranking methodology much like the TIP Project ranking methodology, funding agreement extensions, etc.

South Alabama RPO Updates

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) will host a meeting of the **Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Committee at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at the Baldwin County Central Annex at 22251 Palmer Street in Robertsdale, Alabama.**

Items on the agenda include adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting, the election of a vice-chairperson, review and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017 Work Program, updating the RPO Transportation Plan and list of Safety Needs, and a discussion of current and future transportation projects in the rural areas of Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

If you want to add items on the agenda or if you have any questions or comments regarding the above information, feel free to call us at (251) 706- 4622.

If you are a voting member and are unable to attend the meeting you may send a proxy in your place.

Projects Within Region Let August 26th, 2016

Mobile County

- For constructing the Partial Bridge Deck Repair/Replacement on I-65 Northbound and Southbound Bridges over Cottage Hill Road in Mobile. Length 0.232 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,180,941 to \$1,443,373 .

Baldwin County

- For constructing the Median Improvements and Beautification (Widening, Resurfacing, Traffic Stripe and Signals) on SR-182 from near the junction of Loop Road (MP 12.264) to just east of the Cotton Bayou Beach Access (MP 13.343). Length 1.032 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,633,329 to \$3,218,513.
- For constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-10 (Keller Road) over Boggy Branch south of Foley. Length 0.769 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$648,376 to \$792,459.
- For constructing the Adaptive Signal Installations along SR-42 (US-98) at various locations as indicated in the plans. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,793,964 to \$2,192,622.

Escambia County

There are no projects at this time.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

Both US chambers are on recess and will return on September 5.

FHWA Announces Grants to Test New Ways of Funding Highways

The new Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives (STSFA) grant program will fund states for the exploration of revenue mechanisms to help sustain the Highway Trust Fund. The eight projects selected will share the \$14.2 million to pilot an assortment of options to raise revenue such as on-board vehicle technologies that charge vehicles based on miles traveled and pay-at-the pump/charging station road user charges. The states selected for the new FAST Act program are California, Delaware, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Washington.

State Troopers push Alabama Move Over Law ahead of holiday weekend

BY JENNIFER EDWARDS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST 2016

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, Ala. — More drivers on the road during heavy travel periods can lead to more crashes and that, in turn, puts law enforcement and first responders in danger. "ALEA" told ABC 33/40 it is important to remember the Move Over Law when you see flashing lights.

According the Alabama Department of Transportation, roadside crashes are the number one cause of death for police and state troopers. The Move over Law is something they take very seriously.

"We've had several law enforcement officers struck and killed, we've had a number of tow truck drivers struck and killed when they were attempting to remove vehicles from the road side," said Alabama State Trooper Reginal King. King said when you see flashing lights, move over. "Anytime you're on a multi-lane highway, such as the interstate, and you see flashing lights, you're always required to move over to the left lane if its open. Now in the event that you're not able to do so, we always require you to reduce your speed

15 miles per hour below the posted speed limit," King said.

King said a lane change could mean the difference of life and death.

"It's always important to commit all of your attention to operating your motor-vehicle, if there is a law enforcement official on the side of the roadway, it only takes a split-second for the driver to take their eyes off the roadway and possibly strike and kill that individual," he said.

Violating the law is considered a misdemeanor and can carry a fine of up to \$100 and possible court costs.

Funding Opportunities

ALDOT TAP FUNDING (deadline December 16th, 2016)

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is soliciting applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for FY 2017.

The TAP application and instructions are located on the ALDOT website at:

http://www.dot.state.al.us/moweb/specialprograms_section.htm

The TAP application is available on this page and on page two (2) of the instructional information is a listing of eligible improvement projects for TAP funding. The deadline for submission of FY 2017 TAP applications including support documentation is Friday, December 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Some major application requirements of the TAP are:

1. Only cities, towns and county commissions can apply for funding;
2. Due to limited funding, there is a \$400,000 cap on the amount of federal funds that a sponsor can apply for;
3. Only one application can be submitted by an eligible sponsor due to limited funding;
4. The funding ratio for TAP projects is 80% federal funds and 20% sponsor funds. The sponsor is responsible for the cost of required preliminary engineering;
5. Public involvement is optional;
6. Fifty (50) percent of the TAP funds are sub-allocated to the MPO's by population and fifty (50) percent is distributed to any area of the state by ALDOT ;
7. All TAP projects are selected by a competitive application process administered by ALDOT ;
8. Independent landscaping projects are not eligible;
9. Transportation museums are not eligible;
10. For cities/towns located within the six (6) largest MPO's (Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, Columbus, GA, and Pensacola, FL), the TAP funds that are being administered by ALDOT are completely separate from the TAP funds that are dedicated to the aforementioned MPO's.

Please contact Bob Kratzer at (334) 353-6442 if you have questions regarding this matter.

USDOT Announces \$7 Million in Funding for Innovative Research to Improve Public Transportation (Deadline October 14, 2016)

The FTA and USDOT announced the \$7 million Safety Research and Demonstration (SRD) program this week. The SRD program provides assistance for transit agencies to pursue cutting edge technology and innovative approaches to safety. This year the program aims to help transit agencies prevent collisions, enhance safety design elements, and evaluate potential solutions. Applications are due October 14. [HERE](#)

Creative Placemaking Grants and 2017 Guidelines Announced

[Creative Placemaking Grants](#)

Application Deadline: *September 12, 2016*

Creative placemaking is increasingly a tool of choice for those working to forge solutions to community development challenges. As one of the leaders in the creative placemaking field, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announces its latest round of funding through its signature creative placemaking program, Our Town. NEA will award \$4.3 million in grants to fund 64 projects in 36 states in cities ranging from Los Angeles, California to Lewiston, Maine. [Guidelines and application materials](#) for 2017 Our Town funding are posted on NEA's website. [All 2016 Our Town projects](#) are available in the related content section.

The Big Jump Project

[The Big Jump Project](#) applications Due: *October 28, 2016*

Building on the momentum of the Green Lane Project, The Big Jump will put bikes at the center of connecting people to the places where they live, learn, work and play. Through a mix of on-the-ground infrastructure, smart outreach and community engagement, The Big Jump will partner with community leaders in the U.S. to identify opportunities for improvements specifically tailored to each community's needs. The Big Jump Project is a three-year effort to help 10 places achieve a big jump in biking – a doubling or tripling of people riding – by building a network of safe and comfortable places to ride and engaging the community. The goal is also to validate a core concept: that if a city does all the right things, more people will ride and the community will be a better place to live, work and play. The Big Jump team is looking for 10 places that will achieve great things for biking between now and 2020.

Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets Extended

September 2016

Last year, Secretary Foxx challenged city leaders to raise the bar for bicyclist and pedestrian safety by joining a year-long Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets effort. Mayors and other elected city officials created local action teams to advance

safety and accessibility goals by taking on challenge activities. Over the course of the year, USDOT invited Challenge Cities to participate in forums, webinars, and learn about available resources to help them accomplish their goals. The challenge is now open until September 2016. Interested cities can still join the more than 200 Challenge cities committed to improving walking and biking by emailing pedbikesafety@dot.gov

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Deadline: Rolling

Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Through the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. EDA is employing a new two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO. Proposals will be reviewed by EDA within 30 days of receipt; and following the proposal review, full applications will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt.

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



It is Labor Day Weekend, the beginning of September. September (Roman month) (from Latin septem, "seven") was originally the seventh of ten months on the oldest known Roman calendar, with March (Latin Martius) the first month of the year until perhaps as late as 153 BC.[2] After the calendar reform that added January and February to the beginning of the year, September became the ninth month, but retained its name. It had 29 days until the Julian reform, which added a day; *way to go Julius Caesar, you not only expanded the Roman Republic, but you screwed up the calendar.*

September marks the start of the academic year in many countries, in which children go back to school after the summer break, sometimes on the first day of the month. Kids in South Alabama have been back to school now for a couple of weeks, and they have overcome their fear of going to school. That is called *Didaskaleinophobia- Fear of going to school*. This is not to be confused with *Scolionophobia- Fear of school*. So what kind of fears are there in the transportation world? You will be surprised (*with cynical commentary provided to you for free*):

Fear of Bridges or of crossing them- Gephyrophobia.

I can see that, I think I have an Aunt that does not like to cross bridges.

Fear of flying- Aviophobia or Aviatophobia

Pretty Common, especially if you are John Madden

Fear of Railroads or train travel- Siderodromophobia.

Hmmmm maybe, if you have already been in a train wreck

Fear of Accidents- Dystychiphobia.

Probably pretty common, as is

Fear of Road travel or travel- Hodophobia.

and

Fear of Car or vehicle, riding in- Amaxophobia.

Which is not:

Fear of Automobile, being in a moving- Ochophobia

Please don't confuse this with:

Fear of Automobiles- Motorphobia.

Why would you be afraid of the Ford in my drive way? My Chevy...*maybe, it has a 5.3 Vortex engine made of real tornadoes*

This too I can understand

Fear of Crossing streets- Dromophobia (Water St at Beauregard St, last one across is a rotten egg, scrambled)

BUT COME ON!!!

Fear of Streets- Agyrophobia What? How can one be afraid of beautiful Fairhope Ave?

Or

Fear of Bicycles- Cyclophobia

WHAT THE? Just give them 3 feet, you'll be OK

Fear of Walking, standing up and- Stasibasiphobia

NOOOooooo!!!

Fear of Walking- Ambulophobia, Basistasiphobia or Basostasophobia

WHAT WILL YOUR FIT BIT SAY!!!

These phobias exist in this hyper sensitive world, and although not transportation related, but if you have [Koumpounophobia](#), I fear it may escalate into [Omphalophobia](#), *Just For Fun*.

In the News

Governor Bentley Awards \$3.7 Million to Improve Highway Safety

Posted: Sep 1, 2016 10:22 AM CDT
Updated: Sep 1, 2016 10:31 AM CDT
by [Rashad Snell](#)



Governor Robert Bentley on Thursday awarded nearly \$3.7 million to help keep Alabama roads safe during the upcoming Labor Day weekend and other major traveling holidays during the next year.

Funds will be used by law enforcement agencies throughout the state to maintain a presence on highways including setting up checkpoints, increasing patrols on heavily traveled roads and providing traffic monitoring.

"I am proud to award these funds to increase safety on all of Alabama's more than 100,000 miles of roadways," Governor Bentley said. "Highway safety is a very important part of our overall efforts to increase public safety. By increasing the number of troopers and police on the roads, we look to increase driver awareness and adherence to our traffic safety laws."

Bentley awarded \$1.2 million to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to keep more troopers on the road during heavy traffic times. The remaining funds will be distributed among the four traffic safety offices in the state, which allocate funds to local police and sheriff's departments for use in their jurisdictions.

Allocations to each office are as follows: North Central Region, \$686,577; East Central Region, \$669,581; Southwest Region, \$604,631; and Southeast Region, \$536,127.

The funds also help support major traffic safety campaigns like "Click it or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." The Drive Sober campaign is now in full swing through Labor Day with the aim of reducing highway injuries and deaths caused by impaired driving due to drugs or alcohol and distracted driving.

Funds were made available to the state from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and are being administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

"This program puts the funds into the hands of state and local law enforcement agencies who know exactly where patrols and police presence need to be," ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said. "ADECA is pleased to partner with law enforcement across our state in this effort to reduce deaths and injuries on our state's roads."

ADECA administers an array of programs supporting law enforcement and traffic safety, economic development, energy conservation, water resource management and recreation development.

ALDOT looks to drones to save money

Travis Leder tleder@waaytv.com



The Alabama Department of Transportation may look at new technology to help loosen what many consider a tight budget.

State leaders are looking at drones for a variety of uses, but ALDOT leaders say using these unmanned aerial systems could not only save time, but it could also save money when it comes to bridge inspections. "It used to take a crew of people on the ground maybe several days," explains ALDOT Aeronautics Bureau Chief John Eagerton, "Now we can condense that into a matter of hours."

Eagerton says the department will know more about potential savings by 2017. More people are expected begin to commercially use drones because of [new FAA drone policies enacted in August](#). The government forecasts 600 thousand more commercial drones in the skies by 2017. Because of increased popularity, state lawmakers are likely to introduce legislation in 2017 to place certain restrictions on drone usage

USEDA announces \$1.9M grant for Rivercane

By [Don Fletcher](#) / September 2, 2016

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has approved a \$1.6 million grant to help put in place or strengthen the infrastructure at Rivercane Industrial Park, bringing to \$4.1 million the total federal, state, regional and private funds allocated to the project.

Announcement of the newest grant was made Friday morning (Sept. 2) by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Matt Erskine, who toured the Muskogee Technology manufacturing facility in Atmore before heading to Mobile for a press conference to announce an industrial grant there.

Christopher A. Masingill, who serves as federal co-chairman of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), joined Erskine on the visit to South Alabama. DRA had earlier approved a \$200,000 grant for the Rivercane project.

The grant money allocated to developing and expanding the industrial park's infrastructure also includes about \$1.6 million from the Alabama Department of Transportation and \$300,000 from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

The city will reportedly be responsible for about \$600,000 in matching funds.

Southern Light, a Mobile-based fiber optics company, will also chip in an amount equal to "between \$50,000 and \$60,000" of in-kind services by digging trenches for and otherwise making the area ready for installation of fiber optics systems to any company that locates within the local industrial park.

The grants are part of the federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership. The Mobile area, which includes Atmore, is one of only 24 geographic regions in the country that are part of IMCP.

For more details on the grant announcement and its impact on the city and surrounding area, read next week's Atmore News.

In five years, we might get the same trains that Europe had in the 1980s. *(the NE maybe)*

Heather Smith, Grist.org; August 30, 2016

Vice President Joe Biden (call him "Amtrak Joe") and Anthony Coscia, Amtrak's chair, announced late last week that the feds are loaning Amtrak \$2.5 billion to buy swanky new higher-speed trains to run along the Northeast Corridor, the lucrative train route that connects Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. The trains should roll out in 2021. Are the new trains cool? Well, they look like friendly, techno-loving millipedes, and they have the soundtrack to prove it.



<https://youtu.be/WH-3FsmU6KQ>

Amtrak is partnering with Alstom, the folks behind France's high-speed TGV ("Train à Grande Vitesse"), to build the 28 trains in upstate New York. They will be able to tilt hard into curves, allowing them to move faster (160 mph) than the Acela trains running on the Northeast Corridor (135 mph). They're also supposed to be 30 percent lighter, which means a cheaper fuel bill.

The current Acela trains are heavy because the Federal Railroad Administration forced Amtrak to make them twice as heavy as their European counterparts, thinking that would make them more crash-resistant. But it's part of the reason Acela trains have had braking troubles.

It may feel like all the other countries already have trains that can top 200 mph, but we are going to make it to the future one of these days. Consider this a start.

2016 ALABAMA RURAL ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SAMUEL GINN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING Federal Highway Administration Alabama Department of Transportation Alabama Technology Transfer Center And the Department of Civil Engineering presents the 2016 ALABAMA RURAL ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE October 4 -6, 2016

Host Location Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge 1155 Lodge Drive Guntersville, AL 35976

About the Conference: The 2016 Alabama Rural Road Safety Conference is for city engineers, county engineers, public works officials, transportation planners, DOT personnel, and others who are responsible for the design, maintenance, and safety of rural roads. It will strengthen your knowledge of available tools, countermeasures and processes to improve safety on your roads. The Conference will highlight methods to identify rural road safety issues and appropriate countermeasures by utilizing real world examples and activities, which will prepare participants to apply the concepts to roadway operations and maintenance. The Conference agenda was developed to emphasize the implementation of the safety process through all stages of roadway planning, design and operations through practical guidance specifically geared to local/rural roads. Topics include: ● Safety Components of Intersections and Horizontal Curves ● Design of Rural Roundabouts ● Performing Road Safety Assessments and Reviews ● Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Participants will learn how to identify safety issues as well as develop and apply low cost solutions using proven countermeasures. Peer networking during the Conference will provide opportunities for discussion of various safety challenges and potential solutions.

Location and Schedule The conference will be held at Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge, located at 1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville, AL

35976. Information on accommodations is listed later in the brochure. Registration and Fee Cancellation Policy Due to commitments to our speakers and facilities, the registration fee is non-refundable if a registrant withdraws less than five business days before the program starts. Substitutions may be made at any time, please notify us in advance if possible. No-shows will be liable for the entire conference fee. Auburn University reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient registrations. This decision is usually made no later than five business days prior to the event. If a program is cancelled for any reason, all fees will be refunded. Auburn University will not be responsible for travel expenses incurred by a registrant as the result of a cancelled program. Program Committee Registration and check-in will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Main Lobby on October 4, 2016. All persons attending the conference must register. The registration fee of \$150 includes all sessions, program materials, refreshment breaks, reception, two breakfasts, one lunch, and one dinner. To register, please complete the attached registration form and return it to the address indicated or call us at (800)446-0382, (334) 844-4370 or FAX (334) 844-5715. On-line registration is available at: www.eng.auburn.edu.

Transportation Research

BTS Releases First-Ever National Transit Map Data

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today released National Transit Map data, a geospatial database containing the information submitted by almost 200 transit agencies that provides open, machine-readable data about their stops, routes, and schedules.

The national, openly available map of fixed-guideway and fixed-route transit service in America will allow the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to demonstrate the importance and role of transit in American society and to identify and address gaps in access to public transportation. It will also support research, planning and analysis on the benefits of transit, such as the economic impacts of transit on a community's economic development, or on reducing poverty in low-income neighborhoods.

The national Transit Map can be used to support DOT's [Ladders of Opportunity](#) initiative to promote the use of existing transportation networks to connect residents to jobs, education, health, government, and other essential services.

The initial [National Transit Map](#) consists of General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data feeds registered with BTS in response to a March 2016 request for the data from U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. Almost 200 transit agencies responded, submitting data on over 385,000 stops and stations and [nearly 10,000 routes](#). Development of the National Transit Map is a continuing process and another update is expected to be released by the end of 2016.

This first version of the National Transit Map contains data for 84 percent of the top 25 urban transit agencies with fixed route service, 74 percent of the top 50 agencies, and approximately one-third of all urban transit agencies with fixed route service. DOT is currently working to bring additional transit agencies on board for the second version of the map, scheduled to be released in late 2016.

BTS has worked jointly with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the DOT Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop and release the inaugural map.

The National Transit Map includes the National Transit Layer – national data feeds that provide open, machine readable spatial and tabular data about the nation's transit systems stops, routes, and schedules. It also has a National Participation Map that shows which agencies have volunteered to take part in the National Transit Map. In addition, Interactive Mapping Apps that provide tools such as calculators for distances from transit stops, trip frequency and time of day coverage will be released shortly.

The National Transit Map will be a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) within the [National Transportation Atlas Database \(NTAD\)](#), a set of nationwide geographic databases of transportation facilities, networks, and associated infrastructure. It will be a substantial update to the previous transit-focused map, which was released in 2004 and only included the location of fixed-guideway transit such as rail systems. The new map includes fixed route systems such as bus.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Safety is pleased to announce the availability of several new resources to help States implement the [Safety Performance Management Measures](#) Final Rule under 23 CFR 490. These resources, available at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/spm/>, include:

- **State Serious Injury Conversion Tables:** assist States in reporting serious injuries per the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) 4th Edition attribute for "Suspected Serious Injury (A)." States that do not currently use the MMUCC 4th Edition attribute should use the conversion tables to convert the equivalent data from their State's Motor Vehicle Crash Database. The conversion tables also provide the equivalent definitions for pedestrian and pedalcyclist as defined in the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) D16.1-2007 for States to report the required number of non-motorized serious injuries.
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Performance Measures Fact Sheet:** highlights the requirements specific to MPOs and provides a comparison of MPO and State DOT responsibilities.
- **2018-2019 HSIP Safety Performance Targets Timeline:** provides important dates for the safety performance target process, including coordination, target establishment, reports, and assessment of significant progress.
- **Safety Performance Measures Resources and Support:** provides a list of training opportunities, tools, and capacity-building resources.

Pocket Guide to Transportation Statistics

If you need transportation statistics at a moment's notice – for example, if you want to see a list of the most congested urban areas or if you want to find the busiest Amtrak stations – the Bureau of Transportation Statistics has a solution for you.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, BTS is introducing its most innovative product yet – a

smartphone app for the [Pocket Guide to Transportation](#).



[Click Here to continue reading Introducing the Pocket Guide to Transportation App](#)

AASHTO Releases Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Portal

AASHTO has developed a portal for information on federal surface transportation authorization. This is a regularly updated resource on MAP-21 reauthorization and implementation of the **Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act**. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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.

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.