



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 22, 2013

Volume 5, Number 12

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We hope everyone has had a great week. The Mobile MPO meets this coming Wednesday and the Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met last week, as well as the Mobile MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. **ALDOT has announced and released the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funding Applications**, please see *Funding Opportunities*. We have also developed the process for the TAP funding for the Mobile MPO's apportioned amount which is currently under review; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. Also please see MPO updates for the Wave Transit **Program Of Projects**.

Today is the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) Annual meeting at the Grand Hotel. There is a restructuring going on... Please see *In The News*

Have a great weekend.

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

Mobile MPO Updates

Mobile MPO TCC/CAC

There is a meeting of the Mobile MPO on Wednesday, March 27th. The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met Wednesday, March 13th, and made several recommendations.

We have rebalanced the STP Attributable Funding schedule by postponing the McFarland Road, Old Pascagoula Road to Three Notch Road (New Alignment) Preliminary Engineering Project from FY2015 to FY2016. The utilities on Schillinger Road from US 98 to Howells Ferry Road increased in cost recently by almost \$600,000. We now have a positive balance in our schedule of funds by moving the McFarland Road Project. Also, we discussed the possibility of the Mobile MPO, through the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), being the designated recipient for FTA 5310 funds. The Transportation funding bill MAP-21 combined the FTA 5310 funds for the elderly and disabled with the FTA 5317 funds that were used for those transit projects that go above and beyond the requirements of ADA. Unfortunately, although the two funding categories were combined, the allocated amount was not; the amount is \$154,235 annual federal dollars. The Mobile MPO will administer the FTA 5310 funds once the Governor makes the official determination (MPO action will be needed to make the request).

Not only will SARPC staff be administering the FTA 5310, but the Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternative Programs (TAP) funds also. The Mobile Urban Area will receive \$513,441 annual federal dollars through the TAP program (please see *Funding Opportunities* below). These TAP funds are the previously Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails and the Transportation Enhancements programs. [Please review](#) the TAP process that we reviewed with the TCC/CAC, and BPAC (below). The deadline for the Mobile MPO TAP funds **AND** ALDOT's TAP funds is June 28th. If you need help, please let us know.

Also, the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Document ([please review](#)) was briefly reviewed with everyone.

Recommendations from the TCC/CAC March 13th meeting will go before the MPO Policy Board at the March 27th MPO meeting. If there are any questions regarding any of these matters, we are here for you, M-F, 8-5.

FTA 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Funding Program of Projects

Mobile Transit Management d/b/a the Wave Transit System which currently serve as the designated recipient for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) - 5316 and New Freedom-5317 Programs in the Mobile, Alabama Urbanized Area announce the proposed program of projects for the Job Access Reverse Commute Program (JARC) Fiscal Year(s) 2011 and 2012..

The **JARC (5316)** program seeks to provide (a) transportation for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment *and/or* (b) public transportation designed to transport residents of urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities.

The **New Freedom** (5317) program seeks to provide new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The proposed program of projects will be made available for review and public comment March 20, 2013 - April 12, 2013 at the following locations:

1. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 110 Beauregard St.
2. The Wave Transit System - GM&O Transportation Center, 110 Beauregard St.
3. Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government St.
4. Mobile City / County Complex, 9th Floor City Clerks Office

The Mobile MPO will consider these documents for adoption at the next scheduled meeting Date and Time TBA and Advertised in the SARPC Board Room, 110 Beauregard Street, Mobile, Alabama. Once the comments period has closed and the Program of Projects has been approved by the MPO and FTA, the projects will be included in the local Transportation Improvement Program and the Statewide plan (STIP).

Comment form will be included with the documents at each location listed above.
Written comments regarding the program are welcome prior the date and should be submitted to:

Gerald E. Alfred, Director of Planning & Capital Projects
The Wave Transit System
110 Beauregard Street, Suite 104,
Mobile, Alabama, 36602
251-344-6600 ext. 225
galfred@thewavetransit.com

TO REVIEW PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (AWARDS) PLEASE SEE [\[HERE\]](#)

Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meets

The Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met Wednesday, March 13TH. The meeting was well attended and there were several new faces in the crowd. Three new members were recognized. Jeff DeQuattro with Mobilians on Bikes (MOB) and the MOB Cooperative, Ben Brenner with MOB, and Katherine Pitman with Leadership Mobile and Mobile United.

Items on the agenda included a review of the Mobile MPO's Draft Transportation Alternatives Program Instructions and Guidelines, Ranking Procedures and Application, all of which are available for review [here](#). This is an exciting development because it will give the MPO area a dedicated funding source for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Mobile MPO is scheduled to receive \$513,441 annually in federal funds to be matched locally with \$128,360. Also discussed at the meeting was the Intestate 10 Mobile River Bridge regarding including a bike/ped facility on the bridge vs. mitigation activities that would connect Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Public meetings for the bridge should take place this summer. Anyone interested in this subject should attend the meetings and sign up to speak in the public forum. Once the venue for these public meeting is set, we will post them in our newsletter.

Also discussed were pedestrian crossing improvements at major intersections in downtown Mobile, including Catherine at Government, Broad at Government, Royal at Government, Spring Hill at Broad, and Water at Beauregard. The consensus was that at a minimum, there should be better pavement markings to indicate to drivers where pedestrians cross with wide painted bars and signs reminding drivers to yield to pedestrians at these intersections. A very good resource for guidance on improving pedestrian accessibility is online at www.walkinginfo.org. This site includes several guidance documents and there are several good webinars available [here](#). One in particular that sparked this discussion is available [here](#).

The committee also discussed several upcoming road projects and whether or not they would include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This list of project included:

From ALDOT:

The two Mobile County projects that were let with shoulder widening for bicyclists are listed below. Both projects let on 12/7/12.

- STPAA-HSIP-0188(502), SR 188 from CR 19 to SR 193 (shoulder widening from 2' to 4' for bicyclists only from Hemley Rd to SR 193)
- STPAA-HSIP-0193(504), SR 193 from North End of Dauphin Island Bridge to Laurendine/Rangeline Rd intersection
(shoulder widening from 2' to 4' for bicyclists only from north end of Heron Bay Bridge to SR 188; also had shoulder paving from 0' to 2' from Fowl River to Laurendine Rd)

Possible Mobile County projects for next fiscal year are listed below; however, next fiscal year's resurfacing program

has not been finalized at this time.

- US 45 from CR 63 to Washington County line (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)
- US 45 from SR 158 to CR 63 (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)
- SR 213 from US 45 to SR 158 (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)

ALDOT 9th Division Consultant Management projects

- IM-AL06(900), West Tunnel Interchange (Bike lanes on Water St to New Jackson to Civic Center Dr with 10' Multi-Use path to Canal and Sidewalks throughout project minus through the interchange)

From the City of Mobile:

- Broad Street from 15th Street to I-10 will have sidewalks and an extra wide shoulder to accommodate cyclists
- Aerospace Drive in the Brookley Complex, will have sidewalks
- Airbus Way in the Brookley Complex, will have sidewalks
- Ann Street from Douglas to the rail road, will have a bike lane and sidewalks

The meeting concluded with a discussion of recent reported crashes that involved cyclists or pedestrians and what could be done, if anything, to avoid a recurrence. The particulars of this discussion will be available in the meeting minutes, which will be forthcoming.

Projects Within Region Let March 29, 2013

MOBILE COUNTY

- Constructing the Sidewalks on Cleveland Road, 1st Avenue, and Pine Street for Saraland Elementary School in the city of Saraland.

BALDWIN COUNTY

- Constructing the Sidewalks on 7th Street, 2nd Avenue, and 1st Street in the town of Silverhill.
- 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.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Constructing the Bridge Painting on SR-3 (US-31) over CSX Railroad, BIN 013567 in Canoe.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on South Presley Street from SR-21 to SR-3 (US-31) in Atmore. Length 1.777 mi.

Legislative Updates

Shuster: Gas tax increases could be included in broad reform package

Increases in taxes paid on gasoline purchases could be included in a broader tax reform deal, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) said Tuesday. Asked specifically about an increase in the tax on gasoline that is paid by ocean barge operators, Shuster said it is difficult to get any fuel tax through Congress by itself.

But he said it could be possible in a broader package. [\[HERE\]](#)

Senate Committee Approves Bill to Boost Waterways

A reauthorization of federal waterways funding cleared its first hurdle on Wednesday when it was approved by a key Senate committee.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted unanimously to approve a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for the first time in six years.

The measure (S. 601), authorizes federal investments in projects that have been identified by the Army Corps of Engineers as a boost to U.S. system of inland waterways, such as deepening ports and improving river quality. [\[HERE\]](#)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Hires New Spokesman

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) has hired a new communications director for the panel, his office announced Wednesday.

Former House Ways and Means Committee spokesman Jim Billimoria will take the lead on pushing the GOP's message on the Transportation Committee. Billimoria has previously worked in the press shops of Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and former House Republican Conference Chairwoman Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio).

Shuster said Wednesday Billimoria's experience made him a good fit for the Transportation Committee post. [\[HERE\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

Applications now Available for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was created in the new federal transportation law, MAP-21 (P. L. 112-141), which combines three previously separate programs—Transportation Enhancements, the Recreational Trails program, and the Safe Routes to School program. Most, but not all eligible activities from these earlier programs have been preserved in the new program (Preliminary Engineering is *not* an allowable activity). Overall, funding has been reduced by about \$300 million compared to FY2012 apportionments, down to \$814 Million nationwide. TAP funding will comprise about 2 percent of total federal highway spending over the next year.

The State of Alabama will receive about \$16,670,000 in federal funding. This funding is all subject to a 20% match. \$1,700,000 will be set aside for the Recreational Trails program through ADECA. The large urban areas (with a population over 200,000) will have \$2,670,000 set aside. Of this, the **Mobile MPO will receive \$513,441 federal funds**. The remaining \$12,300,000 will be administered and applied through ALDOT, and will be divided between Small Urban Areas (\$1,600,000), Rural Areas (\$3,200,000) and statewide (\$7,500,000) with one ALDOT application mentioned below.

Local Governments and other local or government entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than State agencies and metropolitan planning organizations) are eligible for TAP funding. School districts, Colleges and Universities, nonprofits, public land agencies, transit agencies, and Tribal governments are not eligible. Click [here](#) to view FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program interim guidance.

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 MPO APPLICATION PROCESS UNDER REVIEW

The DRAFT application process for the Mobile MPO TAP funds is *available for review* [\[HERE\]](#). Once the Mobile MPO adopts the Mobile MPO TAP application process, we will make the applications available.

*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.

Transportation Enhancement Funding Announcement

Application Due: May 3, 2013

The Transportation Enhancement Program was not continued under the new transportation bill MAP-21. ALDOT has a small balance of TE funds for a few additional TE projects. It is ALDOT's desire to use this remaining TE Funds to correct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Deficiencies. Therefore, to utilize all of the State's TE funds, ALDOT is soliciting applications for a few additional projects for FY 2013. The deadline is May 3, 2013 and an application can be picked up at SARPC, or please call Mr. Kevin Harrison at SARPC(251)706-4635, or Mr. Cecil Colson at ALDOT (334)353-6403. The eligible projects under this particular application are for:

1. Streetscapes to achieve compliance with ADA guidelines. A streetscape can include items such as sidewalk replacement, improvement for ADA compliance, pedestrian lighting and landscaping.
2. Projects to make sidewalks ADA Compliant, such as curb cuts.

Just For Fun

Man V.S. Wild, in an Urban Setting? This is how Beat Grylls parallel parks...



In the News



Important Changes for the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

In January 2012, a quorum of the full South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) met to review the current governance structure for the SARPC. As part of this meeting, the SARPC invited a subject-matter expert to attend and detail successful structures of other commissions located throughout the southeastern United States. The expert compared these organizations to our full commission, which consisted of 63 elected officials and appointed citizens. The outcome of this review was that a committee was formed to develop a more streamlined **and** efficient governance structure for the SARPC.

As part of this review, the committee met on several occasions throughout 2012. We are pleased to say that after much due diligence, the full commission formally moved to approve the recommended structure on Jan. 23, 2013. The new structure includes a board of directors consisting of 25 director-level positions. In addition, the quorum of the full commission voted to accept and adopt an amendment to the SARPC bylaws, which allows for the newly adopted governance structure and requires that the newly formed board of directors meet at a minimum of four times per year. The quorum stipulated that the newly populated board of directors undergo a daylong orientation session to acquaint themselves with their mission and responsibilities. This session is today at the Grand Conference Center at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear, Ala.

The new board consists of:

- A County Commissioner from each member county appointed at the discretion of each County Commission.
- The mayor of each large city member in each county. (State statute defines a large city as one having more than 10,000 in population based on the most recent decennial census.)
- One mayor from the small city category from each member county to represent these small cities in each county. The selected mayor from each county shall be appointed by the respective small city members from each county.
- An economic development representative appointed by each County Commission.
- A citizen member appointed by each County Commission
- Four citizen members not holding an elective office appointed at large by the elected members of the Board of Directors
- The Alabama Education Board District 1 or appointee
- The 1st Congressional District of Alabama Representative

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Chris Miller, 433-6541.

Olde Towne Daphne Association unveils history map, guide to city

Although Daphne is not a member of the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or is it a member of the South Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO), it is a member of SARPC and has some interesting history with now a fantastic historic map. From Indian mounds dating back to the 1500s to ties to the Revolutionary and Civil wars to a Southern culture that began to thrive in 19th century, Daphne is steeped in history. In an effort to share the rich past of Baldwin County's largest city, the Olde Towne Daphne Association took up the task of creating a natural history map and business guide. The fruits of their labor were unveiled at this week's Daphne council meeting. [\[HERE\]](#)

FTA TEAM Training Webinar

On Monday, April 8, 2013 at 10am, FTA Region IV will again be hosting a TEAM Training webinar for grantees. This TEAM Training Webinar session will focus on the grant development process and include not only HOW to create a grant in TEAM, but also WHAT Region IV is looking for when they review these grants.

This Grant Development Webinar will be very similar to the previous Grant Development Webinars offered by Region IV, with minor updates based on the feedback from previous training sessions. New updated TEAM Training is being rolled out live and on our TEAM Training website over the next month. Please visit our website for details: http://www.fta.dot.gov/region4_12240.html.

The conference call line is limited to 75 lines, so if you plan on participating, please RSVP via email to Robert.buckley@dot.gov with "Grant Development Webinar" in the subject line, by COB April 3. A confirmation email will be sent on April 4, however, if you RSVP you should plan on attending as a confirmation email is not required to enter the webinar session.

The information about this webinar is below. The training session is scheduled to last approximately 1.5 hours, followed by 30 minutes for questions and answers.

Meeting Name: TEAM Training: Grant Development Webinar
When: Monday, April 8, 2013 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Eastern

Conference Number(s): 877-336-1831
Participant Code: 1609017

U.S. DOT to Challenge AASHTO Supremacy on Bike/Ped Safety Standards

<http://dc.streetsblog.org/2013/02/28/u-s-dot-to-challenge-aashto-supremacy-on-bikeped-safety-standards/>

U.S. DOT has announced it will issue its own design standards, instead of simply accepting the AASHTO Green Book guidelines. In an upcoming round of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule-making, DOT will set its own bicycle and pedestrian safety standards for the first time.

Re-Imagined Bankhead Tunnel

Drivers may notice a change in the coming months while driving through the Bankhead Tunnel from Baldwin County to downtown Mobile. A beautification project slated to start this year has re-imagined the westbound entrance to the Bankhead Tunnel to showcase the upper Gulf Coast's only major public university. [\[HERE\]](#)



On March 25 at noon the [South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce](#) will hold another Leadership Series event at the Foley Civic Center with John Cooper.

Cooper is the Department of Transportation director and will provide members with updates critical to transportation routes in Baldwin and Mobile Counties. The doors and catered lunch buffet will open at 11:30 and the program starts at noon. Tickets purchased before March 22 are \$12 each or \$15 each if purchased at a later date.

For more information on the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce visit www.southbaldwinchamber.com or call 251-943-3291.

Register Now for National Rural Transportation Conference!

This conference will bring together 150 transportation professionals from rural and small metro regions and their

state DOT partners. With training sessions being planned that are appropriate for both experienced planners and those new to the field, this year's conference will focus on implementing MAP-21 and on best practices from peers.

With best practice sessions on public participation techniques, freight and economic development, long-range planning, regional transit, transportation and health, rural safety, and more, many relevant learning opportunities will be available to participants.

Several longer workshops have also been planned, including off-site visits to BMW to learn about freight and economic development, to Proterra to learn about electric bus manufacturing and component sourcing, a Road Safety Audit workshop in a small town near Greenville, and a walking and cycling tour of Greenville to discuss planning and implementation for its vibrant downtown.

Transportation Research

Webinar Announcement

FHWA Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM) Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Analysis Guide

March 27, 2013

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT (10:00AM – 11:30 AM PDT)

Required Step: To attend this webinar, you need to pre-register beforehand at:

https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=25922

LINK TO JOIN THE WEB CONFERENCE

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/sr500activetransdemandmngmt/>

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER TO ACCESS AUDIO PORTION

Phone #: **800-683-4564**

Passcode: **424573**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is sponsoring a free 90 minute webinar on the upcoming [Guidebook on the Highway Capacity Manual \(HCM\) Analysis of Active Transportation and Demand Management \(ATDM\) Strategies](#). The guide addresses the analysis of operational strategies under varying demand and capacity conditions. It is intended to assist engineers and planners in the evaluation of ATDM investment options. For more information on this Guide, go to: <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12047/index.htm#toc>.

The intended participants of the webinars are transportation planners and traffic operations professionals from public agencies and the private sector, who are familiar with, manage, or regularly apply HCM analyses to transportation facility investments and environmental impact analyses.

Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to the ATDM HCM Analysis Guide and Context with other FHWA Initiatives
- The ATDM Analysis Framework
- Overview
- Measures of Effectiveness
- Scenario Generation
- Designing an ATDM Program
- Testing an ATDM Program
- Example Applications
- Interpretation of Results
- Next Steps: Upcoming Workshop Schedule

Instructors:

Rick Dowling, Kittelson & Associates, Inc., 510-433-8089, rdowling@kittelson.com

Richard Margiotta, Cambridge Systematics, 865-670-8516, rmargiotta@camsys.com

LINK TO JOIN THE WEB CONFERENCE

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/sr500activetransdemandmngmt/>

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER TO ACCESS AUDIO PORTION
Phone #: 800-683-4564
Passcode: 424573

Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics 2012, Driver Behavior; Pedestrian and Simulation Modeling, Volume 2

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2316 consists of 15 papers that explore gap acceptance behavior; driving behavior in emergency situations; driver anticipation; phase transition models; integrated lane change models; models for pedestrian-vehicle interactions at road crossings; midblock pedestrian crossings; exit choice decisions during pedestrian evacuations of buildings; pedestrian movements in crowded networks; congestion effects on risk by experienced drivers; shared car, bicycle, and pedestrian zones; and numerical analysis for adaptive traffic simulation.

E-Newsletter Type: [Recently Released TRB Publications](#)

TRB Publication Type: [Transportation Research Records](#)

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transportation Research Record (TRR) published [Planning 2012](#). This compendium of research summarizes 15 papers concerned with aspects of transportation planning.

TRB also published [Travel Behavior 2012, Volume 1](#) in its Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, which contains 14 papers that address aspects of travel behavior.