



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 8, 2013

Volume 5, 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

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

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South Alabama Regional

We hope everyone has had a great week. The Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup met this week, and **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*. We have several meetings coming up including the TCC/CAC of the Mobile MPO this coming Wednesday (TCC/CAC March 13th, MPO March 27th). Mr. John Cooper, Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, is coming to Foley on March 22, please see *In the News*, and *Just for Fun* has an interesting look at where we should build roads.

Also, recently Kevin has presented to the [Lions Club](#), the [Rotary Club](#) and the [Mobile Business Group](#) spreading the transportation gospel; the latest presentation as requested is at www.mobilempo.org.

Finally, congratulations to Baldwin County and BRATS for the new Fairhope Transit Hub. We were glad to assist in this important project. Remember, all Eastern Shore BayLinc commuters are eligible for the Emergency Ride Home through SARPC CommuteSmart Program.



Have a great weekend.

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

Mobile MPO Updates

March 13th 10:00 AM - Mobile MPO TCC/CAC meeting

March 13th 12:00 PM - Mobile MPO BPAC meeting

March 21st-22nd - SARPC Annual Meeting (please see *In The News*)

March 27th 10:00 AM - Mobile MPO meeting

Climate Change Workgroup

The Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup met this week, as the federal team vetted several items with the group and presented an update to the study. The federal group consisted of Rob Hyman (FHWA, Washington D.C.), Anne Choate (ICFI, Philadelphia, PA), Beth Rodehorst (ICFI, San Francisco, CA), Emily Rowan (ICFI, San Francisco, CA), Harrison Rue (ICFI, Durham, NC), Dr. Mike Meyers (Parsons Brinkerhoff, Atlanta, GA), and Jake Keller (Parsons Brinkerhoff, Norfolk, VA). Not only did the federal team meet with the Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup on Wednesday, but met with some members of the Mobile MPO TCC/CAC on Thursday afternoon as well. A big thank you ALDOT for providing a tour of the I-10 Wallace Tunnels (a vulnerable critical asset).

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If you were a participant in this week's meetings, thank you. This has been a three year study and is drawing to a conclusion (one more year), the team needs our participation and input now more than ever. The presentation, with data, from the federal team is available [HERE](#) and comments will be submitted to us until 5:00 PM, Friday, March 15, 2013.

BPAC Meeting

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled to be held at the GM&O Building in the board room on Wednesday, March 13th at 12:00 p.m. This will be a bring your own, brown bag lunch meeting. This meeting is open to the public. Some items on the agenda include a discussion about the new Transportation Alternatives Program funding, the process to review all road projects for inclusion or exclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, a discussion about the future Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge regarding including bicycle and pedestrian facilities vs. mitigation alternatives, and a discussion about improving pedestrian crossings at major intersections downtown.

Mobile MPO/TCC/CAC/BPAC

There will be a Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizens advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) meeting on March 13th, directly before the Mobile MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting. The TCC/CAC meeting will be at 10:00 AM and then the BPAC meeting will be at 12:00 PM. We will end the TCC/CAC meeting in order for those members of both committees to go get lunch for the BPAC "bring your own lunch" meeting. The items on the agenda for the TCC/CAC meeting include:

- SARPC to be the FTA 5310 Designated Recipient
- Congestion Management Process (CMP) Document ([please review](#))
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) process ([please review](#))
- Mobile MPO STP Attributable funds (we are out of balance AGAIN)
- Memorandum Renewal for Climate Change Workgroup Coordination.

Recommendations from the TCC/CAC March 13th meeting will go before the MPO Policy Board at the March 27th MPO meeting. Your participation in these committees is extremely appreciated, and without your assistance federal transportation projects could not move forward.

YOUR TURN TO COMMENT ON THE MOST DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS IN MOBILE AND BALDWIN COUNTIES



This is actually a very timely survey being conducted by Mr. John Sharp, writer with AL.com. The [DRAFT Mobile MPO Congestion Management Process](#) that will be reviewed at Wednesday's TCC/CAC meeting identifies what we (SARPC) think are the most dangerous intersections based on data. It is going to be interesting to see the public's perception of the most dangerous intersections (at least in the Mobile MPO). Thank you Mr. Sharp for conducting this survey!

[From Mr. John Sharp, AL.com]

Baldwin and Mobile counties have plenty of hectic intersections requiring motorists to slow down, stop and pay attention. But what AL.com wants to know is where are those intersections that concern you the most.

In the coming days, AL.com will compile a listing of the most dangerous intersections in the state of Alabama including those in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The two counties are located within the Alabama Department of

Transportation's Division 9. AL.com asks for your comments below. What are the most dangerous intersections in this region?

[COMMENT HERE](#)

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

President Obama Nominates New EPA Administrator.

This week, President Obama [announced](#) that he will nominate Gina McCarthy, the current Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation to be the next Administrator of the Agency. Assistant Administrator McCarthy has been influential in the EPA's attempts to enact greenhouse gas regulations on sources like vehicle tailpipes and power plants and gives signals into the President's EPA agenda for his second term. Click [HERE](#) for Chairman Boxer's (D-CA) statement on AA McCarthy's nomination.

House CR Cuts Transportation Funding.

The House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (CR) on Wednesday to fund government operations through this fiscal year ([267-151](#)). The legislation funds for highways (\$555 million), transit (\$117 million) and highway safety (\$48.5) at levels below those authorized in the recent federal transportation authorization, MAP-21. While Chairman Boxer (D-CA) and others have expressed concern, Chairman Shuster (R-PA) did not oppose the cuts. The Senate Appropriations Committee is readying its version of the bill, and is expected to vote on it next week.

Senators Rockefeller and Lautenberg Introduce Transportation Funding Legislation.

Last week, Chairman Rockefeller (D-WV) and Subcommittee Chairman Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced S. 387, [the American Infrastructure Investment Fund](#). This legislation would create a \$5 billion fund to invest in transportation projects of regional and national significance that provide "measurable improvements to the economic competitiveness of the United States." This legislation also creates a National Infrastructure Investment Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a competitive grant program to provide funding to projects such as highways, bridges, airport facilities, ports, transit projects, pipelines, freight, and passenger rail projects. Click [HERE](#) for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee's press release on the topic.

Webinar on Federal Budget and Transportation

NARC's March Webinar on Federal Budget and Transportation. On March 12, 2013, from 12:00PM-2:00PM ET, NARC's Transportation Funding and Finance Subcommittee will host its next monthly Transportation Committee webinar. March is an important month in the federal budget process with several transportation-related implications. This webinar will review the connection between the federal budget process, provide an update on the potential impacts of the federal sequester and review national level trends in funding transportation. Click [HERE](#) to register and [HERE](#) for the agenda.

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 \$531,431 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.

FHWA Solicitation for INVEST Implementation Projects

The [INVEST self-evaluation tool](#), a sustainability working group, and the creation of a Sustainable Pavements Program are among the efforts underway at FHWA to help State and local agencies document and improve the sustainability of the Nation's roadways. For years, FHWA has supported research, development, and implementation efforts at the forefront of the sustainability movement. The sustainable highways initiative supports the various activities conducted across FHWA to facilitate balanced decision-making among environmental, economic, and social values—the triple bottom line of sustainability.

In the summer of 2010, FHWA convened a sustainability working group to build capacity and encourage communication and coordination on sustainability concepts and practices within the agency. The group consists of engineers, scientists, planners, and economists with expertise in planning, design, construction, pavement, storm water management, natural resources, and livability. It meets regularly to coordinate activities, foster increased application of sustainability principles, and provide guidance to FHWA on developing best practices and establishing standardized sustainability measures.

Multiple awards of approximately \$25,000 to \$150,000 are anticipated, though projects may be larger or smaller depending on the context, scope, and approach. By Federal statute, a 100% non-Federal match (50-50 cost share) is required. In-kind contributions such as staffing can be counted towards the match requirement.

Each INVEST implementation project should result in a final report that details the work performed, parties involved, roles and responsibilities, issues encountered, lessons learned, sustainability improvements identified, sustainability improvements implemented, analyses of costs and benefits of implementing particular sustainability best practices, recommendations for future action, and recommendations on improving INVEST and adding to the state of the practice. The final report should be in a form that is sharable with other agencies, and may be posted to the FHWA website. <http://www.sustainablehighways.dot.gov/>

Bicycle Friendly America Program

The Bicycle Friendly America program provides incentives, hands-on assistance, and award recognition for communities, universities and businesses that actively support bicycling, and ranks states annually based on their level of bike-friendliness. Across the U.S., the interest in bicycling is skyrocketing-- and it's easy to see why. A bike is a ticket to health, mobility, freedom and fun. Bicycling isn't just a way to get from one place to another; it's an avenue to a better life. And when communities, businesses and universities get on board, great things happen. How do you capture and capitalize on the tremendous benefits of biking?

[Download the new Bicycle Friendly America Brochure](#) and click the links on the top right of the page to learn more about each of the BFA programs.

Just For Fun

Listen to Nature

This is a fantastic explanation of minimum solutions. If we were to plan a road between Town A and Town B, what is the minimal amount of roadway that we would have to build? In terms of cost of materials to build a road, one would figure that we would employ the "nature" of minimum solutions to plan roads. However, this would most likely leave out the "Human Nature" of what a road should operate like....



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAyDI1aa40E>

In the News



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.

Baldwin County hopes new highway attracts industry, makes travel to beaches easier

When a four-lane highway between Interstate 10 and the Foley Beach Express is completed, the hope is that it makes travel to Baldwin County beaches easier. But that is not the only the goal that Baldwin County officials have for the \$85 million project called the Baldwin Beach Express.

Officials believe the project can result in an economic boon for Baldwin County because it will provide easy access to Interstate 10. Their thinking is the access to the interstate will be attractive to industries looking for a place to locate.

Construction will soon start on an important piece of the project — an interchange on I-10 that will feed traffic onto

the new road. The work on the road is being done in phases, so portions of it remain under construction, and some parts are finished. [\[HERE\]](#)

Mayor Jones Welcomes Ride 2 Recovery

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013, Mayor Sam Jones was joined by citizens and hundreds of school children to welcome the Ride 2 Recovery Gulf Coast Challenge.

The Ride 2 Recovery is produced by the Fitness Challenge Foundation, in partnership with the Military and VA Volunteer Service Office, to benefit mental and physical rehabilitation programs for our country's wounded veterans that feature cycling as the core activity. Founded in 2003, to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.

The Ride 2 Recovery Gulf Coast Challenge began on March 2 in New Orleans, and will make its way to Tallahassee, Florida by March 8. For more information about the Ride 2 Recovery, go to www.ride2recovery.com.

Good Life Bicycle Ride & Hangout Sunday, May 12th, 2013

The Good Life Foundation's Good Life Ride is Sunday, May 12, 2013! Join them for a fun ride from Fairhope to The Hangout in Gulf Shores, Alabama! The ride is mostly rural and flat through Fairhope, Magnolia Springs, Foley and Gulf Shores. The fun ride will start on De La Mare in the heart of downtown Fairhope. This year's ride will end and the fun will continue at The Hangout! There will be no Living Social coupon this year, but they are offering a reduced registration fee.

<http://www.imathlete.com/events/GoodLifeRidetoLuLus?z=1326928764199>

City of Chickasaw Bill Brooks Park Tour

"Walk on the Board Walks" Great way to welcome Spring. Light Lunch will be served. Please call for reservations.

\$2.00 per person

Tuesday, March 19

Meet at Bill Brooks Park at 10:00am

Call 452-6464 for transportation

Mark your calendars

If you are a board member of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the annual meeting has been set for March 21-22 at the Grand Hotel; please mark your calendars. Something soon should be going out from SARPC pertaining to that meeting. This was mentioned in last week's newsletter that the final agreed upon structure is a Board of Directors which was recommended to a quorum of the Full Commission on January 23, 2013, for consideration is as follows:

- 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.

Call for Presenters

2013 GRITS Annual Meeting

September 14-18, 2013 Marriott Canal Place New Orleans, LA

The GRITS Annual Meeting Committee invites you to present at the 2013 GRITS Annual Meeting this September in New Orleans. Applications should include your name, title, organization, contact information, working title of the presentation, and a presentation abstract (no more than 250 words). You may also provide a brief speaker biography.

GRITS is looking for high quality contributions to the technical program of the 2013 Annual Meeting. The meeting planning committee will review all applications received to determine if the submission fits within the overall meeting program and best serves the GRITS membership. Presentations should fall into one of the topic areas identified below:

Multi-Modal Applications / Transit
Multi-State Coordination / Corridor Management
ITS and Transportation Research
Public Safety - CAD, Weigh in Motion
Tolling and Enforcement
Media Interaction and Travel Information
The National Perspective - Every Day Counts, ITS Policy, Legislation, Map 21
Special Events and Emergency Management
ITS Technology - Adaptive Signals, Connected Vehicles, ATMS, RWIS, Travel Time
Performance Measures, Policies and Issues

Submissions selected will be because the topic discusses innovative technology, presents novel analysis of technical or policy issues, or proposes solutions to potential hurdles to deployment of technologies. GRITS does not guarantee that all abstracts will be selected for the 2013 Meeting Program. GRITS appreciates your interest in supporting our technical program.

To take advantage of this opportunity to present at the GRITS 2013 Annual Meeting - GRITS N'awlins Style, please fill out and submit the below application by 4/1/13.

[2013 Annual Meeting Call For Presentations - Presentation Application](#)

If you have any questions contact the 2013 Annual Meeting - Speakers Committee Chair:

Acey Roberts
aroberts@mdot.ms.gov
2013 Annual Meeting Speakers Committee Chair

Transportation Research

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released the report, [Estimated Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on Employment and Economic Output from October 2012 Through December 2012](#). In this report, CBO concludes that ARRA will increase budget deficits by about \$830 billion over the 2009–2019 period. By CBO's estimate, close to half of that impact occurred in fiscal year 2010, and more than 90 percent of ARRA's budgetary impact was realized by the end of December 2012.

The Federal Transit Administration released the recording of their recent webinar on [New Categorical Exclusions](#) authorized by the recently enacted federal transportation law.

Also, on February 28th, Vincent Valdes, Acting Associate Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration's new Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO), discussed the safety provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the progress that TSO is making to implement MAP-21.

In case you were unable to participate, a recording of FTA's MAP-21 Safety webinar has been posted here: <http://youtu.be/wnapUgXQEU>

For more information on FTA's Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO) office please visit <http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso.html>

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.
