



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, December 20, 2019

Volume 32, Number 11

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[2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program](#)

[Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones](#)

## Contact Us

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Kevin Harrison, PTP  
Director of  
Transportation

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED!** There will be a TCC/CAC (of the Mobile MPO) meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM, a BPAC meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> at noon, a MOBILE MPO MEETING on January 22, at 10:00 AM and a **Public meeting on the 25 year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 4-6:30 in the SARPC Board Room.**

This week *In The News*, the USDOT is seeking Public Comment on Rural Infrastructure, and there are talks about Amtrak. Congress sends a spending deal to Trump, ending shutdown threat, and some Alabama victories in the Shelby-negotiated FY 2020 budget ; see *Legislative Updates* Just For Fun this week is ice cold. Christmas is almost here!

Check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org)  Check us out on FACEBOOK

SARPC Transportation Video, this is what we do [HERE](#)

Want to know what other SARPC departments do?

[Planning and Community Development](#)

[Area Agency on Aging](#)

[Employment and Economic Development](#)

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

## Mobile MPO Updates

- **Mobile MPO will meet on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10: AM in the SARPC Board Room**
- **The BPAC will meet on January 15<sup>th</sup>, at noon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Transportation Dept**
- **The TCC/CAC will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Transportation Dept**
- **There is a Public Meeting concerning the 25 Year Long Range Transportation Plan on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 4PM-6:30PM in the SARPC Board Room**

Items on the agenda of the MPO and the advisory meetings include a couple of cost increases in the Transportation Improvement Program. One for a cost increase of project CN 100049566 Replace Bridge Westbound Over Tensaw –Spanish River from \$29,684,846 to \$35,165,857, funded with Federal Bridge Funds, and another for CN 100060154 SR 158 Extension Lott Road Overpass and Jug Handle from \$20,000,000 to \$25,161,677 funded with National Highway Funds. The two ATRIPPII awards need to be added to the TIP:

- Saraland PHASE 1 TO WIDEN AL-158 FROM 2 LANES TO 4 LANES FROM MILE POST 7.75 TO SPARTAN DRIVE \$4,741,885.95
- Bayou La Batre INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING ADDING ROUNDABOUT AT SR-188 AND IRVINGTON BAYOU LA BATRE HIGHWAY Target Start Date : 1/1/2020 Engineers Estimate : \$246,923.00

Also on the Agenda will be a STP Attributable realignment. Zeigler Blvd from Forest Hill to Athey has had a recent cost increase leaving the STP Attributable schedule out of balance. We will have to move Three Notch Road from Schillinger Road to McDonald Road out from FY 2023 to FY 2024; that requires a MPO resolution. There also will be the possibility to allow CMP projects more than one year \$500,000 (fed) CMP Allocation; specifically Government Street downtown.

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**MOBILE AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY is underway**

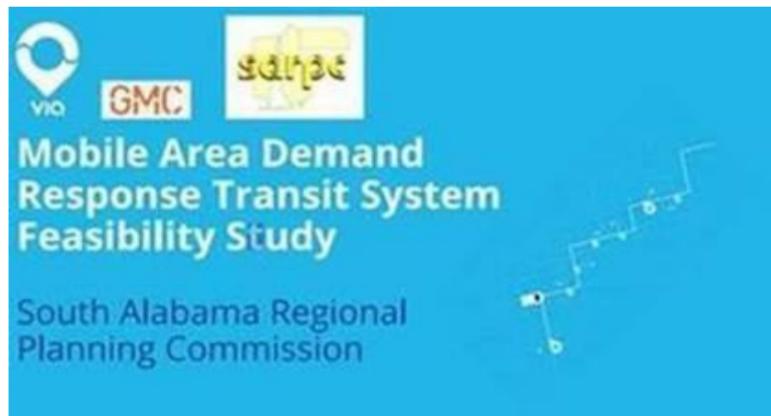
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In August of 2019, a consultant selection committee selected VIA Mobility to perform the study. VIA Mobility has partnered with local group Goodwin, Mills, and Cawood as a sub consultant. The consultants were given notice to proceed last week, and the kick off was last Friday and there was a teleconference this morning. [HERE](#) is Via's presentation from the kick-off.

There is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time, and if you would like to be part of this study, we are compiling a stakeholders list. Please call Kevin Harrison for details.



Envision2045  
Invest in your transportation Future  
*Mobile, AL Metropolitan Area Long Range Transportation Plan*

Envision2045 is multi-modal in scope, encompassing long-range plans for highway, public transportation, and bicycle and 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 alternative modes. 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.

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission(SARPC) invites decision makers, stakeholders, and members of the general public to participate in the development of the plan. SARPC is seeking feedback on transportation major infrastructure projects, initiatives and policies. Transportation priorities such as congestion, freight, transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian, and other transportation modes will be addressed in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Your comments help SARPC's planners to develop a wide-ranging, action-oriented transportation plan. The Envision2045 plan being developed will also serve as a basis for allocating limited federal money aimed at roadways, bridges, and public transportation facilities. The comment period on the early participation online survey is closed; however, there will be several more opportunities for the public to comment on the plan in the near future.

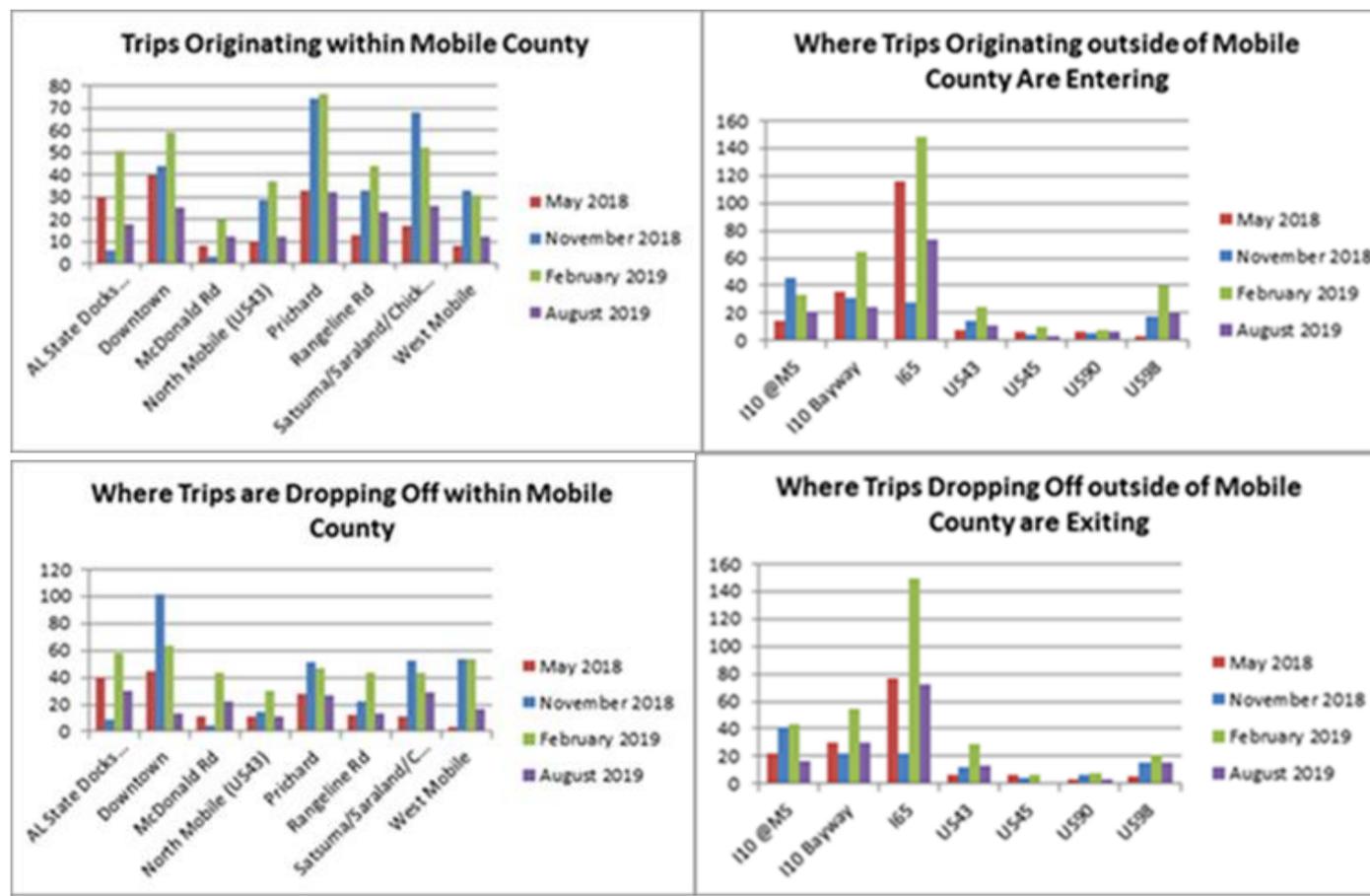
Please contact Kevin Harrison at [kharrison@sarpc.org](mailto:kharrison@sarpc.org) with any questions or requests for further information.

**Preliminary Survey Results have been posted [HERE](#) and will be updated as more of the questions are put into graph and chart form.**

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## FREIGHT DATA

APM Terminals has provided us with their fourth quarterly survey report. Just as last quarter, for two days APM Terminals had on-board tablets for drivers to answer a series of questions in terms of where they came from and where they are going. APM Terminals will continue to gather this information quarterly for our benefit of validating truck data for the travel demand forecasting model.



## [FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM \(TIP\) NOW ONLINE](#)

The TIP represents a four year program (2020-2023) for improvements in the various transportation systems located within the Mobile study area as identified in the Mobile MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the twenty-five year plan for the Mobile Urban area [Destination 2040](#). The LRTP establishes the transportation programs that are needed to meet travel demand by the study year and study area. LRTP projects that become funded are moved into the TIP and submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), where they are programmed into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For MPO projects, TIP project selection is based on priorities established by MPO member governments and the availability of funds through the Surface Transportation Attributable program. For other projects, ALDOT has discretion of project funding based on availability of funds from various types of funding categories. Most often, projects in the TIP are derived from the LRTP. The TIP guides ALDOT in its annual allocation of funds for transportation improvements and becomes a part of the STIP.

ArcGIS Online is now being utilized by MPO staff to map all federally funded surface transportation projects within our area. Check it out [HERE](#).

## Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

<http://mobileriverbridge.com/>

About the project:

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project would reduce congestion on I-10 in South Alabama through the addition of additional capacity: a new six-lane bridge over the Mobile River, full replacement of the existing Bayway with an eight-lane structure, and redevelopment of seven interchanges. The project would run from Virginia Street in Mobile to the US 90/98 interchange in Baldwin County. Information in the project is available at [www.MobileRiverBridge.com](http://www.MobileRiverBridge.com).

The Alabama Department of Transportation on August 28, 2019 ceased project development efforts on the proposed Mobile River Bridge & Bayway.

## Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

The target start date, plan status, or project engineers estimated amount has changed for the following:

Project : 100070772 Federal aid number : ATRP2-49-2020-049-PE County : MOBILE Scope : PE  
 Project Description : INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING ADDING ROUNDABOUT AT SR-188 AND IRVINGTON BAYOU LA BATRE HIGHWAY  
 Urban Area : 067 MOBILE  
 Target Start Date : 1/1/2020  
 Engineers Estimate : \$246,923.00

# South Alabama RPO Updates

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## Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Meeting

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) had a meeting of the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Committee last Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Baldwin County Central Annex at 22251 Palmer Street in Robertsdale, Alabama.

Items discussed were current and future transportation projects in the rural areas of our region by the ALDOT Southwest Regional Office.

Other items on the agenda included:

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

- Review and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020 Work Program (available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)
- Updating the RPO Transportation Plan with Project List (attached and available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)

## Projects in Region Let December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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### MOBILE COUNTY

None at this time

### BALDWIN COUNTY

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, Steel Blockout Replacement, and Traffic Stripe on SR-59 from the junction of East 29th Avenue to the junction of CR-12 in Foley. Length 5.268 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,691,921 to \$3,290,125 .
- For constructing the Safety Widening, Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-181 from the junction of SR-42 (US-98) west of Barnwell to just south of the junction of Quail Creek Drive in Fairhope. Length 7.065 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,486,034 to \$1,816,264

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

None at this time

[What's Under Construction?](#) [Project Status](#)

## Legislative Updates

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### Congress sends spending deal to Trump, ending shutdown threat

The compromise bipartisan deal averts a repeat of the 35-day partial government shutdown that began nearly one year ago, the longest in U.S. history.



The U.S. Capitol. | Samuel Corum/Getty Images

By [JENNIFER SCHOLTES](#) and [CAITLIN EMMA](#)

12/19/2019 01:13 PM EST

Updated: 12/19/2019 05:05 PM EST

Congress cleared legislation Thursday to fund the government for the fiscal year that began more than two months ago, giving approval to spending measures that will boost federal budgets by a total of \$49 billion.

The nearly \$1.4 trillion, two-part spending deal now heads to President Donald Trump, who plans to put his signature on both bills before a midnight Friday deadline, according to senior administration officials. The compromise bipartisan deal averts a repeat of the 35-day partial government shutdown that began nearly one year ago, the longest in U.S. history.

In the legislation's last stop in Congress, the Senate voted 71-23 on Thursday to pass a non-defense package, approving funding for departments like Education, Transportation, Agriculture, Labor, Energy, HHS and HUD. The chamber also voted 81-11 to pass a package to fund the Pentagon, as well as the departments of Homeland Security, Commerce, Treasury and Justice.

Although congressional leaders are months late in completing the fiscal 2020 bills, the deal came together with stunning speed in recent days. Top appropriators had only agreed in late November on how to divvy the funding among the dozen annual spending bills, leaving just over three and a half weeks for negotiating specific budgets and demands for the thousands of federal agencies and programs those measures fund.

"A lot of hard work brought this appropriations process back from the brink," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged in announcing the Senate's plan to pass the bills.



"A lot of hard work brought this appropriations process back from the brink," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said. | Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

Ongoing friction over whether to fund the president's border wall was the chief reason spending negotiations had reached the "brink" of demise to begin with.

Before the two parties struck a compromise to funding the U.S.-Mexico barrier at about \$1.4 billion, top lawmakers acknowledged that Congress was possibly headed toward a full-year stopgap that would have kept federal funding static through September, despite the fact that earlier this year they had clinched a bipartisan budget deal that allows spending to be increased by \$49 billion during the current fiscal year.

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## A rundown of the Alabama victories in the Shelby-negotiated FY 2020 budget [HERE](#)

The U.S. Senate on Thursday gave final passage to two appropriations packages that will avert a government shutdown and fund the government through the end of Fiscal Year 2020.

H.R. 1158, the national security related package, passed 81-11 while H.R. 1865, the domestic spending package, passed 71-23. The measures resulted from a compromise agreement between the Senate and House, as well as between both parties.

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittee on defense, led the negotiations along with House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

Yellowhammer News has already reported on some of the top ways Alabama is set to benefit from the Shelby-negotiated appropriations, including the [NASA portion](#), funding that [could complete](#) the Mobile Harbor deepening/widening project and construction on the Birmingham Northern Beltline [resuming](#).

However, those important examples only represent the tip of the iceberg.

First, in a statement regarding H.R. 1158, Shelby said, "The funding in this appropriations measure provides for our men and women in uniform, ensures Alabama remains at the forefront of space exploration, and allows us to continue preventing current and emerging threats against the United States through cutting-edge technology."

“Alabama plays a vital role in our national defense, and this legislation will make certain that our state remains a major player in keeping our nation safe. I look forward to the impact this legislation will have on the state and nation,” he added.

## Summary of HR 1158 on South Alabama

Impacting Mobile’s shipbuilding industry:

- One additional Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) ship, as well as \$49 million to convert an EPF into an Expeditionary Medical Transport;
- Full funding for the FFG(X) Frigate program; and
- An additional \$650 million for LHA-9, an amphibious assault ship.

Other provisions impacting Alabama:

- \$7 million for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Initiative, including \$5 million to conduct an independent population assessment of greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico;
- \$5 million to ensure successful implementation of “Reef Fish Amendment 50,” which delegates federal management of red snapper to the Gulf States;
- \$2.6 million for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to implement and enforce the Seafood Import Monitoring Program;
- 34.5 million to support staffing and operations at the National Water Center (NWC) located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama;
- \$6 million for remote water sensing research at the University of Alabama; and
- Funding and direction to fully staff the NOAA Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama.

## Summary of HR 1865

**There is a lot in this bill that positively affects South Alabama see [HERE](#)**

Just some awards :

### ***Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies:***

- The final bill retains the \$25 million increase for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) for a total of \$175 million, with a \$70 million set-aside for certain projects.
- Includes \$20 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Building and Facilities improvements for seafood safety to support FDA’s Dauphin Island Lab.

### ***Corps of Engineers:***

- \$378 million recommended in the Construction account for a Regional Dredge Demonstration Program in the central Gulf of Mexico. Mobile Harbor would be eligible for these additional funds.
- \$50 million above the budget request in the Operation and Maintenance account for Donor and Energy Transfer Ports. Funds will benefit Mobile Harbor.

### ***Military Construction:***

- \$12 million for a National Guard Readiness Center in Foley

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## Shelby’s leadership will allow Birmingham Northern Beltline construction to resume

U.S. Senator Richard Shelby’s (R-AL) [historic work](#) as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee continues to pay off in huge ways for the Yellowhammer State.

As part of two Fiscal Year 2020 funding packages given final passage by the Senate on Thursday, Shelby secured funding that will enable construction of the Birmingham Northern Beltline to soon resume. Governor Kay Ivey’s office lauded this achievement and what the projects means to the state in a release.

In 2014, the Alabama Department of Transportation projected that the entire project would be completed by 2054. However, construction on the project, which is estimated to cost \$5.3 billion total, has been stalled since 2016 due to a halt in federal funding.

Funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS), of which the Northern Beltline is a key component, is included in the legislation that is now heading to President Donald Trump’s desk. The president is set to sign the measures either Thursday or Friday. Alabama is expected to receive enough funding to meaningfully advance construction on the Northern Beltline, Ivey’s office noted.

“We thank Senator Shelby for his leadership and are pleased to announce that this funding is going to enable the state to resume construction of the Birmingham Northern Beltline,” Ivey said in a statement. “This is very exciting news for the Birmingham region and our entire state due to the enormous benefits this corridor will bring to our state and the nation.”

Shelby advised, “Completing the Appalachian Development Highway System is a priority for Alabama and the millions of people throughout the Appalachian region in other states. Investing in this transportation program will help generate economic development opportunities across numerous areas throughout Appalachia — especially at home in Alabama.”

Local elected officials and economic development leaders seem to share this sentiment. Continue [HERE](#)

## Funding Opportunities

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### **U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Funding Opportunity for Roadway Safety Tools**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation today published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to build the capacity of state, local, and tribal governments to use innovative data tools and information to improve roadway safety.

“This is part of the Department’s ongoing effort to utilize predictive data analytics to identify and address systemic factors contributing to crashes and improve roadway safety in communities across America,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

The NOFO is an important step in the Department’s [Safety Data Initiative](#), which helps communities devise policies to reduce roadway fatalities. This funding opportunity makes available up to \$3 million to develop, refine, and deploy safety tools that address specific roadway safety problems. The Department anticipates making awards of \$250,000 to \$500,000 to each successful applicant.

Eligible applicants are state or local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and regional governments, other political subdivisions of a state or local government, and tribal governments. The funding complements existing safety data improvement programs at the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration by focusing on improving data tools practitioners use to inform their policy and decision-making.

The NOFO is available on grants.gov at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=322472>

On December 3, 2019 at 2:30 PM ET, the Department will hold a webinar to provide an overview of this funding opportunity. Information about registering for the webinar is available on the Department’s [Safety Data Initiative](#) webpages.

Applications are due by January 17, 2019 at 3:00 PM ET.

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### **FTA Mobility Program**

*Applications due by January 6, 2020.*

Following Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao's recent [announcement](#) to fund new programs to develop and deploy innovations in technology to improve access and mobility, FTA published a [notice of funding](#) for the [Mobility for All Pilot Program](#), which seeks to improve mobility options and access to community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes.

The \$3.5 million grants program will fund projects that enhance transportation connections to jobs, education and health services. A complete list of members and related contact information by clicking [here](#).

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### **Opportunity Zones**

EDA's Opportunity Zone Web Page

EDA now has an [EDA Opportunity Zone Web page](#) for economic development stakeholders and others to use as a resource to further help foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas across the United States.

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### **Section 5307, 5310, and 5311: Using Non-DOT Funds for Local Match**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) has worked with the [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) to clarify the ability of grantees to use Older Americans Act Title IIIB Supportive Services Funds to match Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. These FTA programs include Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Section 5307), Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities (Section 5310), and Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311). This information has been publicized [HERE](#)

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## Just For Fun (THIS IS SATIRE, AND JUST FOR FUN)

It's COLD, but we are fortunate to live here on the Gulf Coast where we do not have to live with ice regularly, like this poor UPS delivery driver [HERE](#)



## In the News

### U.S. Department of Transportation Requests Public Input on Rural Infrastructure

*Rural stakeholders can provide feedback on rural transportation challenges and opportunities*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao today announced a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to receive feedback from the public and stakeholders on rural transportation needs and opportunities. The RFI is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative.

“We want to hear from rural communities how the Department of Transportation can better support their critical transportation infrastructure,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

“In addition to the data and experience DOT already has, the ROUTES Council will review and use public input to guide the evaluation of rural projects and improve funding options,” said Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Joel Szabat.

Rural communities and their transportation networks are critical for the success of the American economy. They are instrumental in building and supplying essential goods to all communities across our Nation.

Yet rural transportation infrastructure has significant challenges. Although only one-fifth of Americans live in rural America, traffic fatalities are disproportionately high on rural roadways, totaling 46% of fatalities in 2018. Maintaining the large network of rural roads – which comprise 70% of America's road miles – is challenging for rural communities who have significantly strained financial resources.

The new ROUTES Initiative addresses these national transportation challenges by assisting rural stakeholders to better understand how to access DOT grants and financing products and developing data-driven approaches to assess needs and benefits of rural transportation projects.

Secretary Chao established a Departmental Order that created a new internal deliberative body at the Department, the ROUTES Council, to oversee the Initiative. It is led by the Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy and is comprised of DOT leadership including Administrators of modes across DOT.

The RFI seeks input on concerns with rural infrastructure safety, condition, and usage, as well as stakeholders' experiences using DOT discretionary grant and finance programs. To learn more about the ROUTES Initiative, visit [www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural).

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## 'Unanswered questions' linger over Mobile's Amtrak commitment

Updated Dec 20, 2019; Posted Dec 19, 2019



Mobile City Councilman Joel Daves speaks during the council's meeting Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at Government Plaza in Mobile, Ala. Daves said on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, that he has "unanswered questions" about the true costs associated with bringing Amtrak back to the Gulf Coast. (John Sharp/[jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)).

By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

Costly rail line improvements, a new train station and interference with freight trains loomed Thursday as the chief concerns that could derail efforts to bring passenger trains back to Mobile.

The concerns surfaced during a council committee meeting aimed at reviewing a proposal to commit up to \$3 million over three years in city funds to pay for the operations of Amtrak service starting in 2023. That is the year that passenger rail service connecting New Orleans to Mobile is expected to restart.

"There are just a lot of unanswered questions about what the commitment will be for the city over the first three years and, just as important, what happens after the first three years," said Mobile City Councilman Joel Daves, who chairs the committee.

The council is [expected to vote on a resolution during its Dec. 31 meeting](#) that will serve, according to Daves, as a "letter of intent" on whether the city is willing to financially commit a subsidy toward Amtrak's operations.

Timing is an issue. The vote is needed ahead of a Jan. 6 deadline for matching funds to be dedicated toward a federal Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) grant through the Federal Railroad Administration that's paying for the lion share of the operational costs. The council's only meeting before then is Dec. 31.

Mississippi and Louisiana have each dedicated their own matching funds of up to \$3 million. The Gulf Coast rail project includes stops in New Orleans and four Mississippi sites – Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi and Pascagoula.

The resolution is likely to include a host of contingencies that absolve Mobile from obligating the city toward a full financial backing of the Amtrak project. Those contingencies could include clarification on how capital improvements will be financed between the Mississippi line to Mobile. An additional \$2.2 million is needed from an Alabama-based source to finance those improvements.

Mississippi has dedicated \$15 million, Louisiana \$10 million and Amtrak \$6 million toward the capital improvements along the rail line.

In addition, it's unknown how much a train station is going to cost, how it will be financed and even where it would be located. Also, a study involving at least Amtrak and CSX – the existing rail lines main freight operator – still needs to be completed to assess the full impact that restoring passenger rail will have on commercial rail activity.

That study is expected to last four to six months. Continue [HERE](#)

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## 2020 Census: what's the big deal?

### How the upcoming Census affects our area

Posted Monday, December 16, 2019 11:13 am

By Jessica Vaughn

By now, you've probably heard of the upcoming 2020 Census, which takes count of the population in an area. But what's so important of knowing how many citizens live in a county? The short answer is, a whole lot. April 1, 2020 will be Census Day nationally, but it's never too early to begin thinking about the Census and everything it could mean for our area.

"The US Federal Government has more than \$675 billion to give away annually," said Jean Hough, partnership specialist for the Census Bureau. "That money is allocated through one thing and one thing only: census numbers, how many people do you have in your community. The money follows the numbers, not the need. So, you've got to have your numbers counted to get your piece of that money."

For each person who does not fill out their Census, Alabama loses \$1,600 per person. That's money that is put towards school lunches, veteran's programs, Medicaid and Medicare, transportation, and a variety of other organizations and nonprofits.

Also during the 2020 Census, Alabama is in jeopardy of losing two seats in the House of Representatives.

"That would be the least amount of representation that the state of Alabama has had since 1970, and that's scary," Hough said.

For the 2020 Census, Governor Ivey is hoping for a 90% completion rate statewide. Everyone who lives in a household is to be counted in the Census, no matter how young or old. Everyone counts, so be sure to include your entire household when taking the Census. On the day you complete your Census, be sure to count everyone in your household at that time.

The Census process began early this year with workers going into the field and checking addresses and confirming they are correct. This is because come March 2020, postcards from the Census Bureau will be arriving at every household with instructions on how to take the Census.

"For the first time ever you can go online and take your Census," said Hough. "There will be a specific identifier number on your postcard that you will be able to enter online at the website provided so you can complete your Census online. You can also call the Census. There's going to be a number that you can call and do it all over the phone listed on the postcard."

Those who have not completed their Census either online or by phone by April will begin receiving knocks on their door, Census-takers coming around the old-fashioned way. In order to complete the Census online or by phone, you will need to use the ID number listed on your personal postcard.

No one will ever be asked for personal information such as their social security number or citizenship information when completing the Census. As for the information that is entered such as address and phone number, the Census Bureau does not share information with other government entities. No names are associated with the Census, and no questions will be asked concerning taxes, social security number, or citizenship.

"If someone shows up at your door and claims they're from the Census Bureau and then asks for your social security number or your credit card information, then it's a scam," Hough said. "When we send someone out into the field, they're going to have a bag and a computer both with the Census logo on them, and they're going to have a badge with an ID number that can be called into the bureau and verified."

Be on the lookout for your Census ID card in the mail come next March, and check out <https://www.census.gov/> for more information on the 2020 Census



**ALDOT Mobile Area** @ALDOTMobileArea · Dec 18

Crews have brought newly widened portion of US-31 next to Old Mobile Rd. to sub grade in preparation for the crushed aggregate base layer which will be followed by the asphalt layers.



# Transportation Research

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## **FHWA Webinar Announcement:**

### **USLIMITS2: A Tool to Aid Practitioners in Determining Appropriate Speed Limits**

You are invited to register for this free webinar, sponsored by FHWA, about the USLIMITS2 speed setting tool. USLIMITS2 is a web based tool designed to help practitioners set reasonable, safe, and consistent speed limits for specific segments of roads. USLIMITS2 is applicable to all types of roads ranging from rural local roads and residential streets to urban freeways. However, the tool is not applicable to school zones or construction zones.

**When:** December 11, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET/11:00 am – 12:30 pm PT

**Registration:** <https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/WC/Lists/Seminars/DispForm.aspx?ID=2212> You must register in advance in order to attend this webinar. Space is limited so please register as soon as possible. Once you register you will receive an email with login instructions. Non-USDOT employees must have an FHWA external collaboration account to register. If you do not have an account please visit <https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/FBA/MembershipRequest.aspx> to request one. Once you receive your account confirmation you can then register through the registration link above.

**Description:** This webinar will begin with an overview of USLIMITS2, how it works, the decision rules behind the tool that lead to the speed limit recommendations, recent updates made to the tool, and plans for future updates. This presentation will be followed by presentations from a local agency and a State agency discussing how they have used USLIMITS2 and the benefits that have been recognized.

Presentations:

- USLIMITS2: An Overview presented by Doug Cobb, PE, PTOE, RS1, Transportation Operations and Safety Lead, Toxcel
- The City of Maryland Heights, Missouri's Experience with USLIMITS2, by Debbie Wright, PE, Engineer II, City of Maryland Heights Department of Public Works
- The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Experience with USLIMITS2, by Eamon Flannery, EIT, Transportation Engineer III, Connecticut Department of Transportation

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## **Aspen Institute Releases Rural Development Research**

Posted on: November 20th, 2019 by [Carrie Kissel](#)

The [Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group](#) has released the new research report [Rural Development Hubs: Strengthening America's Rural Innovation Infrastructure](#). The report is drawn from interviews with 43 rural development practitioners to address what works to address community and economic development in rural America. The report focuses on the roles of intermediaries, called Rural Development Hubs in the report, that operate on a regional level to improve assets, increase local ownership and control of assets, and address equity and inclusion. NADO member Region Five Development Commission was one of the organizations featured in the report. Learn more at [www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/rural-development-hubs-report](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/rural-development-hubs-report).

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## **2020 Alabama Recreational Trails Conference**

SAVE THE DATE

February 5-7, 2020

Gulf State Park and Lodge

21196 E Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores, AL 36542

A fun and informative event with mobile workshops and speakers from across Alabama and the United States presenting sessions on the latest trends and ideas in creating recreational trails that are inclusive, accessible, and connected to enhance quality of life and economic development in our state!

Registration announcement coming soon!

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## **RURAL ROADWAY DEPARTURE WEBINAR ON 12/12**

Rural Roadway Departure Webinar on 12/12

On December 12, 1 – 2:30 p.m., the Federal Highway Administration will present the webinar Reducing Rural Road Departures. Overall, one third of all traffic fatalities are caused by rural roadway departures. Using data-driven systemic analysis, local and tribal agencies can target problem areas in their rural roadway networks. By implementing targeted safety improvements, local and tribal agencies can improve roadway safety and save lives! This webinar will be useful to staff of local government agencies and the regional rural transportation planners who often work with them. Register for the free webinar [here](#).

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## 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.