



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, July 23rd, 2021

Volume 39, Number 4

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WE HAVE TAP FUNDS AVAILABLE deadline 8/6/21 (please see *Funding Opportunities*). There is a Mobile MPO meeting on July 28th; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. In *Legislative Updates*, things get complicated with the Infrastructure Bill, AGAIN. In *the News* this week, Americans change their relationship with their cars, and this week's *Just For Fun* is something to google at..... Have a great weekend!

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

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

Update on Phase One of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

The Mobile MPO and Eastern Shore MPO both met separately on June 2nd, 2021. Of importance on each agenda, was the amendment to each Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Phase One of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project. Both MPOs passed the amendments unanimously. It was recognized by the Mobile MPO and ESMPO Chairman, that there needed to be more communication between the two MPOs concerning this project, and more transparency from all those involved. At the June 2nd Mobile MPO meeting, Chairman Mayor Stimpson called for frequent updates from ALDOT to both MPOs on the progress of the project. The first of those meetings will be Tuesday, July 27th, at 2:00 PM at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort. Seating is limited, as all members from both MPOs are invited and expected to be present. There will be no actions taken at this meeting, this is for ALDOT to report an update on the project to both MPOs.

Mobile MPO to meet on July 28th, TCC/CAC met this week

The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met on Wednesday, July 14th, 2021 at 10:00 am. There were several items on the agenda to review and recommend to the MPO. The Committee recommended for approval the following changes to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Modify the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to include:

- 100073698; BR Funds; PE; BRIDGE WIDENING ALONG I-65 OVER SR-158; Target Start Date: 7/1/2021; \$120,800
- 100073692; BR Funds; CN; BRIDGE WIDENING ALONG I-65 OVER SR-158; Target Start Date: 7/29/2022; \$1,220,080
- 100052601; UT; McGregor Avenue Widening from Airport Boulevard to Dauphin Street and Installation of a Roundabout at Dauphin Street; DELETE \$1,500,000
- 100052602; CN; McGregor Avenue Widening from Airport Boulevard to Dauphin Street and Installation of a Roundabout at Dauphin Street; Old Est: \$3,382,410; 3/25/2022; New Est. \$8,602,100
- Modify the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to include the following projects with TAP Funds:
100072735; CN; 78 ADA Curb Ramps located throughout Pecan Point, Brooklyns Way, Torrington Place, Raphael Court, Stone Hedge, Irongate, Rachael Plance and Carrington Place; \$200,000 federal \$50,000 match; 12/15/2021
100072733; CN; 80 ADA Compliant Curb Ramps Located Throughout Chesterfield Place, Browning Place, Summerlake, Hunters Park, Woodberry Forest, Augusta Place, Charlanda Estates, Bradshire and Bradbury Unit One \$200,000 federal \$50,000 match; 12/15/2021

Other agenda items include to review and recommend for approval [the DRAFT FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program](#). Also, The 7 CRRSAA projects will now have 7 PE projects, and 7 CN projects with detailed descriptions below:

100073667; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON SEMMES COURT, SEMMES DR. NORTH, SEMMES DR. EAST, ROWELL COURT, ROWELL LANE, WHISTESTONE DR. AND GRAYSTONE DR. IN THE CITY OF SEMMES; Target Start Date : 4/29/2022 Engineers Estimate : \$356,469.00

100073661; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON STATE DOCKS RD. FROM SHELL BELT RD. TO CITY OWNED PROPERTY, POWELL AVE. FROM LITTLE RIVER RD. TO SEAFOOD HOUSE RD., AND LOTTIE AVE. FROM E. ALBA ST. TO HEMLEY RD. IN THE CITY OF BAYOU LA BATRE; Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate : \$256,223.00

100073665; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON W. EVERETT AVE., RUSSELL ST., BECKMAN AVE., RUBEN AVE., PONCE DE LEON, CEDAR ST. AND LUCILLE ST. IN THE CITY OF SARALAND; Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate : \$517,869.00

100073666; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON OLD HWY 43 FROM BAKER RD. TO JUNIPER AVE., AND TWO INTERSECTIONS ON HARRISON AVE. AT THOMAS RD. AND AT NORTON DR. IN THE CITY OF SATSUMA; Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate : \$293,014.00

100073664; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON SHORT LOTT RD., SUGARMILL RD., OAK CLIFF DR., CLANCEY DR., GATTI AVE., MEAHER AVE., GARRISON AVE., RICH AVE., MEADOW AVE. AND SOUTH ATMORE AVE. IN THE CITY OF PRICHARD Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate : \$610,427.00

100073662; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON GRAND BLVD., HILL ST., 4TH ST., HOWELL ST., AND 5TH AVE. IN THE CITY OF CHICKASAW; Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate : \$294,410.00

100073663; CN; CRRSAA-RESURFACING OF CITY STREETS ON DEAD LAKE RD. FROM SR-13 (US-43) TO EXIT 22 OF I-65 IN THE CITY OF CREOLA Target Start Date : 4/29/2022; Engineers Estimate: \$285,074.00

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board will vote on the recommendations by the TCC/CAC at a meeting on Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the GM&O Building located at 110 Beauregard Street, Mobile, AL 36602.

Mobile Area Major Road Plan

Last week was a follow up to the Kick Off meeting with SARPC and Volkert for the Mobile Area Major Road Plan, and staff is working with the consultant on a daily basis. The Plan is for better integration and connectivity of land use and transportation planning, to ensure existing and future on-system corridors are managed and/or preserved as part of the long-range comprehensive planning efforts and as development occurs. A complete Major Road Plan to include regulatory components, current practices, case studies, and guidance for Mobile County and Municipalities within Mobile County. The Plan will include methods and tools for acquiring and preserving right-of-way in the context of expediting the environmental clearance process and review how corridors are prioritized, designated, and adopted for management or preservation. This will require coordination with all planning jurisdictions in Mobile County.

Phase One of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project are added to LRTP and TIP

The Mobile MPO met on June 2nd at 10:00AM in the SARPC Board Room on the first floor of the GMO Building. Of importance was the Amendment to the Envision 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Phase One of the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project which was passed unanimously. This has been advertised since April 28th, 2021, with a Public Meeting held on May 19th, 2021. The deadline for comments to be included into the draft document was May 26th, 2021. The draft Amendment and comments can be found below. There were numerous comments in favor of the project, and there are some comments concerning the potential effects of increased truck traffic on Africatown Blvd.; although, hazardous trucks would no longer be signed to Africatown Blvd. There are also several comments regarding the impact to local trucking companies and several organizations submitted full support of the project. *In The News* below this week has several new articles concerning the meeting.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

For the project as proposed: 150

Against the project as proposed: 153 (Against a Toll 111, Against/Safety/Congestion 20, Completely Against w/ no reason 22)

Alternate: 39

Other: 13

[HERE](#) is the Amendment with update Section 1.7 that summarizes the public comments.

[HERE](#) is APPENDIX A with all of the comments we received prior to deadline

[HERE](#) is a National Geographic article on Africatown that was presented as information.

100 % Funding for Resurfacing of Local Roads Through the Mobile MPO with CRRSAA

LINK TO MAP [HERE](#)

In accordance with the Highway Infrastructure Program Funds Pursuant to the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) dated January 15, 2021 from the Federal Highway Administration, the Mobile Transportation Management Area (TMA) through the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is apportioned \$3,193,942 (FY 2021). In consultation with the State of Alabama, it is the intention of the Mobile MPO to use the Mobile TMA apportioned CRRSAA funding (\$3,193,942) for a one time competitive application award program. This funding can be 100% federal funding with no matching requirements; this presents a rare opportunity for the Mobile MPO.

Some of our municipalities in the Mobile MPO, do not have adequate revenue streams to provide the matching requirements when federal funds become available. Further, some of the smaller municipalities in the MPO only have one Federal Aid Route in their municipal limits (US43, SR181). Rarely do these municipalities have the opportunity to spend federal transportation funds through the MPO. Per the above noted guidance, routine maintenance and preventative maintenance on non-federal aid highways is allowed if Special Authority is given to the MPO by the State.

The State of Alabama has awarded the Mobile MPO the Special Authority to proceed.

The cities of Creola, Satsuma, Saraland, Chickasaw, Prichard, Semmes and Bayou la Batre have provided a prioritized list of roads that need to be resurfaced within their jurisdiction. The CRRSAA Committee is meeting next week to move forward with this program. This is 100 % funding, with no matching requirements. Communication with MPO staff is through the Mayor of each municipality.

Please call Kevin Harrison 706-4635 if there are any questions.

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. 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](#).

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

Project : 100073846 Federal aid number : HSIP 0017 County : MOBILE Scope : PE

Project Description : CENTERLINE SCORING ON SR-17/SR-57 (US-45) FROM SR-158 (MP 7.25) TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE (MP 16.13)

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Target Start Date : 8/1/2021

Engineers Estimate : \$25,000.00

Project : 100073814 Federal aid number : HSIP 0017 County : MOBILE Scope : PE

Project Description : ADDING TURN LANES AND OTHER SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON SR-17/SR-57 (US-45) FROM I-65 (MP 4.5) TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Target Start Date : 8/1/2021

Engineers Estimate : \$200,000.00

Project : 100073813 Federal aid number : HSIP 0017 County : MOBILE Scope : CN

Project Description : CENTERLINE SCORING ON SR-17/SR-57 (US-45) FROM SR-158 (MP 7.25) TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE (MP 16.13)

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Target Start Date : 9/24/2021

Engineers Estimate : \$548,172.00

Project : 100073895 Federal aid number : HSIP 0017 County : MOBILE Scope : CN

Project Description : ADDING TURN LANES AND OTHER SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON SR-17/SR-57 (US-45) FROM I-65 (MP 4.5) TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE LINE

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Target Start Date : 1/27/2023

Engineers Estimate : \$1,530,150.00

South Alabama RPO Updates

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) met in October using the GoToMeeting app. The agenda included:

- Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting (these will be sent out soon)
- Review and adoption of the **Fiscal Year 2021 Work Program** (available for review online at: <http://mobilempo.org/RPO/RPO%20Documents/2021%20Documents/Draft%20FY%202021%20RPO%20Work%20Program.pdf>)
- Review and adoption of the **Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan** (available for review online at: <http://mobilempo.org/Documents/Planning/FY2021/2020-2023%20HSCTP%20for%20SARPC.pdf>)

The RPO Transportation Plan Project List (available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>) SARPC Rural Planning Organization

Projects in Region Let July 30th, 2021

MOBILE COUNTY

For constructing the Additional Lanes (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Concrete Barrier, Traffic Signs, and Traffic Stripe) on I-10 from the CR-39 Interchange to the CR-69 (Plantation Road) Overpass in Mobile. Length 4.748 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$21,633,085 to \$26,440,437 .

BALDWIN COUNTY

For constructing the Connector Road (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Bridge, Fence Installation, Traffic Lighting, Traffic Signals, and Traffic Stripe) on SR-161 from the junction SR-180 to a point north of the junction of CR-4 (Cotton Creek Drive) in Gulf Shores. Length 1.078 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$33,901,483 to \$41,435,146 .

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

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

Legislative Updates

Infrastructure vote fails as senators try to salvage bipartisan deal

The vote to move forward a bipartisan infrastructure deal failed, but centrists are trying to shore up the votes for next week.



Sen. Rob Portman speaks to reporters. | Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

By [BURGESS EVERETT](#) and [MARIANNE LEVINE](#)

07/21/2021 11:10 AM EDT

Updated: 07/21/2021 04:42 PM EDT

Senate Republicans blocked moving forward on a bipartisan infrastructure bill that's still being negotiated on Wednesday. Surprisingly, members of the group insist they're unbothered.

The vote amounted to a setback to a key priority of President Joe Biden, although members of both parties expect at least one more try in the coming days. GOP centrists say they may be willing to provide the votes as early as Monday, when they think discussions will conclude over a bill expected to provide nearly \$600 billion.

"We're a no today because we're not ready," said Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), the lead Republican negotiator. "We're saying we do want to take up this bill as soon as we are, and we think that'll be Monday."

Portman organized a letter of 11 Republican senators to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer indicating Republicans will put up the votes to beat a filibuster next week. He and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), the lead negotiator, also released a sunny statement in the aftermath of the failed vote pledging that a group of 12 Democrats and 10 Republicans are "optimistic that we will finalize, and be prepared to advance, this historic bipartisan proposal."

Schumer voted against advancing the proposal, allowing him to bring it up quickly whenever the group clinches a deal. Schumer is carefully trying to give the group a chance to finally clinch its legislation, ensuring he doesn't alienate moderate Democrats he needs to advance the rest of Biden's priorities.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, a leading Democrat in the group, said he felt "confident" their effort would have the 60 votes to advance over a filibuster by next week. Manchin said "at first I was concerned" that Wednesday's failed vote might send "the wrong message" about the state of negotiations. But Schumer reassured him that if 60 votes exist to pass it, the vote will come up again.

Schumer "will bring this back to reconsideration if we show him we have the support," Manchin said on Wednesday.

Republicans' letter to Schumer stipulates they "intend to [advance] the bill pending final negotiations that are going through right now and on getting a score back" on the bill's financing, said a Republican senator familiar with the letter. But Republican leaders remain skeptical that the conference will provide the votes to move forward until the group finally produces hundreds of pages of legislative text, which could take days, if not longer, given the difficulties in drafting legislation. [HERE](#)

Bipartisan infrastructure plan could get another chance after Senate setback

PUBLISHED THU, JUL 22 2021 11:05 AM EDT UPDATED THU, JUL 22 2021 11:55 PM EDT

[Jacob Pramuk@JACOBPRAMUK](#)
[Thomas Franck@TOMWFRANCK](#)

A failed Senate test vote dealt a blow to the bipartisan infrastructure framework, but the plan could have a chance to move forward again as soon as Monday.

The Republicans working to craft the \$1.2 trillion proposal voted Wednesday against advancing it as they draft final legislation. Despite the setback, the 22 Democratic and GOP senators drawing up the plan said they hope to release and push ahead with a bill "in the coming days."

The vote leaves President Joe Biden's top legislative priority in flux. If the bipartisan deal to revamp transportation, broadband and utilities falls apart, Democrats will have to consider whether to pair physical infrastructure plans with their separate \$3.5 trillion package to address climate change, child care and health care.

Biden considers both plans critical to boosting the economy and preparing the country to face a warming planet. Asked Wednesday during a CNN town hall, Biden said he believes the Senate will vote Monday to advance the bipartisan framework he negotiated with senators.

"It's a good thing, and I think we're going to get it done," he said.

Democrats have undertaken a tricky strategy to get both planks of their agenda through Congress. They aim to pass the physical infrastructure plan with Republican votes, then expand the social safety net without GOP support.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he wants to make progress on both fronts before the chamber leaves Washington in August. He aims to pass the bipartisan infrastructure plan and approve the budget resolution that would allow Democrats to get their bill through the evenly split Senate with a simple majority.

“My colleagues on both sides should be assured: as majority leader I have every intention of passing both major infrastructure packages: the bipartisan infrastructure framework, and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, before we leave for the August recess,” he said Thursday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said she will not take up either bill until the Senate passes both. Democratic leaders need to keep at least 10 Republican senators on board for the bipartisan plan to pass. They also cannot lose a single Democratic vote in the Senate to pass their bill through the budget reconciliation process. It means appealing red state centrists and progressives alike.

Some Republicans have balked at Democrats’ plans to take up their \$3.5 trillion package along with the bipartisan infrastructure plan, jeopardizing the passage of both proposals.

Asked Thursday morning if the physical infrastructure bill and aspects of Biden’s American Families Plan are still linked, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg offered an oblique reply.

“Well it wasn’t linked yesterday. Right? The vote they took in the Senate was on the infrastructure piece,” Buttigieg said on CNBC’s “Squawk Box.”

“I hear a lot of this talk about whether it’s linked or whether it’s paired. But nobody’s been able to explain to me in clear terms exactly what that even means,” he added. “I think this is more of a kind of an art than science. Frankly, that’s more about the politics that different members have to worry about.”

Transportation and Infrastructure Negotiations Continue

On Wednesday, a procedural vote was held on the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure framework, which contains \$579 billion in new spending primarily for highways, bridges, transit, and broadband. Legislative text for the bipartisan infrastructure plan has not yet been released, and negotiations have been dragging in the days since an initial deal was announced. The procedural vote held this week – which ultimately failed – was an attempt by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to accelerate negotiations and force the bipartisan Senate negotiators to take action. Despite the failed vote this week, infrastructure negotiations are expected to continue progressing, and the bipartisan group of Senate negotiators have indicated that they are likely to deliver legislative text in the coming days. The bill text is expected to be based on parts of the surface transportation reauthorization bills already passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee.

Once legislative text is released for the bipartisan plan, Democrats hope to vote on the bipartisan proposal in tandem with a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution that was announced last week by Senate Democrats. Senate Republicans, on the other hand, are resisting linking the two pieces of legislation together. Bill text for the Senate Democrats’ \$3.5 trillion budget resolution is also still forthcoming, but is expected to feature some of the social spending programs and so-called “human infrastructure” proposals included in President Biden’s American Families Plan, such as paid family and medical leave, nutrition assistance, and universal pre-K, among other provisions. Democrats are aiming to use the budget reconciliation process as a legislative pathway, which allows the Senate to pass legislation with a simple majority rather than the 60 votes typically required. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has indicated that he is looking to tee up votes on both items before the August recess.

Majority support key parts of sweeping new infrastructure bill: poll

Popular projects included in Biden’s forthcoming bill include road and bridge improvement.

By Alexandra Kelley | July 22, 2021

President Biden’s hallmark infrastructure bill may have hit its first snag in Congress as Republicans in the Senate blocked the vote, but new national data implies strong bipartisan support for the bill and its contents.

A new AP/NORC poll reports that 59 percent of U.S. respondents said that improving infrastructure should be a priority in Washington, and they support financing the construction by taxing individuals and corporations with a net income of more than \$400,000.

Some of the categories of possible infrastructure projects that garner the most bipartisan support include more funding for roads, bridges and shipping ports. Some 79 percent of Republican-identifying respondents reported favoring these infrastructural improvements, with 87 percent of Democrat-identifying respondents agreeing.

And 80 percent of Independent-voting respondents also supported these projects, bringing the overall average percentage of support to a strong majority of 83.

Increased funding for water pipe repairs to support drinking water infrastructure also garnered broad bipartisan support, followed by funding for caregivers for elderly individuals, funding preschool programs and funding for affordable housing development.

More Democratic and Independent respondents advocate using tax revenue from wealthy households or corporations to fund these infrastructure repairs than Republicans.

This divide comes from Republican party ideology that believes taxing corporations would hinder economic development.

The recent vote for Biden’s infrastructure bill, which would cost roughly \$1.2 trillion, was 49-51. It required 60 votes to push the legislation forward.

Some of the points of contention that emerged during negotiations are Democrats’ advocacy for environmentally friendly infrastructure, like electric car charging stations and electric railways, which are unpopular starters for Republicans.

Other polling results echoed AP's results, with a HarrisX/No Labels survey suggesting 72 percent of voters across 33 congressional districts support the bill as lawmakers still work to negotiate details within the infrastructure package.

Funding Opportunities

Mobile Urbanized AREA FY 2022 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) deadline 8/6/21

The Mobile MPO has announced the availability of a second round of the Fiscal Year 2022 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.

The maximum amount that can be applied for per project with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$400,000 federal (\$500,000 Total).

Applicants are welcome to submit more than one project.

Applications are due to transportation@sarpc.org no later than **3:00 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2021.**

The application and other pertinent information is available on our website at <https://www.mobilempo.org/TAP.html>

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.

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.

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

Last week, staff of the Mobile MPO met with ALDOT and a consultant to kick off the CRRSAA project. This is miles and miles of local street being resurfaced in the Mobile Urban Area. We "drove" all of the CRRSAA streets using the google maps, just for a glimpse of the projects. The Google Maps tool is such a useful tool, but *Just For Fun*, there is a video out there of some CRAZY stuff found on Google Maps; it's worth 3 minutes..... [HERE](#) is the video.



In the News

Survey: Americans' relationship with cars shifts gears



Posted Wednesday, July 21, 2021 9:01 am [HERE](#)

(BPT) - Without question, Americans' relationship with vehicles turned a new direction over the last year and a half, and it is evolving yet again. As vaccination rates increase, restrictions ease and a sense of "normalcy" returns, new research revealed trends in the way drivers view, depend on and take care of their vehicles.

The daily commute is back, but routes are changing

According to Hankook Tire's latest Gauge Index survey, fielded in late spring 2021, while 45% of people say they are driving every day (more than twice as many as this time in 2020), they are going to what were previously considered "usual places" less often. The survey found that one-third of drivers still say they are heading to the office or school much less often than before (33% and 36%, respectively). But the daily drive isn't the only thing that has shifted. The lasting economic impact of the pandemic combined with increased availability of in-home entertainment and food delivery apps could factor into a more permanent shift in how people are engaging with social, shopping and entertainment options. Most Americans point to curbside restaurant service (46%) and grocery pickup (45%) among the pandemic-driven services they would most like to see stay. Entertainment-based outings are still at lower levels, too, the survey found. Sixty-one percent of people say they are driving to events much less often than prior to the pandemic, and 54% say the same for restaurants. While that could be a ripple effect of continued event cancellations, it may also speak to a longer-term trend as lifestyles have shifted.

Dependence on car travel is growing

One in five (19%) Americans bought a new — or used — car because of the pandemic. This emphasizes another trend the latest research unveiled: a steadily growing dependence on vehicular transportation.

Understandably, the pandemic changed the way many viewed highly crowded mass transit options. And while air, train and public transportation seems to be quickly gaining steam again, most (78%) Americans still rank automotive as the mode of transportation they are most likely to use through the end of the summer.

That includes using cars for travel, too. Seventy percent of those planning travel anticipate using a car as their primary method of getting to their destination. Key factors behind the decision include flexibility (49%), an added feeling of safety over other forms of transportation (45%), in addition to general preference (47%).

However, car maintenance skills still need some tuning up

Despite this increased dependence on cars and road travel, the latest Gauge found that while many Americans have the equipment to handle an on-the-road emergency, they don't necessarily know how to use it. For example, two-thirds (64%) of drivers own a tire jack, but 20% don't know how to change a tire!

However, it is promising that most people (77%) owned their car maintenance tools prior to the onset of the pandemic. Perhaps the next evolution of Americans' relationship with vehicles will be ensuring we're keeping them in tip-top shape, for whatever the road ahead may bring.

Looking down that road, Hankook will continue to monitor the shifting landscape, as, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and varying local restrictions, these trends may change in the future.

Speed limit changes coming to Gulf Shores



The posted speed limit on Highway 180 will lower to 45 miles per hour from Peninsula Boulevard to Regency Road and to lower the posted speed limit to 35 from Regency Road to Highway 59.

CITY OF GULF SHORES

[Previous](#)[Next](#)

Posted Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:00 pm

By **Melanie LeCroy** / melanie@gulfcoastmedia.com

Motorists traveling Highway 59 and Highway 180 will soon see changes to the posted speed limits.

The City of Gulf Shores sent a request to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to reduce the posted speed limits on Highway 180 to 45 miles per hour from Peninsula Boulevard to Regency Road and to lower the posted speed limit to 35 from Regency Road to Highway 59.

The city also requested that the state lower the posted speed limit on Highway 59 to 45 miles per hour from County Road 6 to West 1st Street/East 29th Avenue and lower the posted speed limit along Highway 59 to 35 miles per hour from West 1st Street/East 29th Avenue to the entrance of Waterville.

The reduction in speed limits was requested by the city to create a safer environment for pedestrians and motorist. ALDOT completed a speed study with findings that support the request, but it requires support from the mayor and council to complete the process. Mayor Robert Craft and the City Council voted unanimously to pass the ordinance.

Study approved on long-delayed state park at Africatown USA

Posted: Jul 18, 2021 / 03:11 PM CDT / Updated: Jul 18, 2021 / 03:12 PM CDT



Old Plateau Cemetery, the final resting place for many who spent their lives in Africatown, stands in need of upkeep near Mobile, Ala., on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019. Many of the survivors of the Clotilda's voyage are buried here amongst the trees. (AP Photo/Julie Bennett)

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Officials in Mobile have taken a step toward establishing a long-delayed state park at the settlement established by African captives who were brought to Alabama aboard the last slave ship known to land in the United States.

[Al.com](https://www.al.com) reports Mobile County commissioners have authorized a contract for a study to determine whether it would be feasible to develop Africatown USA State Park. Such a project was first discussed in the 1980s but nothing ever happened.

Freed slaves who crossed the ocean on the Clotilda established Africatown USA north of Mobile after the Civil War. Interest in the area has been high since remains of the ship were discovered in 2018.

Transportation Research

[Roundabouts vs Traffic Lights](#)

Jun 1, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ0pnCx76Nk>

Hate it when you're the only car stopped at a light?

Roundabouts are a solution to that, and more.

Roundabouts are “safer. They save lives. They cost less!” Carmel, Indiana mayor Jim Brainard explains.

He’s replaced nearly every stoplight in his town with a roundabout. His town now accounts for about 2% of all roundabouts in America.

Roundabouts are safer.

A study in Wisconsin found that when roundabouts replaced typical intersections, deaths fell 38%. Crashes actually rose 12%, but they were more minor crashes. “Instead of a T-bone, you get a sideswipe,” Brainard explains.

Roundabouts pass cars through intersections faster, they look nicer, save tax money, and pollute less. Yet America’s politicians have been slow to adopt them. Europe has about 200,000 roundabouts — compared to America’s roughly 6,000.

Why so slow? I ask Jim Brainard in the video link above.

BTS Releases Spring 2021 Updates to National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

04/29/2021

National Transportation Atlas Database Spring 2021 Includes New Pipeline Dataset, 8 Other Updates

The Spring 2021 update to the [National Transportation Atlas Database \(NTAD\)](#) was released today with the new pipeline intermodal freight facility layer and eight updated datasets.

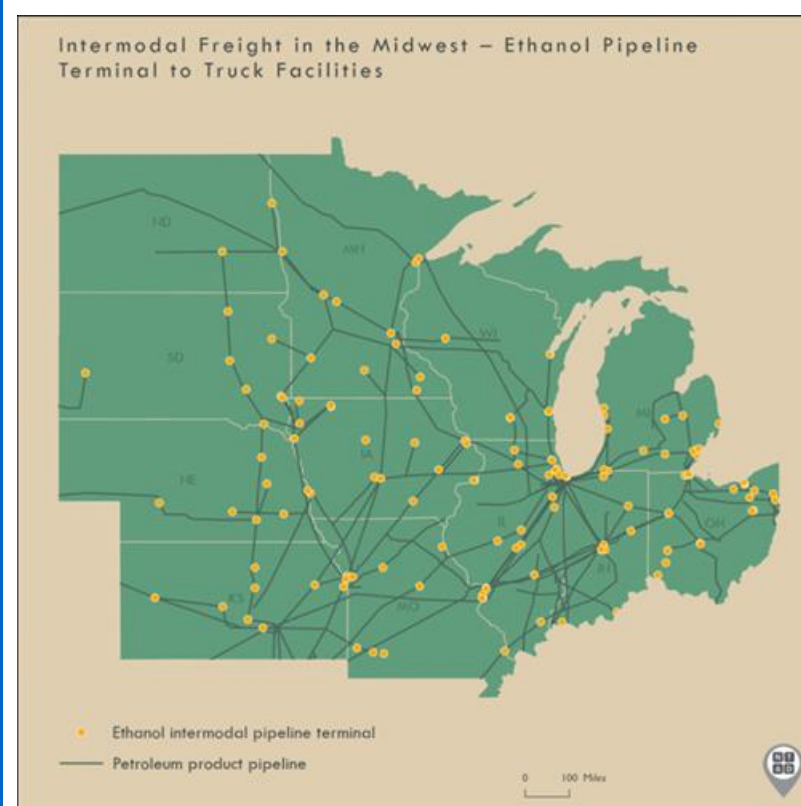
The pipeline addition brings to 89 the total number of geospatial datasets in the NTAD collection representing the nation’s transportation infrastructure, containing roadways, railways, waterways, and airports. An additional 27 ancillary data tables can be used in this Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) compilation.

The updates in this release include:

- National Bridge Inventory with 2020 characteristics;
- National Tunnel Inventory with 2020 characteristics;
- Alternative Fueling Stations including electric vehicle charging stations;
- National Parks;
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries;
- Military Bases;
- Marine Highways; and
- Strategic Ports.

The pipeline intermodal freight facility layer includes information on the mode (truck, rail, and/or waterway) a pipeline terminal connects to, what commodity the facility can manage (crude oil, refined petroleum products, petroleum chemicals, natural gas liquids, gasoline, biodiesel, jet fuel, and ethanol), and its storage capacity.

The map below shows the location of the ethanol intermodal pipeline terminals in the Midwest, specifically those that connect to truck facilities. The highest number of ethanol intermodal pipeline terminals in the U.S., 164 out of 463, are in the Midwest, the region with the top 10 corn producing states. In the U.S., ethanol is largely produced from the starch in corn grain.



NTAD is available for download in comma separated values (CSV), Keyhole Markup Language (KML), and shapefile formats through the [BTS Geospatial Data Catalog](#). Additionally, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard [Web Feature Services \(WFS\)](#) (including Web Mapping Services (WMS)) are available for all NTAD datasets. Also available are optimized services that allow for fast rendering of full NTAD datasets, and vector tile services for 13 of the largest NTAD datasets. These full NTAD datasets and their respective [faster services](#) are designated by service names ending in “DS” for each layer, and the vector tiles service names ending in “VT”.

BTS now uses a dynamic NTAD publication cycle, making updated data available throughout the year when they become available from their respective government agencies. Follow [@TransportStats](#) on Twitter for announcements of additional dataset releases throughout the year. Contacts: Press: Dave Smullen: (202) 366-5568. For technical information and questions: Dominic Menegus: (202) 366-8717, or email ntad@dot.gov.

Opportunity Zones

The Department of Transportation has identified transportation assets that fall within Opportunity Zones with the goal of driving investment of all types to these important areas.

Despite the growing national economy, economically distressed communities are located in every corner of the United States and its territories. These communities have high levels of poverty, failing schools, job scarcity, and a lack of investment. A new tax incentive—Opportunity Zones—was created to spur economic development and job creation by encouraging long-term investment in low-income communities nationwide.

Read about our partner's roles in Opportunity Zones:

- [Housing and Urban Development: Implementation Plan for The White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council](#)
- [The IRS: Tax reform creates opportunity zone tax incentive](#)
- [Treasury Department Community Development Financial Institutions Fund](#)

The Opportunity Zone designation encourages investment in communities by granting investors extensive Federal tax advantages for using their capital gains to finance new projects and enterprises. There are more than [8,700 designated Qualified Opportunity Zones located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five United States territories](#). Of the Qualified Opportunity Zones 40 percent are in rural census tracts, 38 percent are in urban tracts, and 22 percent are in suburban tracts.

South Alabama Opportunity Zones



<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/subdoc/906/build-fact-sheet2019.pdf>

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.