



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Volume 40, Number 8

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MOBILE MPO MEETING December 15<sup>th</sup> ; TCC/CAC MEETING December 1<sup>st</sup> , there is also a Major Road Plan Stakeholder Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. The Infrastructure Bill was signed by the President on Monday. What is in it? What is in it for Alabama? See *Legislative Updates*. In *The News* this week are "no Thanksgiving lane closures", Shelby's awards, and a land swap in South Baldwin. This week's *Just For Fun* is what happens when a musician rides a bike. Have a great weekend!

THERE WILL BE **NO TRANSPORTATION FRIDAY NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK**; HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

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 and subcommittee meetings scheduled

There will be a TCC/CAC meeting (subcommittee) of Mobile MPO on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and a MPO Meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We have several projects to be amended into the Transportation Improvement Program, and other items to discuss. The CRRSAA projects, the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), and potentially a discussion on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project.

100060483 ( CN ) DELETE; NHF; SR-158 EXTENSION WB BRIDGE OVER SEABURY CREEK TRIBUTARY EAST OF LOTT ROAD (SR-217), BASE PAVE, AND BRIDGE

100068535 ( CN )STPMB; ADDITIONAL LANES WITH REALIGNMENT ON CR-56 FROM 0.28 MILE WEST OF ELIZA JORDAN ROAD TO SNOW ROAD Old Target start date : September 29, 2023 New Target start date : September 27, 2024

100068523 ( UT ) BR; BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BIN 003691) ON SR-16 (US-90) OVER HALLS MILL CREEK Old Target start date : November 01, 2021 New Target start date : November 01, 2025

100074195 (CN) STPAA: Rail and Roadway Repair on SR-193at CSX Crossing Target Start Date : 12/15/2021 Engineers Estimate : \$538,248.00

100074289 CN, ST; ADDITIONAL LANES ON TANNER WILLIAMS ROAD (CR-70) FROM SNOW ROAD TO ZEIGLER BOULEVARD Target Start Date : 1/15/2022 Engineers Estimate : \$12,469,726.00

100074080 (CN) RACR; READY MIX CONCRETE PROJECT FOR SOUTHWEST REGION - MOBILE AREA; INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF ASPHALT AND RECONSTRUCT USING CONCRETE PAVEMENT AT SR-17 (US-45) AND WEST I-65 SERVICE ROAD Target Start Date : 7/29/2022 Engineers Estimate : \$757,500.00

100074079 (CN) READY MIX CONCRETE PROJECT FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION - MOBILE AREA; INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF DETERIORATED ASPHALT AND RECONSTRUCT USING CONCRETE PAVEMENT AT SR-13 (US-43) AND JACKSON ROAD IN SATSUMA Target Start Date : 7/29/2022 Engineers Estimate : \$404,000.00

100073448 (CN) IM BRIDGE RESTRIPIING ON I-65 NORTH BOUND LANE AND SOUTH BOUND LANE (MP. 24.309 TO 30.389) AT MOBILE RIVER DELTA (BINS 012321 AND 012322) Target Start Date : 12/3/2021 Engineers Estimate : \$3,012,000.00

100071917 FM STPAA RESURFACING ON I-65 SERVICE ROADS FROM SR-16 (US-90) TO SR-17 (US-45) Target Start Date : 12/3/2021 Engineers Estimate : \$5,175,240.00

### Mobile Area Major Road Plan

There is a stakeholder on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the GMO Building in the SARPC Board Room. There is a questionnaire to be filled out by attendees, that you should have received. If you have not received the questionnaire, please contact Kevin Harrison.

The Steering Committee met last month and some topics discussed included identifying which municipalities have complete Streets requirements, and how to best go about identifying underground utilities and stormwater systems. The consultant and MPO Staff will be setting up individual meetings with leaders from each municipalities in the coming weeks to discuss the plan.

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

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, a letter was submitted to ALDOT from both the Eastern Shore MPO and the Mobile MPO, requesting that ALDOT investigate the possibilities of building the project in less than the three phases.

ALDOT has agreed to provide formal updates to both MPO's every two months. The first Update was held July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Five Rivers, and the second update was on September 20<sup>th</sup>, at Five Rivers at 2:00PM in the Theater. The next joint update is to be determined. The slide presentation can be found [HERE](#). The Mobile MPO will house all of the slide presentations from these ALDOT Updates at [www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org).

The next step is that ALDOT will authorize the Preliminary Engineering (PE) that was approved as part of the project, and begin a Toll and Revenue Study to further hone in on potential tolling revenues. These tolling revenues will not be from just trucks, but voluntary vehicles willing to pay the toll as well; all legacy routes will remain free.

Moving forward, at a minimum, we have a way to build a bridge. The federal government, federal legislature, and new administration are currently developing numerous bills that potentially may help us move past this "at a minimum" scenario.

[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.

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## 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 resurfacing program. This funding can be 100% federal funding with no matching requirements; this presents a rare opportunity for the Mobile MPO.

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 PE projects (design projects) were sent to FHWA for fund authorization.

Neel Shafer has received the Notice To Proceed on the following seven Projects listed below:

CRSAMB-4921(251)	<b>\$27,420.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(252)	<b>\$32,285.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(253)	<b>\$31,456.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(254)	<b>\$65,000.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(255)	<b>\$53,492.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(256)	<b>\$31,124.00</b>
CRSAMB-4921(257)	<b>\$37,828.00</b>

Soon, the cities will begin to see activities in terms of some survey work, geotechnical work, etc.. on the streets proposed for resurfacing. Also, Neel Shafer will soon begin the process of reaching out and working with the cities to provide the necessary documents required for the federal funds to be spent. This include documents such as the ROW certification, encroachment notices, etc...

As of now, due to the scope of these projects, the proposed letting date is sometime late spring/early summer in 2022, assuming no issues with the city certifications, etc.

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

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### **[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](#).

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### **Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile MPO**

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

Project : 100069062 ( CN )

Federal aid number : IM I010 (349)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : RESURFACING ON I-10 FROM 1.36 MILES EAST OF SR-193 TO THE WALLACE TUNNEL

Old Engineers Estimate : \$7,315,137.00  
New Engineers Estimate : \$8,087,810.27

Project : 100069062 ( CN )  
Federal aid number : IM I010 (349)  
County : MOBILE  
Project Description : RESURFACING ON I-10 FROM 1.36 MILES EAST OF SR-193 TO THE WALLACE TUNNEL  
Old Target start date : February 25, 2022  
New Target start date : March 25, 2022

Project : 100073476 ( FM )  
Federal aid number : NH 0042 (542)  
County : MOBILE  
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-42 (US-98) FROM BROAD STREET TO THE WEST END OF BANKHEAD TUNNEL/S. ROYAL STREET (MP 27.433)  
Old Target start date : February 25, 2022  
New Target start date : March 25, 2022

Project : 100071916 ( FM )  
Federal aid number : NH 0042 (541)  
County : MOBILE  
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-42 (US-98) FROM SNOW ROAD TO MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY  
Old Engineers Estimate : \$2,837,662.00  
New Engineers Estimate : \$3,034,507.45

Project : 100070125 ( FM )  
Federal aid number : RP-NH 0017 (582)  
County : MOBILE  
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-17 (US-45) FROM SPRINGHILL AVE. TO I-65  
Old Engineers Estimate : \$1,764,444.00  
New Engineers Estimate : \$1,481,576.04

Project : 100069458 ( FM )  
Federal aid number : NH 0013 (621)  
County : MOBILE  
Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-13 (US-43) FROM SR-158 TO PLATEAU AVENUE  
Old Engineers Estimate : \$2,632,052.00  
New Engineers Estimate : \$3,205,271.29

## South Alabama RPO Updates

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The South Alabama Rural Planning Organization met recently using the GoToMeeting app.

One item on the [agenda](#) was to amend the [Fiscal Year 2021 Work Program](#) to include assisting ALDOT by facilitating the public involvement process for ALDOT's draft Public Involvement Plan for Statewide Transportation Planning.

The purpose of the plan is to implement effective ways for ALDOT to gather information from the public about their transportation needs. The plan is available on ALDOT's website. All comments must be received on or before October 4, 2021.

ALDOT's Draft PIP is posted here:  
<https://www.dot.state.al.us/news/publicinvolvement.html>.

Other items on the [agenda](#) included:

Approve the [minutes of the previous RPO meeting](#)

Review and Adopt the [Fiscal Year 2022 Work Program](#) which includes a new task of assisting ALDOT by hosting public meetings for the Statewide Long Range Transportation Process

Amend the [RPO's Public Involvement Procedures](#) to include online virtual meetings when necessary

Amend the [Annual Transportation Plan List of Projects](#)

RPO Staff is working to finalizing the RPO Transportation Plan. We're also building an online interactive map of all of the RPO projects. Once it's complete we will send out a link to all the RPO members and they'll be able to reference it for grant applications and the like.

## Projects in Region Let December 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2021

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### **MOBILE COUNTY**

For constructing the Safety Widening, Planing, Resurfacing, Steel Blockout Replacement, and Traffic Stripe on I-65 (Service Roads) from the SR-16 (US-90) Interchange in Mobile to the SR-17 (US-45) Interchange in Prichard. Length 12.997 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,940,239 to \$3,593,625 .

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

For constructing the Connector Road (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Bridge, Fence Installation, Traffic Lighting, 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 \$35,636,838 to \$43,556,135 .

## Legislative Updates

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### USDOT Releases State by State Fact Sheets Highlighting Benefits of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation released state-by-state fact sheets that highlight how the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver for communities across the country by repairing roads and bridges, improving transportation options, building a national network of chargers to accelerate the adoption of EVs, upgrading our nation's airports and ports, and much more.

"Americans rely on our transportation infrastructure every day – to get to work, school, loved ones, and to move goods across our economy," said Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "The once-in-a-generation investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will improve people's lives in every state in the nation by increasing access to safe, clean, reliable transportation."

Individual fact sheet for [Alabama](#)

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### Chair DeFazio Statement on House Passage of the Build Back Better Act

November 19, 2021

**WASHINGTON, DC**— Today, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) issued the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act:

"Just days after President Biden signed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law—which will inject \$550 billion in new funding into rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure—House Democrats are moving forward with enacting the rest of the Build Back Better economic agenda by passing the Build Back Better Act. This bill will help fight inflation, is fully paid for, and doesn't add to the deficit, something we achieved by making big corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share. And it keeps President Biden's pledge not to raise taxes on people making under \$400,000.

"As Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am proud to have secured critical investments in both of these bills to make sure our transportation systems and infrastructure are up to meeting the challenges of today. What's more, the Build Back Better Act represents the single largest action the United States has ever taken to address climate change. Importantly, it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector—the number one source of carbon pollution in the nation. I urge the Senate to pass this legislation without delay so we can create good-paying jobs and cut costs for all Americans."

To learn more about the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's portion of the Build Back Better Act, click [here](#).

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### How Biden Plan Funds New Bridges That Locals May Not Want

The most overburdened U.S. bridges are choke points that can hinder commerce. But proposals to fix them by building more and wider spans won't always meet a friendly local reception.

By Alan Levin +Follow

November 12, 2021, 7:00 AM CST

Alabama officials planning a new bridge along the Gulf Coast won the largest highway construction grant awarded in 2019 by the U.S. government, but within months the project fell victim to residents' objections to new tolls.

The scuttled expansion of an overcrowded stretch of I-10 across a bay in Mobile left the \$125 million grant unused. It also highlighted a challenge for President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan perhaps as great as getting it through a divided Congress: Local objections based on politics, racial justice, environmentalism and impacts on residents can torpedo projects intended to upgrade even the most congested U.S. bridges.

These are the unsteady sands that await the \$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure program passed by Congress, which proponents tout as the largest influx of U.S. bridge construction since the birth of the interstate highway system.

"The bigger you get, whether it's a bridge or a tunnel, the more trouble you're going to get," said Jeff Davis, a senior fellow at the Eno Center for Transportation who is closely tracking infrastructure legislation.

Aging bridges across America create some of the interstate highway network's worst choke points, causing congestion and hindering commerce, according to GPS-fed truck traffic data and interviews with transportation experts and public officials. The infrastructure package will provide at least \$40 billion for bridge work in coming years.

Eight of the 35 most choked U.S. highway locations before the pandemic in 2019 involved bridges, according to a Bloomberg News review of American Transportation Research Institute data. Of those, the worst offender is the George Washington Bridge over the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey, followed by the Brent Spence Bridge between Cincinnati and Kentucky.

The overall cost of congestion on the trucking industry alone was \$74.5 billion in 2016, or the equivalent of more than 400,000 truckers sitting idle for an entire year, an ATRI study found. Continue [HERE](#)

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## Infrastructure Act Focus Shifts to Rolling Out the Funds

November 18, 2021 Tom Ichniowski

With President Joe Biden's Nov. 15 signing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, federal agencies are stepping up plans to implement the landmark package, estimated at \$1 trillion over five years.

The overriding question for states, localities, construction and engineering companies is: When will the dollars for year one start to flow?

The answer varies by agency and by individual programs the legislation creates or expands. But in general, funds from existing programs that distribute their dollars according to long-set formulas will "go out" the quickest. Funds from new programs established under the IIJA will move more slowly as the agencies hire more staff, develop grant-selection criteria and issue guidance to industry and local governments.

### Highways Early Out of the Gate

Funds for the federal-aid highway program, including bridges, represent the largest share of the total infrastructure package, with about \$351 billion over five years, according to a summary from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

For fiscal year 2022, about \$59.2 billion will be distributed by the Federal Highway Administration among the states according to an established formula, which includes factors such as a state's population and highway lane-miles. State DOTs will be key players, because they will let the lion's share of the contracts and obligate the vast majority of the funds for those projects. They will be reimbursed by FHWA.

Jeff Davis, Eno Center for Transportation senior fellow, says that \$59 billion in apportioned 2022 highway funding—up \$13.8 billion, or 30%, from 2021—should go out to states by the end of the year.

Alison Premo Black, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association's chief economist, says, "What we tell people is that states will be obligating most of that [formula highway money] during this fiscal year."

Susan Howard, AASHTO program director for transportation finance, says in addition to core formula dollars, the IIJA gives the U.S. Dept. of Transportation a large amount of discretionary funding— "billions and billions of dollars that will go out through competitive grants." Some of that will be increases to existing discretionary programs, such as the RAISE (formerly BUILD and TIGER) grants.

Among the brand-new discretionary grant programs is one that will provide \$12.5 billion over five years "to fix up to 10 of the most economically significant bridges," Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg said in a Nov. 9 press briefing.

An FHWA spokesman says the agency doesn't have a list of those bridges yet. One likely applicant is the Brent Spence Bridge across the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Covington, Ky. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) said at the bill signing, said the bridge is "a major bottleneck desperately in need of replacing. States also have to put up matching funds for federally aided highway projects.

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## Bridge Investment Act signed into law under federal infrastructure legislation

BY MELINA DRUGA | NOVEMBER 17, 2021

President Joe Biden recently signed the bipartisan Bridge Investment Act into law.

The bill was included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed the Senate in August and the House of Representatives this month.

The bill provides \$12.5 billion to fund a bridge investment program that will award competitive grants to governmental entities for projects that improve the condition of bridges. Bridges of all sizes qualify.

The program would allow projects to be bundled into a single application to expedite the process and provide quick grants for small bridge projects. Proposed projects would be evaluated to ensure a fair and efficient allocation of federal funding.

All projects funded by the grants would be required to use American-made steel and iron.

Cities, counties, federal land management agencies, Indian tribes, metropolitan planning organizations, public authorities with transportation functions, special purpose districts. States can apply.

In the United States, there are at least 46,154 structurally deficient bridges and 231,000 needing repair and preservation work, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bob Casey (D-PA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ed Markey (D-MA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Ron Wyden (D-OR) wrote the bill

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## Funding Opportunities

### 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)

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### BACH up that Bicycle...

It is said, that Miles Davis, the famous jazz trumpeter, would walk around New York City and listen to transportation noises. He would hear the light rail above his head, hum the note of the train, then find the harmonic 3<sup>rd</sup> note, then he would find the harmonic 5<sup>th</sup> note (*that's music talk*). Then you have other musicians, that would see a bicycle, and play it like it had some kind of musical value. You might be surprised..... a young Frank Zappa did just that on live TV in 1963, on the Steve Allen Show. [HERE](#)



## In the News

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### Shelby Announces \$18.5 Million for Alabama in DOT RAISE Grants



WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded Alabama two Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants, which total \$18,453,139, to fund efforts for infrastructure improvements in Alabama – one for the City of Tuscaloosa and the second for Auburn University.

“I am very pleased that Alabama will receive more than \$18 million for local infrastructure improvements through DOT’s RAISE Grant Program. These are worthy projects that support increased safety and economic growth opportunity for communities in our state. The livelihood of rural areas in Alabama relies on our core infrastructure, and any enhancements to that will undoubtedly benefit the area for years to come,” said Senator Shelby.

The RAISE grant for the City of the Tuscaloosa will provide \$17,149,167 for the Tuscaloosa University Boulevard Corridor Project, which aims to improve safety and accessibility throughout West Central Alabama. The project includes constructing transportation improvements, technology upgrades, and storm-water drainage along Tuscaloosa’s University Boulevard corridor and is comprised of seven components including curb, gutter, and drainage construction; utility installation; adding bike lanes; and reconfiguring the roadway to prioritize the well-being of pedestrians.

The RAISE grant awarded to Auburn University will provide funding in the amount of \$1,303,972 for STEP UP Alabama: Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian in Underserved Communities Program in Alabama. The project will demolish an existing construction facility and construct a new multi-purpose transportation facility that will serve as a road equipment and fleet maintenance shop, heavy equipment storage garage, location for department offices, and community storm shelter. Additionally, the project will purchase vehicles and heavy equipment needed to support road construction, maintenance, and emergency management activities on tribal lands.

The DOT RAISE grant program awards funding annually for important transportation and infrastructure projects across the nation. The program provides an opportunity for the department to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$8.9 billion for twelve rounds of national infrastructure investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. The Transportation Department uses a rigorous merit-based process to select projects with exceptional benefits, explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, and make needed investments in our nation's infrastructure.

## Alabama transportation officials: Lane closures being paused for Thanksgiving travel

ALABAMA NEWS  
by: Bobby Stilwell

Posted: Nov 18, 2021 / 05:47 PM CST / Updated: Nov 19, 2021 / 05:01 AM CST

ALABAMA – Driving home for Thanksgiving? The Alabama Department of Transportation has some good news.

Orange barrels and cones will be removed on roads statewide starting at noon Wednesday, November 24, meaning temporary lane closures will not be in effect as Alabamians make their way across the state – and in larger numbers compared to last Thanksgiving.

“Traffic volumes during the Thanksgiving holiday period are expected to return to almost pre-COVID pandemic levels,” said Allison Green, Drive Safe Alabama coordinator with ALDOT. “Give yourself extra time to make it to your holiday celebration. If there is a crash along the road, give first responders room to work by moving over a lane, or slow down if it is impossible to move over.”

ALDOT also provided a few tips for drivers during the busy weekend:

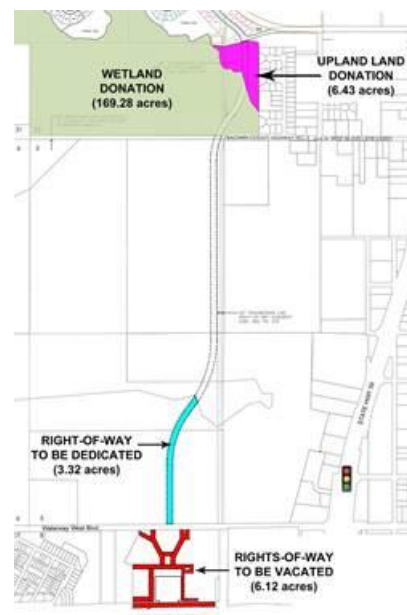
Wear your seat belt – nearly 60% of people who die in Alabama wrecks are not buckled up

Move Over – By law, drivers must move over a lane if safe or slow down to 15 mph under the limit when passing a vehicle on the road with flashing lights

Drive Alert – ALDOT said a driver distracted by changing radio stations or texting is 23 times more likely to get into a crash versus somebody who is focused on strictly driving. When planning a trip, be sure to check ALDOT's online traffic map or download the ALGO Traffic app on a smartphone for the latest traffic information.

ALDOT plans to reinstate temporary lane closures, along with the cones and barrels on Monday, November 29

## Gulf Shores City Council approves land swap with developer



By Melanie LeCroy / [melanie@gulfcoastmedia.com](mailto:melanie@gulfcoastmedia.com)

The city of Gulf Shores is one step closer to a planned roadway connecting County Road 10 to Waterway West.

The city and Legendary Marine have entered into an agreement that will grant the city over 170 acres. To receive the land, the city has agreed to vacate 6.12 acres of public right of way in the former Bon Secour Village Town Center.

Legendary Marine has plans to develop the former Bon Secour Village Town Center site into a marine facility. The plans include a 750-space dry boat storage facility, boat sales and service, 45-slip marina, restaurant, clubhouse and an area of future mixed-use development.

The PUD amendment for the project was approved with a condition to vacate or relocate all the public rights of way within the development before building permit application. The appraisal determined the value of the 6.12 acres of right of way at \$814,000.

“How the process works is they give us an appraised value of the land area of the right of ways to be vacated. It is called ‘pay a vacation fee’ but their vacation fee in this instance is a donation of land. The value of that land donation is \$813,000,” City Planner Andy Bauer said.

In exchange for the vacation of the 6.12 acres, the city will receive:

32-acre right of way dedication north of the future Legendary Marine Development. This property represents a quarter-mile segment of the southernmost section of the Major Street Plan's two-lane roadway from Waterway West to County Road 10. This roadway is for future development.

28 acres of wetlands.

43 acres of uplands that represent an additional quarter mile segment of the Major Street plan's two-lane roadway from Waterway West to County Road 10. This segment will connect West 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Stafford Blvd. within the Aventura subdivision.

The 169 acres of wetlands are adjacent to the Bon Secour wetland mitigation bank. Bauer explained that Baldwin County and the city of Gulf Shores have over 1,300 acres of wetlands in the Bon Secour area. There are also over 450 acres of wetlands on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway around Oyster Bay.

Mayor Robert Craft said, "We are deeply focused on some level of growth management so preventing any mitigation opportunities while protecting pristine environmental areas is a win-win." Continue [HERE](#)

## Transportation Research

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### State seeks feedback from Alabamians on broadband access

Posted on [September 21, 2021](#)

**MONTGOMERY** – Want to see further improvements in broadband access in Alabama? Here's is a simple way Alabamians can help. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is requesting information about broadband internet access and speed from Alabama residents and businesses.

Alabamians are encouraged to take the speed survey at <https://alabama.speedsurvey.org/> to help the state more precisely locate gaps in broadband service areas. The information gathered will be used for more specific mapping of service gaps and planning efforts to help fill those gaps.

*"The COVID-19 pandemic shined a spotlight on the importance of having access to high-speed internet across the Alabama," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "Taking this speed survey will help us gather the data we need to map and plan our efforts to help close those service gaps."*

ADECA administers the Broadband Alabama program, which includes the Broadband Accessibility Fund created by the Alabama Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey. Since 2018, the fund has assisted broadband providers with extending high-speed internet service for households, businesses and community anchors in unserved areas of the state or in areas lacking minimum threshold service.

Many Alabama homes and businesses receive less than the current federal definition of broadband service, which is 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and three Mbps upload speed. The information gathered from the speed survey will help pinpoint the specific areas that lack this coverage. Your address will not be made public and the information will be used solely for the state's planning efforts.

*"Broadband is a huge economic driver for recruiting industry and jobs," Boswell said. "This survey is quick and easy and helps show us precisely where the service gaps are, so we encourage all Alabama residents and businesses to take it and help us continue Gov. Kay Ivey's efforts to grow Alabama's economy."*

A video explaining the survey is available on the [ADECA YouTube channel](#):