



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 19, 2013

Volume 6, Number 3

In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET APRIL 26th
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- JUST FOR FUN
- IN THE NEWS
- TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

Recently Completed Planning Studies

Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

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

Contact Us

<http://www.mobilempo.org>
transportation@sarpc.org

Kevin Harrison, PTP
Director of Transportation
kharrison@sarpc.org

Tom Piper
Senior Transportation Planner
tpiper@sarpc.org

Monica Williamson
Transportation Planner
mwilliamson@sarpc.org

Anthony Johnson
Transportation Planner
ajohnson@sarpc.org

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
110 Beauregard St
Mobile, Alabama 36602
(251) 433-6541

We hope everyone has had a great week. There are a lot of grants available and the deadlines are quickly approaching so be sure to check out Funding Opportunities below. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has a meeting scheduled for mid-May and the TCC/CAC and MPO Policy committee will be meeting soon after; we will keep you posted for meeting dates.

At a Congressional Committee hearing this week that reviewed the federal budget request of U.S. DOT, Secretary LaHood told members of the committee that he anticipated the announcement of the next round of TIGER grant opportunities to be today, but as of yet it has not happened. As soon as we hear of it, we will let you know. Have a great weekend!

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

www.mobilempo.org

706-1CAR

Mobile MPO Updates

The Mobile MPO is now accepting applications for the Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funds. These TAP funds are the previously Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails and the Transportation Enhancements programs. [Please SEE HERE](#) for the TAP process. The deadline for the Mobile MPO TAP funds **AND** ALDOT's TAP funds is June 28th. If you need help, please let us know.

We already have items to be placed on the next Mobile MPO meeting agenda, so please look for those dates to be at the end of May or early June. All MPO documents, dates, and updates are available at www.mobilempo.org.

BPAC MEETING SCHEDULED

The Mobile MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet May 15, 2013 at noon in the board room of the GM&O building at the corner of Water Street and Beauregard Street. This will be a bring your own brown bag lunch meeting. If you have something you would like to suggest for discussing, please feel free to contact us.



The Three Mile Creek corridor is one that was mentioned on numerous occasions during the development of the [Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle Pedestrian Plan](#). The corridor would provide pedestrians and cyclist with a separate East - West facility from downtown to Municipal Park.

If you think Bicycle and pedestrian trail along Three Mile Creek would be a valuable asset to the City of Mobile then please consider voicing your opinions at one of several community meetings regarding plans for the creek watershed.

http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/Three_Mile_Creek_Watershed_Community_Meeting_Schedule_2013_Flyer.pdf

Projects Within Region Let April 26th, 2013

BALDWIN COUNTY

- Constructing the Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Bridge (Precast) and Seawall Replacement on SR-182 over Little Lagoon Pass (Lee Calloway Bridge) in Gulf Shores. Length 0.378 mi.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the intersection of SR-16 (US-90) West and SR-59 North (MP 54.320) to 0.05 miles south of CR-55 (MP 55.811) in Loxley and on SR-59 from the intersection of SR-59 North and SR-16 (US-90) West (MP 27.830) to 0.07 miles south of Flowerwood Rd (MP 28.945) in Loxley. Length 2.606 mi.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-59 from 0.4 miles south of I-10 in Loxley to the junction of SR-3 (US-31) and 0.2 miles north on SR-3. Length 6.148 mi.

Legislative Updates

TIGER FUNDS!!!!

Secretary LaHood Defends Administration Budget to Congress: This week, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood testified

before the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies to answer questions regarding President Obama's FY2014 federal budget proposal.

- The House Committee on Appropriations hearing [webpage](#)
- NARC's [summary](#) of the federal budget
- NARC's comprehensive federal budget and sequestration [webpage](#)

House Transportation Committee Announces Creation of Intermodal Freight Panel: U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) [announced](#) the creation of a special panel tasked with examining the current state of freight transportation in the U.S. and how improving freight transportation can strengthen the U.S. economy. The full committee's Vice Chairman, Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN), will chair the "Panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation." Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) will serve as the panel's ranking member. The special panel will serve for a period of six months, beginning with its first scheduled hearing on April 24, 2013.

Congressman Bonner Southwest Alabama Town Meetings

Next week (April 29-May 2), Congressman Bonner will hold 14 town hall meetings across Southwest Alabama. He invites you to come out and share your views.

Monday, April 29

9:00-10:00 a.m. – Wilmer Volunteer Fire Department

11:00 a.m.-Noon – Bayou La Batre City Hall

2:30-3:30 p.m. – Prichard City Hall

4:00-5:00 p.m. – Satsuma City Hall

Tuesday, April 30

9:00-10:00 a.m. – Chatom Town Hall

11:00-Noon – Fruitdale Volunteer Fire Department

2:30-3:30 p.m. – Jackson Senior Center

Wednesday, May 1

9:00-10:00 a.m. – Bay Minette City Hall

11:00-Noon – Brewton City Hall

2:30-3:30 p.m. – Perdue Hill Masonic Lodge

Thursday, May 2

8:30-9:30 a.m. – Spanish Fort Westminster Village, Pete Allen Room

10:00-11:00 a.m. – Loxley Town Hall

12:30-1:30 p.m. – Magnolia Springs Community Hall

2:30-3:30 p.m. – Gulf Shores/Fort Morgan St. Andrew by the Sea Community Church

<http://bonner.house.gov>.

Funding Opportunities

Applications now Available for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): ALDOT AND URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

ALDOT TAP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

ALDOT has announced the release of their application process; applications are due to the State by June 28th. Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for the TAP funding, and the Alabama Department of Transportation has mailed the application to each city and county in the SARPC region. ALDOT TAP Applications are only available at ALDOT. If you are a city or county and have not received an application, please let us or ALDOT know. Mr. Cecil Colson is the program manager for the TAP funds; his phone number is (334)353-6403.

MOBILE URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

The application the Mobile MPO Transportation Alternative Program Funds is **available** [\[HERE\]](#) and due to the SARPC by 5:00 PM, June 28th. You must be a municipality within the Mobile Urban Area or Mobile County to apply for these funds. Eligible Activities are:

1. Construction of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation,

including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, transportation related trails, streetscapes (combination of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, and landscaping) and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

2. Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
4. Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas.
5. Community improvement activities including Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising; Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; Vegetation management practices in transportation right-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and; Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
6. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to Address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.
7. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

*If you are a city within the Mobile MPO or Mobile County, and have a project in mind, it is possible to apply for the Mobile MPO TAP funds, **AND** the ALDOT Statewide TAP funds. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Transportation Enhancement Funding Announcement

Application Due: May 3, 2013

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

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

Rural Area Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom (NF) Request for Grant Applications

The following information applies to public and private providers of public transportation that are not in the Mobile Urban Area. If you are unsure if you are eligible, just give us a call at SARPC and we will assist you.

For those eligible entities interested in applying for JARC and/or NF funds, the FY 2014 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom (NF) "Call for Projects" Announcement, Cover Letter, and Grant Application is available on the RPO website ([Here](#)). Applicants must submit grant applications to SARPC Transportation Planning by **5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2013**. Prior to submitting the completed grant applications, **all applicants must have submitted proposed budget(s) to ALDOT by 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2013**. This is a special requirement for the FY 2014 grant application process that is being imposed in order for ALDOT to facilitate the development and submission of its FY 2014 draft JARC and New Freedom grant applications to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by April 30, 2013. **Applicants will not be eligible for funding consideration if proposed budgets are not received by April 15, 2013.**

If there are questions, please contact Sharon Coats directly. Contact information is included below.

*Sharon Coats
ALDOT
1100 John Overton Drive
Montgomery, AL 36110
334 353-6443
coats@dot.state.al.us*

RAMP FUNDS

Last week Gov. Robert Bentley signed into law a bill to authorize borrowing up to \$25 million to help more counties participate in a road and bridge improvement program. The bill, by Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman and Rep. Mac McCutcheon, R-Huntsville, established [the Rural Assistance Match Program](#).

RAMP will be available to counties that are unable to provide the 20 percent matching funds required to participate in the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program. The governor established ATRIP to help local areas access funding for road and bridge improvements, according to the news release.

Under RAMP, counties and cities that are unable to meet the 20 percent local funding match required to leverage federal ATRIP funds can receive up to \$1 million in state funds to match an additional \$4 million in federal funds.

The bill the governor signed today will authorize the Alabama Highway Finance Corporation to borrow up to \$25 million by selling bonds to provide the money for RAMP. "ATRIP is improving public safety by replacing old bridges and repairing and widening outdated roads," Bentley said in the news release. "Better roads and bridges help a community attract new jobs."

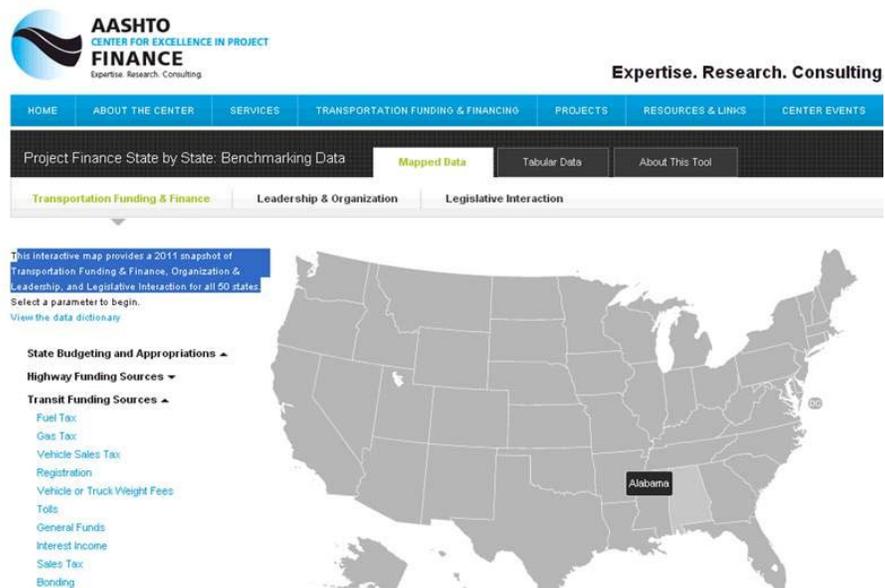
Since Bentley unveiled his ATRIP initiative, 439 road and bridge projects have been announced, according to the news release. Sixty-one of Alabama's 67 counties have received ATRIP funding for road and bridge projects.

The six counties that have not received ATRIP projects so far are Fayette, Hale, Lawrence, Marengo, Wilcox and Winston. Other counties that have received limited ATRIP funding and are also eligible for RAMP assistance are Barbour, Bibb, Bullock, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Lowndes, Marion, Perry, Pickens and Randolph. In all, 22 counties are eligible to participate in RAMP based on current local funding needs.

"Thanks to this legislation, those counties now have the resources available to participate in ATRIP and receive much-needed improvements," the governor said in the news release.

Just For Fun

Here is a great web site that is an interactive map that provides a 2011 snapshot of Transportation Funding & Finance, Organization & Leadership, and Legislative Interaction for all 50 states. [\[HERE\]](#). This is where the money goes per state, and if you pay close attention, you will notice that Alabama and one other state are the only states in the Country that do not provide ANY funding for transit. Which state is the other state? First person to respond to kharrison@sarpc.org with the correct answer wins.



In the News

Yesterday, the Mobile County Commission adopted resolutions to initiate the following projects with the Alabama Department of Transportation:

- Resurfacing, shoulder widening/repairs, guardrail improvements, striping and pavement markers to Dawes Road, route 33, from Grand Bay Wilmer Road South, northward to Three Notch Road. Length = 4.773 miles.
- Resurfacing, shoulder widening/repairs, guardrail improvements, striping and pavement markers to Tanner Williams Road, route 70, from Wilmer Road North, eastward to approximately 200 feet west of Eliza Jordan Road North. Length = 4.943 miles.
- Grade, drain, base and pave Lott Road from Brown-Blankenship Road northwesterly to Beverly Jefferies Highway. Length = 2.254 miles.

CDC and HHS Asking for Public Feedback on Walking: Until April 30, 2013, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will collect information from the public on their priorities as it relates to increasing walkability. The Surgeon General of the United States will use this to frame an anticipated Call to Action on this issue. Click [HERE](#) for the Federal Register notice and [HERE](#) for the *Every Body Walk Collaborative* campaign on this issue. Your organization may submit comments through either site.

U.S. DOT to Host Transportation Data Palooza: The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) is hosting Transportation Data Palooza on Thursday, May 9, 2013 from 9:00am-3:00pm ET at U.S. DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC. The purpose of this event is to showcase innovative technology solutions that leverage data to improve decision making. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Plan for Fairhope Intersection Improvements [\[HERE\]](#)

Resolution: authorizing Mayor Timothy M. Kant to execute an agreement between the City of Fairhope and the State of Alabama, acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation, for the improvements to the U.S. 98 and Baldwin 48 intersection in Fairhope.

FACES OF TRANSPORTATION PHOTO CONTEST

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials this week announced the commencement of its ninth annual Faces of Transportation photography contest. The national competition asks state transportation department employees and private citizens to photograph those people and projects which are making communities better, while emphasizing the importance of transportation.

The theme for this year's competition is "A Snapshot of Transportation in America," which includes three new categories: "Building the Future," "Opening Communities," and "Taking the Road Less Traveled." A total of five awards will be presented this year. A \$125 cash prize will be awarded to the best photograph in each of the three categories. \$500 cash prizes will be presented to the winners of both the People's Choice and the Best Overall Photograph awards.

AASHTO strongly encourages every submission to prominently feature people designing, constructing, using, and enjoying the nation's transportation systems. All entries should represent the positive effects of all modes of transportation, on individuals and communities. Photographs which include recognizable individuals must be accompanied with a model release form and, regardless of category, all photos must include a caption which describes the scene. Failure to meet these requirements may lead to disqualification.

All entries must be received by July 31, 2013. Judging will begin on Aug. 1, 2013 and end Aug. 31, 2013. The general public will vote for the People's Choice Award at the Faces of Transportation web site, www.facesoftransportation.org.

The winners of the Faces of Transportation competition will be announced at the TransComm (AASHTO Subcommittee on Transportation Communications) annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Sept. 9, 2013. Entry forms and contest rules are available at www.facesoftransportation.org.

State Transportation Funding Proposals Detailed in New AASHTO Web Resource

WASHINGTON – From Arizona to Wyoming, 30 states so far have proposed funding initiatives since December 2012, to repair, replace, or build a wide range of transportation projects including roads, bridges, railways, and bicycle and pedestrian trails.

The AASHTO Center for Excellence in Project Finance has compiled a comprehensive listing of state transportation funding proposals that have been or are being considered.

The collation of data called Examination of Recent State Transportation Funding Proposals has been posted on the Center's website, and it includes a variety of funding mechanisms such as Maryland's recently approved gasoline tax increase and Missouri's proposed reduction to the state gas tax coupled with an increase in the average wholesale price of motor fuels. Where available, the data also includes information on state transportation funding needs and it gives estimates of how much revenue may be generated. This resource will be updated on a biweekly basis in order to provide timely information on state transportation funding activities.

To find the report, along with a collection of other transportation-related funding and financial information, visit the AASHTO Center for Excellence in Project Finance website at <http://www.transportation-finance.org>.

Transportation Research

The **Transportation Research Board (TRB)** released a pre-publication, non-edited version of, ***The Effect of Smart Growth Policies on Travel Demand***, that explores the underlying relationships among households, firms, and travel demand; and describes a regional scenario-planning tool that can be used to evaluate the impacts of various smart growth policies.

The **U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** released, ***Traffic Safety Facts: Distracted Driving 2011***, a fact sheet that presents data about fatal crashes and injuries that result from a variety of types of distracted driving.