



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 25th, 2014

Volume 10, Number 4

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Recently Completed Planning Studies

Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

Contact Us

There are several grant opportunities available: **FTA 5310 URBAN FUNDS for the Mobile Urban Area are now available through SARPC** as well as Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and JARC/New Freedom (outside of Mobile Urban area) is available through ALDOT. Look in the *Funding Opportunities section below for details*. If you are applying for any of these funds, please do not hesitate to call us. Don't forget to register for the [South Alabama Highway Funding Conference](#). We're in for some fantastic spring weather this weekend so get out there and enjoy it. Head to the ProHealth Fitness Center this afternoon with the kids for a kids bike rodeo, or tomorrow head down to Dauphin Island for the 5th annual Gumbo Cook-Off, or head out to Dauphin Street Saturday in Mobile for the community clean up. Also don't forget about the SARPC Business Expo and Jobs fair next week. Next Thursday is May 1st, the beginning of National Bike Month, so get your bike tuned up and ready to ride.

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



www.mobilempo.org
706-1CAR

check us out on FACEBOOK

Mobile MPO Updates



South Alabama
Highway Funding
Conference
Friday, May 2, 2014
Daphne Civic Center

South Alabama Highway Funding Conference

As part of the SARPC Strategic Sessions held in January, a recommended action goal was to host a regional transportation forum for our member governments. Since *transportation* is a broad subject with many facets, this forum has turned into the South Alabama Transportation Funding Conference. It is a timely topic with [ALDOT's current funding situation](#), and the federal outlook [\[SEE HERE\]](#) and

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this week's *Legislative Updates*. Is there anything local governments can do? Please plan on registering for the [South Alabama Highway Funding Conference](#) now. US Representative Bradley Byrne will be the luncheon speaker, and we will have several regional and national speakers.

8:30 am Welcome
Honorable Dane Haygood, Mayor of Daphne, Alabama

8:35 am Objectives
Honorable Bob James, Baldwin County Commissioner, SARPC Chairman

8:45 am Eastern Shore MPO Needs
Mr. Matthew Brown, MPO Coordinator Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization

9:05 am Mobile MPO Needs
Mr. Kevin Harrison, PTP, Transportation Director SARPC

9:25 am County Engineer Forum
Mr. Chris Miller, SARPC Executive Director, Moderating
Mr. Bill Bridges, P.E. Escambia County Engineer;
Mr. Joe Ruffer, P.E. Mobile County Engineer;
Mr. Cal Markert, P.E. Baldwin County Engineer;
Mr. Vince Calametti, P.E. ALDOT Southwest Region Engineer

10:25 am Break

10:40 am ALDOT Funding
Mr. Don Arkle, P.E. Assistant Chief Engineer for Policy and Planning, ALDOT

11:20 am Florida MPO Advisory Council- MPOAC Revenue Study
Ms. Mary Bo Robinson, Director of Transportation, West Florida Regional Planning Council

11:50 am Luncheon Keynote Speaker, U.S. Representative Bradley Byrne

1:00 pm FHWA Innovative Program Delivery
Mr. Frederick Werner, CPA, Project Finance Manager

2:00 pm Center on Innovative Funding and Finance , T4America
Ms. Beth Osborne, Director of the Center on Innovative Funding and Finance , T4America

3:00 pm Discussions: Strategies Going Forward, Mr. Chris Miller, SARPC Executive Director Moderating

Mobile MPO TCC/CAC and Policy Committee Meetings

The Mobile MPO Unified Planning Work Program (annual budget) is due to ALDOT in mid June, and we have several other items that require action from the MPO. There will be a **Mobile MPO meeting on May 21st** at 10:00 AM in the GMO Board Room. Prior to that meeting, there will be a Mobile MPO **TCC/CAC meeting on April 30th** at 10:00 AM in the SARPC Training Room on the second floor. April 30th is the same day as the City/County luncheon at noon, so hopefully this will be a short TCC/CAC meeting. Besides rebalancing the STP Attributable Funding Schedule, here are some other items we will be including into the TIP:

National Highway Funds:

Resurfacing on SR 17 (US 45) from north of I-65 to 17 miles north of SR-158; \$2,905,922

FTA 5310 Funds:

Mobile ARC Capital Vehicles(4); \$317,450
Independent Living Center Capital Vehicles(1); \$46,200

HSIP Funds:

Intersection Improvements on Tanner Williams Rd at Eliza Jordan Rd, Utilities: \$2,500

Projects Within Region Let April 25th, 2014

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- For constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on CR-55 (Jay Road) from the Florida State Line to the intersection of SR-41 in Riverview. Length 5.870 mi.
- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-41 from the Florida State Line to 400 feet south of the SR-15 (US-29) pavement joint in Brewton. Length 6.463 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

- For constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-17 (US-45) from CR-63 (Churchula-Georgetown Road) to the Washington County Line. Length 16.609 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

President Planning to Release Transportation Reauthorization Proposal:

U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx said earlier this week that President Obama will soon be presenting Congress with a transportation reauthorization proposal. The Administration did not release a specific bill in the transportation reauthorization debate of 2012; they left the details to Congress to work out. It was previously announced that the President's plan would call for a four-year, \$302 billion bill, and uses \$150 billion from corporate tax reform to pay for it. With the President's proposal, he will be jumping ahead of Congress, who has yet to produce any reauthorization language.

Senator Carper Proposes Federal Gas Tax Increase:

In an effort to help find a solution to the pending insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) has proposed raising the federal gas tax. Carper is arguing that increasing the gas tax should be just one of many funding sources to ensure HTF solvency. His proposal would raise the current 18.4 cent gas tax three or four cents a year for up to four years. After that, increases would be tied to inflation. The gas tax has not been raised since 1993, and the idea still faces significant resistance in Congress. In recent congressional hearings, U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members have said that a federal gas tax increase is a nonstarter, and unlikely to be part of any reauthorization bill.

***The Key to Saving the U.S. Transportation Program* by Beth Osborne:**

Beth Osborne, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and presently with Transportation for America, has written an article for *Atlantic Cities* in which she identifies key changes that Congress can make in the next transportation reauthorization bill to fix the program's funding problems. Click [HERE](#) to read her article.

Funding Opportunities

Applications for Mobile Urban Area 5310/5317 Funding Now Available

(deadline April 30th)

As most of you are aware, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is the Designated Recipient for FTA 5310 funds for the Mobile Urban area. These funds are *Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*. The new Federal Transportation Bill MAP-21 combined the FTA 5317 New Freedom Funds for large urban Areas with 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. We have FY 2013 and 2014 combined in this call for projects totaling over \$575k available for projects .

Eligible Activities

- At least 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects that are public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable.
- The remaining 45% may be used for: public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA, public transportation projects that improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit, or alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Applications are available at www.mobilempo.org/5310.html

**JARC New Freedom Funding (rural / small urban);
CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR FUNDING TRANSIT SERVICES FOR FY 2015
(budget deadline was April 18th)**

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Modal Programs Bureau is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program and the Section 5317 New Freedom (NF) Program. These Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs provide funding for transit related services that assist the state's population of low income and disabled individuals.

The following organizations are eligible to apply for the Sections 5316 & 5317 programs:

Private nonprofit organizations

State or local governmental bodies; and

Operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services.

Federal funds administered through ALDOT are only extended to organizations providing transit services in the small urban and rural areas of the State.

Available federal funds for the Section 5316 JARC program are expected to total \$1,792,092

for small urban areas and \$1,251,841 for the rural areas. Available federal funds for the Section 5317 NF program are expected to total \$898,303 for small urban areas and \$640,484 for the rural areas.

A 50% local match is required for operating funds and a 20% local match is required for capital and planning funds.

The selection process will be based on the following criteria: statement of need and organizational capacity; project budget and cost effectiveness; coordination and program outreach; implementation plan; and customer service and accessibility. Projects funded through these programs must be derived from a locally regional coordinated transportation plan.

The application package provides specific eligibility requirements, match requirements, and eligible activities. The application and state management plan can be found at:

<http://www.dot.state.al.us/moweb/transit.htm>.

Completed grant applications must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Planning Council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Sections 5316 and/or 5317 transportation services are proposed. Each Regional Planning Council must review grant applications to ensure compliance with federal coordination requirements prior to formal submission to ALDOT. Only those grant applications submitted for funding consideration by the Regional Planning Councils will be considered for funding. The deadline for submissions to the appropriate regional planning council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Sections 5316 and/or 5317 transportation services are proposed is **5:00 P.M. on May 16, 2014**. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. **Postmarked submissions will not be accepted.**

After applications are reviewed, prioritized, and approved by ALDOT, applications will be submitted to the FTA Region IV office for funding consideration.

For questions or comments concerning the grant application or if the information is needed in another language contact: Sharon Coats, ALDOT, Modal Programs Bureau, 1100 John Overton Drive, Montgomery, AL 36110; (334) 353-6443 or coatss@dot.state.al.us.

All proposed budgets should have been emailed to ALDOT no later than April 18, 2014.

President Obama, DOT Secretary Foxx Announce \$600 Million for Sixth Round of TIGER Funding

[Notice of Funding Availability](#) now available.

ST. PAUL – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will join President Barack Obama today to announce that \$600 million will be made available to fund transportation projects across the country under a sixth round of the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly successful Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The announcement will be made at the Union Depot in St. Paul, which received \$35

million in the first round of TIGER to renovate the facility and restore tracks. Combined with roughly \$480 million in federal funding for the Central Corridor light rail transit line, St. Paul's Union Depot is proof of the impact that transportation investment can make, leading to job creation, downtown revitalization and economic growth.

"President Obama knows that transportation means opportunity for so many Americans," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "TIGER investments answer the President's challenge to expand opportunity through a strong transportation system that connects Americans with a better way of life." [HERE] <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program –TAP FUNDS

Deadline: *May 2, 2014*

Only cities and counties can apply for TAP funds, and your jurisdiction will determine your application for TAP Funds. If you are in the Mobile Urbanized Area, you are eligible for the Urban Area TAP Funds available through the Mobile MPO at South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. If you are outside of the Mobile Urbanized Area you will apply to ADLOT for TAP funds (see below). The applications, guidelines and funding limits between the STATE TAP and the URBAN TAP *are slightly different*. Please be aware, and if there are any question please do not hesitate to call us. The federal guidance on TAP funds is [HERE](#):

MOBILE URBANIZED TAP FUNDS

The Mobile MPO announces the availability of the FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$200,000 (federal). The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. Applications for Mobile Urban Area TAP Funds can be found [HERE](#)

ALDOT TAP FUNDS

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) announced application availability for the FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. ***ALDOT TAP Funding applications can only come from ALDOT*** [\[HERE\]](#).

Economic Development Administration

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

EDA provides strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas of the United States. Under this FFO, EDA solicits applications from both rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. Link to Additional Information: EDA's website Please contact Diane Burnett of SARPC staff for questions 706-4621. Also, don't forget SARPC has a revolving fund loan program. <http://www.sarpc.org/rlf.asp> The RLF is a locally controlled source of capital used to finance small business start-up and expansion whose projects will create permanent jobs. By combining RLF and bank financing the borrower can realize an effective rate well below market rates.

Just For Fun

On this day, April 25th in 1901, New York becomes the first U.S. state to require automobile license plates, and they were leather!!!!



Now look at the license plate, there are some pretty creative ones...



<http://funnylicenseplates.wordpress.com/>

In the News

SARPC Business Expo and Jobs Fair

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is hosting a Business Expo and Jobs Fair next week at the Mobile Civic Center.

Thursday, May 1, 2014

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Free

401 Civic Center Dr.

251-652-0585

www.sarpc.org

Businesses across the region will showcase products and services to approximately 3,500 consumers and 100 companies. Additionally, businesses can screen potential employees at the event. A list of exhibitors is available [HERE](#).

5th Annual Dauphin Island Gumbo Cook-Off

Head down to Dauphin Island tomorrow and sample some great gumbo while you ride your bike around the island. Festival locations at the Water Tower, the West End Shops, and the Country Club.

From 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Participatory Leadership Workshop: Your Town Alabama May 14th through May 16th 2014

Planning and design training for citizen leaders of Alabama working to protect and capitalize on the development opportunities afforded by our unique history, environment, location, and people. Towns, villages and neighborhoods in Alabama, and across America, face an uncertain future—a future which is increasingly threatened by large scale economic changes, population shifts, land policy changes, the impact of electronic commerce and mass merchandising. In the face of these changes, communities find themselves struggling to maintain their vitality and even their sense of identity. The "Your Town" workshop is an intensive 2½ day workshop that focuses on an important aspect of community spirit and community integrity: the process of design. The workshop aims specifically to introduce small town, neighborhood and rural decision makers and technical assistance providers to the role of design in community planning. Much of the workshop is accomplished in small groups assigned at registration. Applications to our workshops, resource materials and the dates for workshops and continuing education opportunities are available online: www.yourtownalabama.org

What is Your Town Alabama?

The communities of rural America are facing a range of critical problems. In some cases, these problems are heavy out-migration and a loss of jobs. In others, it is rapid growth from suburban sprawl, the location of a new facility, or an influx of retirement population. These problems affect the vitality of the community, its design and sense of place.

The "Your Town" workshop focuses on an important aspect of community spirit and community integrity: the process of design. The workshop aims specifically to introduce small town and rural technical assistance providers and decision makers to the role of design in community planning.

GREAT DAUPHN STREET CLEANUP

Saturday April 26th from 9:00am-12:00pm. The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Mobile Gas, Keep Mobile Beautiful, Great American Cleanup, MAWSS, Mobile Baykeeper, Clean Water Future and the Alabama Coastal Foundation are hosting a Dauphin Street cleanup. Volunteers will meet in front of Mobile Gas (2828 Dauphin Street) complete registration and depart for cleaning zone areas. Volunteers will receive cleanup items (bags, gloves) and their very own cleanup t shirt. Lunch will also be provided for volunteers who participate in this cause. For

more information check out the Dauphin Street Cleanup Flyer here. To sign up contact Carol Conrad (251) 208-6029 carol.conrad@cityofmobile.org



Let's Cleanup
Dauphin Street!

Great Dauphin Street Cleanup
Saturday April 26th 9am - noon
Meet at Mobile Gas Front Parking Lot
2828 Dauphin Street
Registration @ 8:30am
Get supplies and cleanup zone assignment
12pm - Return to Mobile Gas after cleanup
Lunch* *Get your t-shirt
Service Hours Documentation Provided
To volunteer:
Call 208-6029 or email carol.conrad@cityofmobile.org

Hosted by:
City of Mobile Council Members
Fred Richardson - District 1 Levan Manzie - District 2
Joel Daves - District 5 Gina Gregory - District 7



Team Share the Road Kid's Bike Rodeo Today

Team Share the Road's League of American Bicyclists instructors will conduct a Kid's Bike Rodeo today at the Infirmary Pro Health Fitness Center in Mobile at 166 Mobile Infirmary Blvd. There will be two sessions at 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. The bike rodeo includes a series of skills stations directly related to everyday bicycling situations. Participants will practice starting and stopping, the safe way to exit a driveway, how to look for traffic, negotiate an intersection, and avoid common road hazards. Robbie Motts from Cycle Therapy will be there to teach kids how to do basic maintenance on bikes and he will have his maintenance tent set up to perform basic maintenance for the kids. The instructors will conduct bicycle safety inspections and helmet inspections. There will be prizes for the first 100 participants, and a fun ride on a closed course to practice leaned skills. The



TEAM SHARE THE ROAD and INFIRMARY HEALTH presents

INFIRMARY
Twilight Duathlon 2014
FIELD BIKE TRIUMPH

KIDS BIKE RODEO

This bicycling safety skill event is a simple and fun activity to teach your children important bicycle safety lessons.

Friday, April 25
Two sessions available starting at 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.
ProHealth Fitness Center

- Bicycle safety inspections
- Free helmets
- Helmet inspections
- Prizes for first 100 participants
- Fun ride closed course lap to practice learned skills

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jennifer Vellianitis at jennifer.vellianitis@infirmaryhealth.org or 435-3912.



event is free and open to the public.

Transportation Research

The U.S. Census Bureau new Quarterly Workforce Indicators Web Tool

The Census Bureau has recently released a beta version of a web-based

analysis tool, called [QWI Explorer](#), for accessing its Quarterly Workforce Indicators data. Over time, the QWI Explorer is expected to replace the QWI Online and Industry Focus tools. Learn more at the Census webpage for [QWI Explorer Help and Documentation](#).

10 TOOLS TO MAKE YOUR BIKE MONTH BETTER!

To get things rolling in your community or improve longstanding events with new ideas, the League created a step-by-step guide that will help you in creating a successful Bike Month event in your organization, workplace, city, or state. While we commonly refer to Bike to Work Day events, because they've been the most popular historically, the tips and techniques will help you plan **any** Bike Month event, from a citywide ride to a small gathering within your own company or organization. [Click here to download it.](#)

Combined Intelligence - Working Together for Smarter Transportation

In September of 2014 the Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society (GRITS), the Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida (ITSFL) and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia (ITSGA), will come together for a joint annual meeting. Join us in 2014 for the ITS 3C Summit.

ITS 3C Summit

The conference will be held **September 14-17, 2014** at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center along the waterfront in Mobile, Alabama.

Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center

One South Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602
