



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 26, 2013

Volume 6, 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

Click [Here](#) to see when and where federal and state projects will be happening in your area.

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South Alabama Regional

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. Several meetings coming up; the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has a meeting scheduled for May 15th, the TCC/CAC meets May 22nd and MPO Policy committee will be meeting on June 5th. Please see *MPO Updates*, and please take our poll; **FACEBOOK?**



NEW TIGER Funds are announced! Projects have to be between \$10 million and \$200 million in Urban areas and over \$1 million in rural areas. NARC is providing a call in on Monday if interested, better hurry! Please see *Funding Opportunities* below.

Roll Tide and War Eagle, it's the Hovercraft Iron Bowl this weekend, and everyone is a winner. Kevin toured the University of Alabama Mechanical Engineering Department in Tuscaloosa last week, and got a sneak peek at U of A's hovercraft. Please see *In The News*

Finally, congratulations to [SARPC's Economic Development Department](#) for another successful Annual Business Expo and Jobs Fair. They had a great turn out with A LOT of vendors and participants and has grown to be the largest, most comprehensive Jobs Fair in the region.

May is approaching and you know what that means, its [National Bike Month](#). So oil those chains! Have a great weekend.

Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison
www.mobilempo.org
706-1CAR

Mobile MPO Updates

MPO and TCC/CAC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

There is a TCC/CAC meeting scheduled for May 22, 2013 at 10:00 in the SARPC Training Room on the Second floor. The results and recommendations from the TCC/CAC meeting will be brought in front of the MPO Policy board on June 5, 2013 in the SARPC Board Room. The agenda for both of the meetings includes drafting a FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), adopting the FTA JARC Program of Projects, and including several items into the TIP. The agenda items will go out in the first meeting notice in today's mail; please plan on attending if you are on these committees.

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.



Yay or Nay?

The Transportation Staff here at SARPC has been debating for some time to develop a Facebook page. We have looked at other MPOs across the country, and some urban areas with millions of people, have a couple dozen "likes". Yet on the other hand, it is a free way to disseminate information through social media. There are some Facebook users out there that use Facebook as their only source of news and information. What do you think?

Click [here](#) to vote

Shelby Hall

This week, Kevin Harrison had the pleasure to speak to the University of South Alabama Transportation Class in the School of Engineering, in the new Shelby Hall. It's a beautiful building, and it even has a Starbucks in it. The students were intrigued and interested in the innovations of the SARPC Transportation Department. In particular the Origin-Destination Study using Cellular Technologies and the Socio-Economic Projections using the S.L.E.U.T.H. model.



TAP FUNDING APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

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.



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. [\[HERE\]](#)

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

Collaborating to Move Transportation Performance Management

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/focus/13apr/13apr01.cfm>

THE FHWA publication FOCUS includes an article describing the MAP-21 initiative to establish a performance- and outcome-based approach called transportation performance management (TPM). MAP-21 established national goals for the Federal-aid highway program in seven areas: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays.

FHWA intends to define measures to assess performance or condition in a series of Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRM).

House Budget Committee Hosts Hearing on Highway Trust Fund Solvency: On Wednesday, April 24, 2013, the U.S. House Committee on the Budget held a hearing titled "State of the Highway Trust Fund: Long-Term Solutions for Solvency." This hearing examined the current and future state of the highway trust fund with testimony from The Reason Foundation, The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Cornell University. Click [HERE](#) for the hearing webpage, including witness testimony.

House Transportation Committee Hosts Hearing on Freight Transportation: On Wednesday, April 24, 2013, the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing titled "Overview of the United States' Freight Transportation System." This hearing examined the future needs and trends of the nation's freight transportation network from the perspective of the private sector. Click [HERE](#) for the hearing webpage, including witness testimony and summary information

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

TIGER GRANTS

DOT is authorized to award \$474 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-6, March 26, 2013). This appropriation is similar, but not identical to the appropriation for the "TIGER" program authorized and implemented pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). Because of the similarity in program structure, DOT will continue to refer to the program as "TIGER Discretionary Grants." As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the FY 2013 TIGER program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to look through Frequently Asked Questions, webinars and other guidance at the [Application Resources page](#).

*****National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Hosts Call With U.S. DOT on TIGER Solicitation:** On Monday, April 29, 2013, from 3:00-4:00pm ET, NARC will host the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss the fourth round of National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Funds). U.S. DOT will be awarding \$473.8 million through this solicitation and this will be your opportunity to hear from and speak directly with U.S. DOT, and answer any questions about your projects. Participate by calling (267) 507-0007 and using access code: 688-491-954. Click [HERE](#) to review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) prior to the call.

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

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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
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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

Talk about Texting and Driving!

Introducing the future of automobiles. Here is the iBeetle. Apple and Volkswagen have partnered to bring two iconic products together, the Beetle and the iPhone, into a new car model called the [iBeetle](#). The car brand has come out with a new model line that can be paired with the iPhone through an app and docking station that were specially developed for the model. So yes, there is an app for that...



In the News

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.

Fairhope seeks state transportation funds to improve pedestrian safety

Jumping at an opportunity to use state money to help improve pedestrian safety and compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, the city is applying for \$80,000 in transportation funding. During this week's council work session, Public Works Director Jennifer Fidler outlined the goals if Fairhope were to be awarded a roughly \$100,000 grant that requires a 20 percent match and engineering fees covered by the city.



Hovercraft Iron Bowl

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama -- Though billed as the Iron Bowl of Hovercrafts, Saturday's inaugural battle between Alabama and Auburn engineers more accurately could be called the Carbon Fiber Bowl.



The Hovering Tigers, a hovercraft team from Auburn University, hasn't raced in three years, but returns to the water Saturday in a first-ever match against aerospace engineers from the University of Alabama. (Contributed by Auburn University)

The race, officially called **the University Hoverbowl Challenge**, will determine which school builds better boats with composite materials. The real winner may be the obscure motorsport itself, if it can establish an enduring rivalry and lure more colleges to compete.

The event, which will occur on Lake Lurleen from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., became possible for the first time after a group of five aerospace engineering students in Tuscaloosa, including Mark Wysock of Huntsville, decided to break from the tradition of building an aircraft with the rest of their classmates and construct a hovercraft instead. [\[HERE\]](#)

Transportation Research

Designing for Transportation Management and Operations: A Primer

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop13013/index.htm>

FHWA has posted a primer on how to consider management and operations as part transportation project design and development, what is termed designing for operations. Effectively designing for operations involves the development and application of design policies, procedures, and strategies that support transportation management and operations. This primer describes tools or institutional approaches to assist transportation agencies in considering operations in their design procedures as well as pointing out some specific design considerations for various operations strategies.

Road Accident Investigation Guidelines for Road Engineers

<http://www.piarc.org/en/order-library/19593-en-Road%20accident%20investigation%20guidelines%20for%20road%20engineers.htm>

Technical Guidelines: *World Road Association (PIARC)*

The purpose of Road Accident Investigation (RAI) is to help road engineers detect road infrastructure deficiencies that influence an accident. The report describes the accident data needed, how the location of crashes should be reported and how accident data should be assessed. Focus is placed on collision diagrams and on their analysis. A number of examples are presented in the appendices to illustrate the different situations. Full report can be downloaded after free registration at the PIARC site.

Comprehensive Highway Corridor Planning with Sustainability Indicators

http://www.roads.maryland.gov/OPR_Research/MD-13-SP109B4Q-Comprehensive-Highway-Corridor-Planning-with-Sustainability-Indicators_Report.pdf

The research project developed a Model of Sustainability and Integrated Corridors (MOSAIC) to assist SHA in selecting the most sustainable corridor improvement option for its Highway Needs Inventory and long range planning processes. The model has the capability to quantify sustainability indicators for a wide range of multimodal corridor improvement options, including high occupancy vehicle lanes, high occupancy toll lanes, bus rapid transit/bus-only lanes, light rail transit, truck-only lanes, express toll lanes, and road diet (i.e. lane removal).

ITDP Celebrates Cleveland's HealthLine as Best Practice for US BRT

<http://www.itdp.org/news/itdp-celebrates-clevelands-healthline-as-best-practice-for-us-brt>

News Release: *Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP)*

ITDP announced the presentation of an award to the Cleveland HealthLine, which ITDP ranked as the highest-quality BRT corridor in the US and Canada. The BRT Standard, a best-practice guide for bus rapid transit systems that ITDP released in March, ranked the best quality BRTs from around the world as gold, silver, bronze, or basic BRT. RTA's HealthLine achieved silver status, the only one among seven in the United States to do so. A link to The BRT Standard 2013 follows:

<http://www.itdp.org/microsites/the-brt-standard-2013/>

Innovation in Urban Mobility - Policy Making and Planning

http://www.transport-research.info/Upload/Documents/201304/20130417_132707_15935_PB03ENWEB.pdf

Policy Brochure: *European Union and Transport Research & Innovation Portal (TRIP)*

Every year, TRIP issues four Policy Brochures on the major transport policy priorities set by the European Union. The brochures aim to share important information about the critical role transport research plays in policy making, planning and development in the transport and mobility sector. The Urban Mobility brochure highlights the contribution of research in delivering innovative solutions for sustainable and integrated urban transport systems that support economic prosperity and social cohesion in Europe.