



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, April 5, 2013

Volume 6, Number 1

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.

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We hope everyone has had a great week. The Mobile MPO met last week, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. There are several funding sources that are open for applications, please see *Funding Opportunities*. Not much going on this week in the U.S. House and Senate as it is their Spring Break, but there is a lot of transportation news going on in *In The News*.

Have a great weekend!

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

Mobile MPO Updates

Mobile MPO TCC/CAC

The Mobile MPO met on Wednesday, March 27th and approved the rebalanced the STP Attributable Funding schedule by postponing the McFarland Road, Old Pascagoula Road to Three Notch Road (New Alignment) Preliminary Engineering Project from FY2015 to FY2016. The Mobile MPO approved the request for the Governor to designate the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) as the designated recipient for FTA 5310 funds. A letter was sent to the Governor Bentley requesting that determination per federal regulations .

The MPO also approved the Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternative Programs (TAP) process. Please see funding opportunities below as we are now accepting applications for the Mobile Urban Area 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.

Also, the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Document ([please review](#)) was briefly reviewed with everyone. The CMP is part of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and will be adopted and publicly reviewed as the Congestion Management Component of the LRTP. The LRTP Will have a Highway Element, Transit Element, Bicycle Pedestrian Element and an Environmental Justice Element as well.

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.

Update of Mobile MPO as FTA 5310 Designated Recipient Status.

As part of last week's Mobile MPO meeting, the MPO Chairman signed a letter to the Governor requesting the he designate the Mobile MPO as the Designated Recipient of the FTA 5310 funds for the Mobile Urban Area. By federal regulations, the Governor makes the determination of designated recipients for FTA 5310 funds, and the MPO must initiate the process. The FTA 5310 funds are the *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) established the FTA Section 5310 Program to serve the special needs of elderly and disabled transit-dependent populations though grants to non-profit and local government agencies. The program provides a single annual apportionment (\$154,235) to the Mobile Urbanized Area and is the combined former FTA 5317 (New Freedom) and FTA 5310 funding programs for the Urban Area. Furthermore, MAP-21 requires that in large urbanized areas, a section 5310 Designated Recipient be named before funds are awarded. We will keep you posted.

FTA 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and 5317 New Freedom Funding Program of Projects

Mobile Transit Management d/b/a the Wave Transit System which currently serves as the designated recipient for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) - 5316 and New Freedom-5317 Programs in the Mobile, Alabama Urbanized Area announce the proposed program of projects for the Job Access Reverse Commute Program (JARC) and 5317 New Freedom Fiscal Year(s) 2011 and 2012..

The **JARC (5316)** program seeks to provide (a) transportation for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment *and/or* (b) public transportation designed to transport residents of urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities.

The **New Freedom (5317)** program seeks to provide new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The proposed program of projects will be made available for review and public comment [March 20, 2013 - April 12, 2013](#) at the following locations:

1. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 110 Bearegard St.

2. The Wave Transit System - GM&O Transportation Center, 110 Beauregard St.
3. Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government St.
4. Mobile City / County Complex, 9th Floor City Clerks Office

The Mobile MPO will consider these documents for adoption at the next scheduled meeting Date and Time TBA and Advertised in the SARPC Board Room, 110 Beauregard Street, Mobile, Alabama. Once the comments period has closed and the Program of Projects has been approved by the MPO and FTA, the projects will be included in the local Transportation Improvement Program and the Statewide plan (STIP).

Comment form will be included with the documents at each location listed above.
Written comments regarding the program are welcome prior the date and should be submitted to:

Gerald E. Alfred, Director of Planning & Capital Projects
The Wave Transit System
110 Beauregard Street, Suite 104,
Mobile, Alabama, 36602
251-344-6600 ext. 225
galfred@thewavetransit.com

TO REVIEW PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (AWARDS) PLEASE SEE [\[HERE\]](#)



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 March 29, 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

The U.S. House and Senate are currently in their spring congressional district work period and will return the week of April 8, 2013.

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 submit 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

Just For Fun

WKRG recently ran a [story](#) that a tiny Samoa airline is giving a new reason to drop extra weight before your next trip: Tickets sold by the kilogram, not the seat. Samoa Air planned on Wednesday to start its first international flights with a pricing model that charges based on how much passengers and their bags weigh.

There are no base fares - each kilogram (2.2 pounds) costs 93 cents to \$1.06, depending on the flight. That means the average American adult man weighing 195 pounds with a 35 pound bag would pay \$97 to go one-way from Apia, Samoa to Pago Pago, American Samoa. Travelers in the region are used to stepping on scales when they fly because of small planes used between islands. **So how much would an average man weigh in a vacuum?**

Here is a look at a new innovative way for long distance travel... New York to Los Angeles in 45 minutes?




In the News


Transportation Users Forum


This past Tuesday a Transportation Users Forum was held in Mobile. It was sponsored by the Independent Living Center, the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, and the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Enforcement Office. It was an open forum focusing on the need of persons with disabilities who rely on public and commercial provider of transportation. Attendees were encouraged to speak out regarding their experiences with transportation options available to them, what issues they face and where they think there should be improvement. Their responses were compiled and will be presented to the local transportation providers by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Mobile United Bike Trails on web page

Check out [Mobile United's](#) trail on their web page! Mobile United offers the community a strong, diverse network of interested community servant-leaders. The organization provides an arena for identifying, communicating and addressing relevant issues that will improve or enhance life for all citizens in the area. Monthly General Membership meetings provide an arena for exploring a wide variety of community topics. Thanks Mobile United.








Enabling Dialogue For Change

MOBILE UNITED
LEADERSHIP MOBILE
YOUTH LEADERSHIP MOBILE
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City of Mobile and Mobile Area Trails

Click on a name below to view information about a trail in the Mobile Area:



[Download PDF of Mobile Area Trails](#)

<p>Baldwin County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Road Crossroads Malbis Loop Point Clear Storkton Weeks Bay Weeks Bay 2 Whitehouse Fork 	<p>Mobile County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chickasaboune Downtown GS Lake Drive Park Langan Park Lavretta Park Medal of Honor Miller Park Montilmar State Line Training Loop Tricentennial Race 	<p>Mobile/Baldwin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iron Man
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Rightsizing Streets Webinar

ContextSensitiveSolutions.org is pleased to present a webinar on creating "**Rightsizing Streets**," strategies for reallocating a street's space to better serve its full range of users. This free webinar is brought to you by FHWA, in partnership with the Project for Public Spaces, and INDUS Corporation. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, April 30th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT.**

This webinar will explore how transportation agencies are rethinking their streets to better fit the surrounding context and create better communities. Rightsizing is a comprehensive process of reconfiguring streets and constrained ROWs by utilizing "outside the box" strategies like road diets and restriping techniques. Transportation officials from Seattle and Charlotte will share their expertise and experience with rightsizing: the process undertaken, the challenges overcome, and the outcomes realized. During this webinar, Project for Public Spaces will introduce how you can use their popular Rightsizing Streets Guide as a resource to initiate rightsizing in your community.

[Register for the Webinar Now](#)

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

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) has partnered with the League of American Bicyclists for its next free Webinar in its Livable Communities Webinar Series:

Accessing Funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects under MAP-21
Tuesday, April 9, 2013
2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

To register, please visit: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/314266834>.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) law has changed many of the familiar routes for funding bicycle and pedestrian programs and infrastructure. But funding is still available. This presentation is intended to help pedestrian and bicycle officials learn how to use MAP-21 funding programs at the state and local levels.

Speakers Darren Flusche, with the Bike League, and Peter Lagerwey, with Toole Design Group, will discuss ways to access untapped or under-utilized federal funding sources to build bicycling and walking projects, as well as how to leverage the new Transportation Alternatives program.

At the conclusion of the webinar, both speakers will be available for questions and discussion.

This is the first of two webinars being offered jointly by the PBIC and the Bike League. The second presentation, to be held May 7, will focus on the economic value of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

PBIC offers free, public Webinars approximately every other month. To register for upcoming Webinars and to access archived presentations, please visit www.walkinginfo.org/webinars.

Registration for the April 17 Talking Freight seminar on Completed TIGER Program Freight Projects: Reports from the Project Sponsors is now available.

Date/Time: April 17, 2013 1:00 – 2:30 pm EDT

Registration: http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking_freight/index.htm

Description The TIGER Discretionary Grant Program has provided over \$3 billion in funding to over 100 different projects since it was first introduced as part of the Recovery Act in 2009. Many of the projects selected to receive funding in the program have been freight-focused projects. Some of the TIGER grants have focused on smaller-scale facilities or more localized improvements, while others have helped larger-scale projects that are important components of the national supply chain. Many of the projects from the early iterations of the TIGER programs are nearing completion, allowing everyone to see the benefits the TIGER funds provided to the freight projects. This webinar will allow the project sponsors for three different freight-oriented TIGER projects that are nearly complete to discuss the freight benefits provided by their projects and their experiences with receiving TIGER funds and working within the TIGER grant program.

- CSX National Gateway TIGER I project: This presentation will provide an overview of the CSX national Gateway TIGER I project, a freight rail improvement project on a major rail corridor connecting the Mid-Atlantic with the Midwest.
- Port of Vancouver, WA TIGER II project: This presentation will provide an overview of the Port of Vancouver's West Vancouver Freight Access project, which includes both TIGER-funded components and non-TIGER funded components.
- Quonset Development Corporation (Port of Davisville, RI) TIGER I project: This presentation will provide an overview of the improvements implemented by the Quonset Development Corporation at and near the Port of Davisville, RI, one of the transportation assets managed by the Corporation.

Presenters:

- Megan McClory, Ohio Rail Development Commission (project sponsor for the CSX National Gateway project)
- Katy Brooks, Port of Vancouver, WA
- Katherine Trapani, Quonset Development Corporation

If you have not yet participated in Talking Freight, I encourage you to do so. These monthly seminars, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, are held via web conference, which means that you view the PowerPoint presentations over the Internet while listening to the presenters over your computer or the telephone. There is no cost involved and you do not have to leave your desk to participate. More information about Talking Freight is available at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking_freight/index.htm Links to past presentations and recordings are available on <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning/talking.htm>.

Talking Freight seminars are eligible for 1.5 AICP Certification Maintenance Credits (for AICP members). In order to receive credit, you must attend the full seminar and login to the seminar with your full name or type your full name into the chat area during the seminar if you are in a room with a group of people. Visit the [AICP web site](#) for more information about AICP Certification Maintenance Credits.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Symoun, SAIC, 703-318-4267 or jennifer.e.symoun@saic.com

Transportation Research

Webinars from the National Transportation Institute (NTI)

Free, flexible training sessions are available to you at the click of a button. Use NTI's recorded webinars, listed below, to enhance and expand your existing training plan, elicit discussion and help inform new and updated policies. These full-length webinars can be viewed by small or large audiences at any time, and have no limit on the number of times they can be viewed. NTI's recorded webinars are great, versatile and valuable additions to any training program!

(Look for more videos on the [NTI/Rutgers YouTube channel](#).)

[Communication with Vulnerable Populations: A Transportation and Emergency Management Toolkit \(TCRP Report 150\)](#)

Provides tools for constructing a scalable, adaptable communication process to carry out the emergency communication in ways not possible by working alone.

[Improving Safety-Related Rules Compliance in the Public Transportation Industry \(TCRP Report 149\)](#)

The report was developed as a resource for improving safety-related rule compliance in the public transportation industry.

[Review and Update: Introduction to Transit Asset Management Presentation Question and Answer Session](#)

Provided information on how the industry is applying the principles of the underlying "Introduction to Transit Asset Management" course.

Methodology for Performance Measurement and Peer Comparison in the Public Transportation Industry (TCRP Report 141)

[Part 1 Video](#) [Part 2 Video](#)

Part 1 presents TCRP Report 141, a methodology for performance measurement and peer comparison for all fixed-route

components of a public transit system, including motorbus, and major rail modes.

Part 2 demonstrates how the TCRP Report 141 web-based tool identifies potential peer agencies and presents information from the National Transit Database to allow a transit agency's performance to be compared with its peers.

Sustainable Public Transportation: Environmentally Friendly Mobility Report on the International Transit Studies Program Mission

[Presentation](#)

[Question and Answer Session](#)

Based on TCRP Research Results Digest 103, discussed lessons learned from China's and India's sustainable transportation systems.

Friends, Fans, and Followers: How Transit Agencies Use Social Media

[Presentation](#)

[Question and Answer Session](#)

Presented the findings from TCRP Synthesis SB-20, Uses of Social Media in Public Transportation, which explores social media use among transit agencies in the United States and Canada.

The **U.S. DOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics** issued a [report](#) concluding that trucks carried the most trade originating in Canada or Mexico in the month of January, 2013. Trucks carried 59.3 percent of the \$90.5 billion in trade in January 2013 between the United States and Canada and Mexico, followed by rail at 14.3 percent, vessels at 9.8 percent, pipelines at 8.1 percent and air at 3.8 percent.

The **Southwest Region University Transportation Center** of Texas A&M University released, [Evaluating the Impacts of the Panama Canal Expansion on Texas Gulf Ports](#), a report that reviews key issues from impact studies of the new locks being built in the Panama Canal.