



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Volume 11, Number 6

## In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2014
- 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

## Contact Us

<http://www.mobilempo.org>  
[transportation@sarpc.org](mailto:transportation@sarpc.org)

Kevin Harrison, PTP  
Director of Transportation  
[kharrison@sarpc.org](mailto:kharrison@sarpc.org)

Tom Piper  
Senior Transportation Planner  
[tpiper@sarpc.org](mailto:tpiper@sarpc.org)

Monica Williamson  
Transportation Planner  
[mwilliamson@sarpc.org](mailto:mwilliamson@sarpc.org)

Anthony Johnson  
Transportation Planner  
[ajohnson@sarpc.org](mailto:ajohnson@sarpc.org)

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

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is meeting next week. (See MPO Updates). In case you missed it, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge has been approved by the FHWA and public meetings have been announced. ALDOT will host two public hearings for the Mobile River Bridge project. Officials will be on site to answer questions about the proposed bridge and Bayway widening and solicit comments and concerns from the public. *Please see* <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/> where you can view the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Under the Documents Tab) and keep up with the latest developments.

### Public Meetings:

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 - 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.  
Alabama Cruise Terminal  
201 S. Water Street  
Mobile, AL 36602  
<http://www.shipmobile.com/>

Monday, September 29, 2014 - 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.  
Five Rivers Delta Resource Center  
30945 Five Rivers Blvd, Spanish Fort, AL 36527  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/outdoor-adventures/5rivers/>

Also relating to the Bridge, there was a good discussion concerning bicycle and pedestrian facilities at the Mobile MPO's BPAC meeting (see In the News) and the Highway Trust Fund has been kept afloat for a little while longer (see Legislative Updates).

Have great weekend  
Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison, PTP



[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org) check us out on FACEBOOK  
706-1CAR

## Mobile MPO Updates

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### JOINT MOBILE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)/ TECHNICAL COORDINATING AND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Mobile MPO will meet on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room at 110 Beauregard Street. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and include various projects into the FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Mobile MPO will vote on the following recommendations made by the TCC/CAC. Projects to be included into the TIP are:

Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Funds projects recommend for approval. The projects selected include:

- The City of Bayou La Batre - \$44,600 federal funds for a 15 passenger van
- Mobile ARC \$173,000 federal funds for operating assistance for public transit for disabled clients
- AHEPA - \$40,000 federal funds for a 15 passenger van
- Mercy Life - \$64,000 federal funds for a 28-30 passenger bus
- Mobile Bay Transportation Company - \$64,964 for two vans and \$21,563 for operating assistance for public transit for elderly and disabled clients

### HSIP Funds

- ROW, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$208,000
- UT, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$48,048
- CN, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$1,248,000

Copies of the proposed fiscal year 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which details the federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Mobile urban area in FY 2015 by the Alabama DOT, the Wave Transit System, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, will be available for public review and comment between Tuesday July 22 and Tuesday August 19, 2014 at the following locations:

- South Alabama Regional Planning Comm., 110 Beauregard Street

- Alabama DOT, Division Engineer, 1701 N. Beltline Hwy., Mobile
- The Wave Transit System, 110 Beauregard Street
- Mobile Community Action, Prichard
- Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government Street, Mobile
- All Public Libraries within the study area
- All Public Housing Offices within the study area
- Mobile City/County Government Complex, 9th Floor, City Clerk's Office
- Prichard City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Chickasaw City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Saraland City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Satsuma City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Creola Town Hall, Clerk's Office
- Bayou La Batre City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Semmes City Hall, Clerk's Office

Comment forms are included with the documents at each location listed above. A copy of the documents may be purchased for a nominal copying fee from the Transportation Planning Coordinator at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 433-6541. Written comments regarding the program are welcome prior to that date and should be submitted to:

Transportation Planning Coordinator  
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
P. O. Box 1665  
Mobile, AL 36633-1665  
(FAX 433-6009).

Physically challenged persons who need special accommodations should contact SARPC in advance so arrangements can be made to meet their needs.

---

#### **Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Held This Week**

There was a Mobile MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting this past Wednesday. Items on the agenda included:

- A discussion about Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants Awards in the region
- A discussion about West Tunnel Interchange Bike/Ped facilities
- A discussion about Bike/Ped facilities on the I 10 River Bridge and possible alternate routes
- A discussion about Complete Streets Policy Implementation
- A discussion about the Mobile MPO's Downtown Mobile Non-Motorized Mobility Study Draft Study Scope of Work
- A review of the recent Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride
- A review of upcoming road projects for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- A review of recent crash data involving cyclists and pedestrians

Minutes of the meeting will soon be made available on the Mobile MPO website.

---

**WHO IS CROSSING THE BAY, AND WHERE ARE THEY FROM?**  
(Bayway and Causeway only)

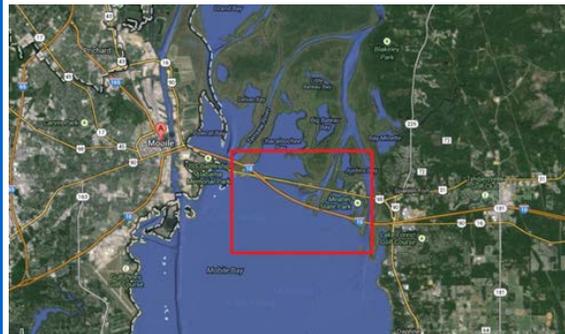


POWERED BY AIRSAGE

[\[HERE\]](#) for map

It appears that on November 13<sup>th</sup> the majority of traffic was local, about 74% from Mobile and Baldwin County. But on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, just over half (55.3%) of the traffic is local. Keep in mind this is for the Bayway AND Causeway, so there is an assumption that causeway traffic is predominantly local. That means that well over half the traffic on the Bayway for July 2 is not from the Region.

The “capture fence” for this data is between the middle bay interchange and Meaher State Park for the Bayway and Causeway. The company Airsage has the ability to capture cell phone frequencies and average that frequency’s location. So they have the average work and home location of cell phone frequencies from a couple major carriers. When they pop up “in a fence” and their average location is from another state, we know they are visiting. They process over 15 Billion pings a day throughout the country, and archive (and average) the location and time of that ping.



On July 2, there were over 107,000 vehicles crossing the Mobile River (Wallace, Bankhead and Cochrane), however some of those trips are Mobilians going to Austal and BAE. On November 13<sup>th</sup> the river crossing traffic volume was 96,500 and the 2013 Average (AADT) River crossing is 98,870 <http://algis.dot.state.al.us/atd/default.aspx> . The 2013 AADT for the capture

fence is 79,840.

---

#### **TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

As you may recall we contracted with SARCOR with Nelson Nygaard to develop a Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the Mobile MPO study area . We received a draft of the document and are currently reviewing it. Once we get comments from the WAVE Transit, the document will be available for public review, starting next week hopefully. The TDP is going to be the focus of the Transit Element of the *Destination 2040* Long Range Transportation Plan, and will be adopted as part of LRTP.

---

#### **Destination 2040**

The MPO Staff is continuing to develop the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan titled Destination 2040. The objective of the plan is to identify, to the maximum extent feasible, the multi-modal transportation improvements which will be needed in the Mobile urban area between now and the year 2040 in order to maintain an acceptable level of mobility. The plan is multi-modal in scope, encompassing long-range plans for highway, public transportation, and bicycle/pedestrian networks. Regional growth, economic development, and accessibility within the study area along with environmental concerns necessitate that the long-range plan addresses not only improved vehicular travel but also improvements to other modes of transportation such as bicycling and walking. Preservation of the existing transportation system coupled with enhancement of all modal choices will contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life in the region. You can learn more about the plan [HERE](#).

## Projects Within Region Let August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

---

#### **MOBILE COUNTY**

- for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-28 (Old Pascagoula Road) over Jackson Creek. Length 0.289 mi.
- for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Juniper Avenue from the junction of SR-13 (US-43) to the junction of Aaron Drive in Satsuma. Length 0.865 mi.

#### **ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on CR-30 (Huxford Road) from the intersection of SR-21 to the intersection of CR-45 (Butler Street) in Huxford. Length 2.491 mi.
- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Sowell Road from the Brewton City Limits to the intersection of CR-7 (Kirkland Road) (Site #1) and on CR-7 (Kirkland Road), Sybil Lane, and CR-9 (Old Castleberry Road) from the Brewton City Limits on CR-7 to the Brewton City Limits on CR-9 (Site #2). Length 3.143 mi.

#### **[What's Under Construction?](#)**

## Legislative Updates

---

#### **President Signs Highway Trust Fund Patch, Payment Slowdowns Averted:**

In a letter to state Departments of Transportation, Secretary Foxx indicated that payment slowdowns, which were set to begin on August 1, would not be necessary in light of Congressional action on the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) patch that passed July 31. President Obama officially signed the HTF stopgap last Friday, August 8.

## Funding Opportunities

---

#### **The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)**

##### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) has \$682,757 available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a grant program that develops community parks, trails and outdoor recreation projects. This program, through The U. S. Department of Interior, provides funding to Alabama cities and counties for the development or establishment of outdoor recreational areas. Projects include parks, playgrounds, forest and wildlife refuges, recreational lakes and ponds, outdoor playing fields, and picnic and camping areas. The deadline for the 2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund Pre-applications is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. If you have any questions, you may contact:

Maureen Neighbors  
Community Services Unit Chief  
Community and Economic Development Division  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
401 Adams Avenue | Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Post Office Box 5690 | Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690  
334.242.5467

More information and the grant application is available [HERE](#).

Also, there are more funding opportunities from the ADECA Energy Division are listed below. All proposals are due by Friday, September 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Eligibility should be verified before submitting a proposal.

1. [Energy Codes Training RFP](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from qualified applicants to provide training on the statewide commercial and residential energy codes*
2. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of K-12 Schools RFP](#) [Addendum A \(K-12 Schools\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from public school systems in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements in K-12 schools located within their jurisdiction*
3. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Non-Profit Organizations RFP](#) [Addendum A \(Non-Profit Organizations\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from non-profit organizations in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to their buildings*
4. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Wastewater Treatment Facilities](#) [Addendum A \(Wastewater Treatment Facilities\)](#)  
*Soliciting proposals from wastewater treatment facilities in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to wastewater systems.*

## Just For Fun

Since so many of us have kids starting back to school we thought these were appropriate:

<http://www.funnyautos.com/funny-school-bus.html>

<http://schoolbusdriver.org/funny01.html>

## In the News

### ALDOT Chief Engineer: Nothing is off the table when it comes to a bike/pedestrian path over Mobile River



By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

on August 13, 2014 at 2:52 PM, updated August 13, 2014 at 2:53 PM

**MOBILE, Alabama** – Nothing is off the table when it comes to developing a bicycle/pedestrian path across the Mobile River, the chief engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation's Mobile area district said Wednesday.

"ALDOT is committed to review everything possible," Vince Calametti with ALDOT's Southwest region, said to members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's bicycle/pedestrian advisory committee during their quarterly meeting at the GM&O Building.

"I don't think anything is off the table," he added.

Little information was disclosed as to whether ALDOT was leaning toward recommending bicycling and/or pedestrian facilities on the proposed Interstate 10 Bridge, through the Bankhead Tunnel or elsewhere.

Calametti repeatedly told committee members that the state is seeking public comments right now, and that nothing has been finalized. He said the comments will be gathered, assessed and included within a final environmental impact study that likely won't be released until next year.

"I'm concentrating on getting as much public comments as we can in the process," Calametti added.

Calametti said the public comments aren't solely for the bicycle/pedestrian options – the commenting period is for all elements associated with the project, including the various routes it might take.

The proposed pathway across the I-10 Bridge project has surfaced as one of the most publicly discussed features with the project for the past couple of months. [The Mobile City Council recently voted to endorse the feature on the proposed I-10 Bridge](#) and it's something that Mayor Sandy Stimpson supports as well.

Federal law requires the feature to be considered if a bridge is built with federal money. The proposed I-10 Bridge, which would cost an estimated \$850 million, would be heavily financed through some sort of federal appropriation.

The bridge project needs to include safe accommodations for bicyclists as long as the features do not represent "excessively disproportionate costs." The FHWA considers exceeding 20 percent of the overall cost of a transportation project to be

excessively high; early figures indicate the bicycle/pedestrian feature to cost between \$35 million to \$40 million.

#### **Bankhead Tunnel**

The Bankhead Tunnel was included the FHWA's draft study -- [released last month](#)-- as a possible alternative bike/pedestrian route across the Mobile River.

"It's an old structure," Calametti said.

He told committee members that the two-lane tunnel, opened in 1941, would be examined with all of the other alternatives.

"We've got to get across the river one way or the other," Tom Piper, Senior transportation Planner with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, said. "Right now, the Cochrane(-Africatown USA Bridge) is the only way pedestrians and cyclists can do it. It's a long way up there and back down. It's not all that safe. There has to be a safe way to get across the river and to get to the Causeway."

#### **'World class ride'**

Calametti was also asked whether ALDOT had any updated position on a comment one of [its officials made to AL.com last month calling the I-10 Bridge, at 215 feet from the water, as a "world class ride" that only the most experienced bikers could do](#).

"I'd like for this group to concentrate on where we are now," Calametti said, requesting them to focus on submitted comments during the public commenting portion of the project.

Tony Harris, government relations manager with ALDOT, questioned whether the bicycle/pedestrian feature would be worth the expense if only a few "advanced riders" could utilize it.

Local bicycling enthusiasts have argued that the feature would be used and that the bridge would not represent an unreasonable ride for casual bikers. Others have said that a bicycle/pedestrian path across the bridge could become a tourist attraction.

#### **What's next?**

ALDOT will host two public meetings from 4-8 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the Alabama Cruise Terminal and Monday, Sept. 29 at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. A presentation from ALDOT is expected to take place around 5:30 p.m. during both events.

Ted Flotte, a member of the advisory committee, said he's confident there will be some sort of path across the Mobile River largely because of the federal involvement in the massive project.

He said that Calametti helped the group better understand that there is not a "concrete proposal" that is a priority for the state.

"There is not a concrete proposal for the use of the Bankhead Tunnel and the Cochrane Bridge, and that is helpful to know," Flotte said. "I think there will be some sort of path across the river by one of those three options versus not having a path."

Piper said the issue is still in a "very preliminary" stage and that no finalized plans are likely to surface for at least another year.

He said he's been impressed in [the level of public interest for a bicycle/pedestrian feature across the proposed bridge](#).

"I would hate for us build this bridge and not have a way for the public to be able to walk or ride across it and take in the views," Piper said. "It seems absurd to me that a bicycle/pedestrian feature would not be considered."

Flotte agreed.

"There are benefits for the path and there is not a clear rationale toward opposing it," he said.

---

#### **Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic Fishing Tournament**

Bayou La Batre, AL- On Aug. 16, the Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic Fishing Tournament will kick off with a 6 a.m. shotgun start at Bayou La Batre City Docks. Sponsored by the Bayou La Batre Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the South Mobile County Tourism Authority, the tournament will be held along the coastline of Bayou La Batre and the Gulf of Mexico.

This is the first Kayak Classic for the chamber, which hopes to make it an annual event. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for junior anglers. A Discount Combo of \$50 includes entry to the tournament, as well as to the Taste of the Bayou seafood festival to be held Oct. 4 at the Bayou La Batre Senior and Community Center. Complete registration details on the Bayou La Batre Kayak Classic including tournament rules and regulations can be found at <http://www.bayoulabatrekayakclassic.org>.

Anglers will compete for more than 30 different awards, including both Master and Junior Angler division titles. Junior anglers may fish from pier, land or kayaks. Plaques will be awarded for first, second and third-place adult anglers; juniors will receive trophies. Weigh-in begins at 10 a.m. More than \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded.

---

#### **Alabama Association of Regional Councils Annual Training Conference**

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils (of which SARPC is one) is having the Annual Training Conference at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach October 26-29, 2014. This conference is open to anyone associated with SARPC. There are training sessions for Planning and Transportation, Economic Development, Medicaid Waver and Aging, and Local Leaders. For more information and to register click [HERE](#).



---

### September – Multi State Passenger Rail Meeting in New Orleans

Last Week, representatives from the Southern Rail Commission held a conference call with staff members of the Federal Railroad Administration to discuss and initiate formal coordination for a multi-state passenger rail meeting. The meeting will be primarily sponsored by the SRC.

**Where:** New Orleans Regional Planning Commission offices. 10 Veterans Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70124

**When:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Time:** 10am to 2pm (tentative)

Agenda topics will tentatively include:

- SRC will lead discussion regarding gulf coast passenger rail service restoration from New Orleans to Orlando
- FRA will lead workshop/discussions on their recently announced funding for multi-state planning and ways to jointly apply for this funding.
- Opportunities for individual states to share their rail planning, and discuss their opportunities and plans to connect with neighboring states

**Invitees:** To include key mayors from our gulf coast route, DOT representatives from each state, and Regional Planning Commissions from key cities that are actively working on rail projects.

**States involved:** - Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee

**Sponsor opportunities:** The Southern Rail Commission is the major sponsor, along with the FRA, and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission.

---

## Transportation Research

---

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ALABAMA RURAL ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE

The Alabama Rural Road Safety Workshop and Conference is for engineers, planners and others who are responsible for the design, maintenance, and safety of rural roads. It will strengthen your knowledge of available tools, countermeasures and processes to improve safety on your roads, and includes a one-day eight hour Workshop followed by a one and one half day Conference. The Workshop explains how road safety may be integrated into rural/ local transportation projects at all stages including planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance. The Conference emphasizes methods to identify rural road safety issues and appropriate countermeasures. Participants may attend either the Workshop or Conference, or both. For more information click [HERE](#).

---

### Parking Technologies: The Game Changers

When: Tuesday, August 19, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Course Credit: 1.5 PDH/2 IACET CEU/ 1.5 CM

Background: This webinar will discuss the impact of parking technologies today and in the future on the need for parking. Do parking guidance, pay by phone/License Plate Recognition (LPR), performance pricing and other technology-aided strategies impact parking demand? How does the autonomous vehicles impact parking and future need for parking. The webinar will also explore how New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) uses a time-lapse photo based technique to monitor parking occupancy and turnover using cheap, off-the-shelf equipment to save time and money, and offer details on doing a similar survey in your area.

Learning Objective:

- 1) Recognize the benefits of the rapidly advancing parking technologies today.

Instructors:

Mary Smith, Senior Vice President , Walker Parking Consultants, Indianapolis, IN, USA and Manzell Blakely, City Planner, New York City Department of Transportation, New York, NY, USA

Site Fee:

\$100 ITE Member/ \$125 Non-member

---

### **Use of Technology and Data for Effective Work Zone Management**

When: Thursday, August 21, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Background: This webinar will address the rise of Smart Work Zones towards improving the management of work zone traffic operations. Topics will include an introduction of basic concepts, the current state of practice regarding work zone ITS, tools and strategies for implementation, ongoing USDOT research initiatives and a look toward the future of Connected Vehicle technology and the implications for future work zone management. The webinar will also focus on the use of ITS in the work zone and how it can benefit the DOTs and the public.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Understand data/technology-driven improvements for work zone management
- 2) Utilize tools and strategies for implementing work zone ITS
- 3) Identify resources for more information on work zone ITS

Instructors:

Todd A. Peterson, P.E., PTOE, Transportation Specialist, Work Zone Management, Office of Transportation Operations, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, USA and Neil E. Boudreau, State Traffic Engineer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation-Highway Division, Boston, MA, USA

Site Fee:

\$100 ITE Member/ \$125 Non-member

---

### **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

---