



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, August 28th, 2015

Volume 15, Number 8

In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET August 28th, 2015
- 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

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September 9th is the deadline for FTA 5310 capital funding applications. **There is a lot of un-awarded FY 2015 / FY 2016 FTA 5310 CAPITAL ONLY funding available**, please see *Funding Opportunities*. Three Mile Creek Walking and Biking Trail is coming along; please see *In The News*.

The Mobile MPO met last week, as did the Mobile MPO BPAC. Toole Design Group was at both meetings presenting the findings of the [Downtown Mobility Study](#); please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. *Just For Fun* this week, is for the dogs...

Have a great weekend.

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



www.mobilempo.org check us out on FACEBOOK
 706-1CAR

Mobile MPO Updates

RECENT COST ESTIMATE INCREASES

This week some of our MPO Attributable projects experienced some rather large cost estimate increases. We are fortunate enough to have a positive balance in year 2019, as we are federally required to have, however any cost increases we experience now are going to effect the projects we have in the outer years, specifically McFarland Road. See [HERE](#)

Project Description : ZEIGLER BLVD ADDITIONAL LANES FROM ATHEY RD TO FOREST HILL DR
 UT- Old Engineers Estimate : \$1,125,000.00 New Engineers Estimate : \$2,000,000.00
 CN- Old Engineers Estimate : \$13,010,000.00 New Engineers Estimate : \$14,058,359.34

Project Description : CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) ADD LANES FROM SR-42 (US-98) TO SR-217 (LOTT RD)
 Old Engineers Estimate : \$9,262,000.00 New Engineers Estimate : \$10,200,000.00

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

The Mobile MPO met last Week. The purpose of the meeting was to adopt the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The FTA FY 2015 Program of Projects (POP) was adopted (see FTA 5310 below), and there was a [resolution supporting the return of Passenger Rail to the Gulf Coast](#).

There is currently a lot of momentum in trying to restore rail to the Gulf Coast. The Mississippi Governor is trying to use some of the MS BP money to help in this effort, and there is movement in both the US House and the Senate as well. Included in H.R. 749 was the establishment of the Gulf Coast Working Group charged with evaluation of restoring intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans and Orlando. The Working Group would also study the Feasibility Assessment and Economic Impact of the conditions, needs, readiness, social and economic benefits related to restoring suspended operations to a daily level of service. Further, there may be potential funding (\$1.54 Million) to apply for from the Southern Rail Commission, to improve station amenities. This is a 50/50 match pot of funds, and could further enhance an Amtrak Station at the Maritime Museum of the Gulf...if applied for.

The final fiscal year [2016 Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#), which details the federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Mobile urban area in FY 2016 by the Alabama DOT, the

Wave Transit System, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, and the [2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program](#) were available for public review and comment between Tuesday, August 4, and Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 43 locations around the study area. There were no public comments on these documents.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee also met last week and discussed the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants, reviewed the road projects for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and reviewed recent crash data involving cyclists and pedestrians. Toole Design Group presented to both the Mobile MPO and the Mobile BPAC on Wednesday, and detailed some final recommendations of the *Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile*.



For anyone interested in the Power Point given by Ernie Boughman with Toole Design Group, please see [HERE](#)

FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Awards

Recently, the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Project Selection Committee met and awarded the following:

Agency	Federal Amount	Capital/Operating
Mobile ARC	\$189,758	Operating
Independent Living Center	\$22,470	Operating
Mobile Bay Transportation	\$9,982	Capital
Goodwill Easter Seals	\$43,200	Capital

These projects were adopted by the MPO in a document called the "Program of Projects" at the August 19th MPO meeting.

NOTE: The Mobile MPO had \$823,000 FTA 5310 funding for FY 2015 and FY 2016. The majority of that HAS to be used for traditional 5310 activities (capital for vans) and 10 % for administration. We have a lot left over (almost \$500,000) that can only be spent on capital, please see *Funding Opportunities* below. If your agency is within the Mobile MPO, and you need a van for the elderly or disabled, now is your chance.

ADA Transition Plans

Each City in the Mobile MPO Study Area and Mobile County now has an appointed ADA Coordinator, thank you for your cooperation. The FHWA has required that every city and county in the state have an ADA Transition Plan, and Urban Areas will have a one year deadline. The ADA Coordinators create a nine member ADA Subcommittee of the MPO. The first task was to select a consultant through the ALDOT Alternative Consultant Selection Procedures. The available ADA Coordinators met last week, and selected Neel-Schaffer to do the work. We will keep you posted on the progress of this study.

(for areas outside the boundaries of an MPO, ALDOT is working on a time line for you, and you will not follow the same timeline as the Urban areas)

GIS online

We are upgrading and starting to utilize our online GIS capabilities. Please check out some of the current interactive maps we have been working on. Many more to come...

<http://mobilempo.org/maps.html>

DESTINATION 2040

The Mobile MPO [Long Range Transportation Plan](#), Destination 2040, has been adopted, subsequent comments from ALDOT, FHWA, and FTA. The DRAFT document that was out for public review and reviewed with MPO and TCC/CAC members may have some slight modifications in the FINAL Document. The FINAL will be out next week.

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](#).

I-10 Mobile River Bridge

ALDOT has released the I-10 Mobile River Bridge Corridor Hearing Report Summary and it is now available online at www.mobileriverbridge.com. This report summarizes all of the comments that were received during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period in the Fall of 2014. The document suggests most of the support was for the B prime route. Although we are moving closer and closer to having a bridge, there are still several hurdles to cross, including funding, [tolling is an option](#).

A selection committee chose the Mobile-based firm Thompson Engineering to oversee the design process for the Interstate 10 bridge and Bayway widening projects. Thompson will assist the Alabama Department of Transportation with completing the environmental impact study required by the federal government in order to build the bridge, in addition to other structural design work. That will include studying storm surge for the two-lane widening of the Bayway, termination points in Baldwin County, a vibration analysis for historic structures and providing information for a bicycle-pedestrian path, said Vince Calametti, region engineer for the department of transportation.

For more information on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge:

ALDOT'S Web Site: <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

Build The I-10 Bridge Coalition Web Site: <http://www.buildthei10bridge.com/>

Projects Within Region Let August 28th, 2015

Mobile County

for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Baker Road beginning from a point approximately 2930 feet west of the I-65 West Service Road to include the Bridge Replacement over Hartley Branch in Satsuma. Length 0.553 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$513,297 to \$627,363.

Baldwin County

None at this time

Escambia County

for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on various city streets in Brewton as indicated in the plans. Length 2.790 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$485,115 to \$592,918.

for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on various city streets in Brewton as indicated in the plans. Length 3.344 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$623,607 to \$762,186.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

Congress is not in session. The House and Senate will return on September 8.

Coalition Letter Outlines Local Issues with DRIVE Act

NARC and other members of the Local Officials for Transportation (LOT) Coalition (National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Association of MPOs, and National Association of Development Organizations) sent a letter to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership this week outlining the local perspective on the Senate's DRIVE Act reauthorization bill. In particular, the letter explains that the Senate bill actually reduces STP funding for local decision-makers. We would like to get this in the hands of as many members as possible, so please send a letter to your member of Congress (especially if they are on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee).

CBO Releases Updated HTF Projections

Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its update of the nation's budgetary and economic projections, including projections regarding the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The HTF analysis is essential because it determines the amount of funding Congress needs to pass a multi-year highway bill later this year. According to the CBO projections, the HTF will have cumulative deficits of approximately \$78 billion over the six-year period between fiscal years 2016 and 2021. Taking into account the transfer recently made into the HTF from the general fund at the end of July, Congress needs to find approximately \$72 billion to pay for a six-year

reauthorization.

Funding Opportunities

FY 2015 and FY 2016 FTA SECTION 5310 CAPITAL ONLY TRADITIONAL 5310 PROJECTS NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (deadline September 9th)

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program for Traditional 5310 Capital Projects. The application and program management plan can be found at <http://www.mobilempo.org/5310.html>. **THERE WILL BE NO OPERATING AWARDED THIS APPLICATION CYCLE.**

Completed grant applications must be submitted to the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission by noon on September 9, 2015. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. Postmarked submissions will not be accepted.

Pre-submittal conference was held August 24, 2015 at 10:00 am

Just For Fun

Dog Days of Summer

Wednesday of this week marked a relatively new holiday that was established in 2004, National Dog Day. Unlike most holidays that were invented by a greeting card company in order to sell products, this holiday was genuinely created to celebrate dogs. Although it has been moved now to August 31st annually instead of August 26th (there was a conflicting holiday), it should remind everyone, every year, to take your dog for a joy ride... *Just For Fun.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgo8Aocwa1c>



In the News

Residents get closer look at Three Mile Creek biking and walking trail



Posted: Aug 24, 2015 9:15 PM CDT Updated: Aug 24, 2015 11:56 PM CDT
By Lee Peck, FOX10 News Reporter

After more than 20 years of talk, a comprehensive biking and walking trail in the City of Mobile is finally coming to life. Monday night residents got a chance to look at the first phase of the trail on Three Mile Creek.

"This project will stimulate some of that change and allow other projects to piggy back around it and revitalize this part of the community," said Nigel Roberts, Director of Community and Housing Development.

The first phase will start near Martin Luther King Drive and go for 1.7 miles. It's being called the "Greenway Initiative" connecting the city's green spaces.

It also includes the "blueway initiative. Work is already underway on a kayak and canoe launch at Tricentennial Park. We're told it will likely be done before the first phase of the trail is open.

Stakeholders believe if you build it they will come and want more. The first phase is projected to cost \$700,000. Once more funding is in place, they'll continue working to revitalize the rest of the 12 mile route, which will also include a dog park.

"We see what is happening in other communities and other cities - how even community and economic development are building off these types of trails and how other types of quality of life initiatives tend to follow these types of projects," said Roberts.

If all goes as planned, they hope to break ground on phase 1 after the first of the year, with the trail opening some time in May.

The funding source is a combination of grants and community development block funds. Meanwhile, if you want to see more about the proposed plans for Three Mile Creek, you'll have another opportunity Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m at Toulminville Library.

Transportation Research

Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee Letter Report: August 3, 2015

On August 3, 2015, TRB's Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Committee sent its 36th letter report to Gregory G. Nadeau, acting administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Frederick G. "Bud" Wright, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The committee's reports to the FHWA and AASHTO are aimed at supporting the further success of the LTPP program, securing the future of the LTPP database, and facilitating the fulfillment of the program's promise of better roads through the development and utilization of LTPP's products.

The report's recommends that the FHWA's vision of the long-term future of the LTPP be included during one-on-one state site visits, and that state agency chief executives reconfirm the identity and roles of the LTPP state coordinators to their staff; the LTPP State Coordinators meeting be reviewed and revised; the theme, categories, awards, timeline, and paper guidelines for the 2016 ASCE-LTPP Data Analysis Contest be established by October 1, 2015; and that the FHWA reexamine the form and content of the Strategic Plan for LTPP Data Analysis.

E-Newsletter Type: [Recently Released TRB Publications](#)

TRB Publication Type: [Letter Reports](#)

U.S. DOT turning to social media to push Congress to fix failing infrastructure

Posted: Aug 04, 2015 12:25 AM CDT Updated: Aug 04, 2015 1:48 AM CDT

By Jonathan Lowe

Tired of potholes, ripped up streets or bumpy bridges in your town? Now you can take your traffic issues right to the top with social media.

Instead of passing a long-term plan to fund our failing infrastructure, critics, including those in the trucking industry, say Congress has decided to kick the can down the road.

Monday, it certainly felt hot enough to melt rubber. But auto experts say jacked-up roads actually damage tires the most.

"Tires go through rigorous bouts of training, so the heat is negligible," explained Sean Hortan, a manager at a Phoenix Community Tire location. "It's really the condition of the roads that would cause issues with the tires."

RELATED: Damaged roads costing motorists hundreds of dollars a year

The U.S. Department of Transportation says we can all do the nation's infrastructure and, by extension, our vehicles a big favor in the month of August.

"People take our infrastructure for granted," said Tony Bradley, president of the Arizona Truckers Association. "I think it's good to show the problems."

U.S. DOT announced Monday that it's putting pressure on elected leaders with the hashtag #ShowUsYourInfraWear. In other words, take a picture of aging, deteriorating roads and bridges, and then Tweet or Instagram it using the hashtag and U.S. DOT handle, @USDOT.

SOCIAL: @USDOT on Twitter | @USDOT on Instagram

"We do have these infrastructure needs in Arizona that need to be addressed," Bradley said.

The campaign comes after transportation officials called out Congress for passing a three-month, short-term extension to crucial highway funding. Then Congress left for August recess. How crucial is that funding? Arizona gets 70 percent of its highway funding from the federal government.

"It's sad that that is one of the responsibilities that they have is highway funding," Bradley added.

If you need proof of failing infrastructure, just remember that bridge on I-10 that collapsed a couple of weeks ago. That closure cost about \$2.5 billion -- per day.

"This is an opportunity for the public to say, 'Here's a problem that I see every day,'" Bradley said. "'Policymakers, please take a look.'"

A 2013 inventory found there are 716 bridges in Arizona using outdated standards and old design features. But the government says they are still safe.

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