



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Volume 11, Number 5

## 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

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Monica Williamson

## WHO IS ON THE BAYWAY? You might be surprised. Please see *Mobile MPO Updates*

In case you missed it, the Draft EIS for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge has been approved by the FHWA and public meetings have been announced; *please see* <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

Relating to the Bridge, Secretary of Transportation Foxx called on people to begin putting pressure on their representatives and senators to remind them of the "to-do" lists in their communities. The Transportation Department also has created a social media hashtag -- #investnow -- for residents to submit photos of needed repairs. Please see *Legislative Updates*.

This coming Wednesday (August 13<sup>th</sup>) is the [BPAC meeting](#) at the GMO Board Room at 12:00. The Mobile MPO Policy Committee will meet on August 20<sup>th</sup>, see *Mobile MPO Updates*. This week's *Just For Fun* is a....gas

FTA 5310 rural applications are due in to us by this Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are applying for ALDOT FTA 5310, please see *Funding Opportunities* and contact us if you have any questions.

Have great weekend

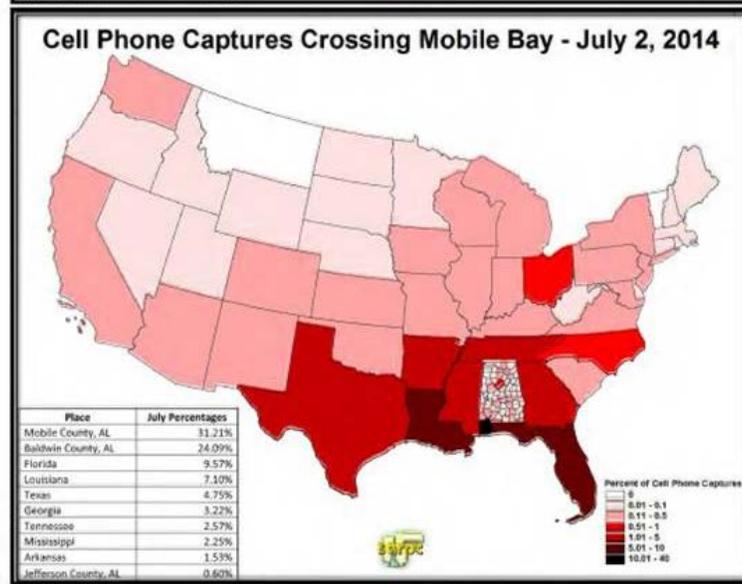
Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison, PTP



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

## Mobile MPO Updates

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



POWERED BY AIRSAGE

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

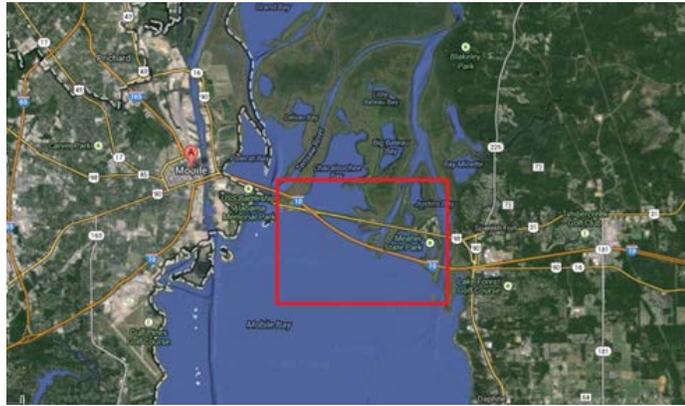
It appears that on November 13<sup>th</sup> the majority of traffic was local, about 74% from Mobile and Baldwin County. But on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, just over half (55.3%) of the traffic is local. Keep in mind this is for the Bayway AND Causeway, so there is an assumption that causeway traffic is predominantly 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.

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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.

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#### **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.

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#### **MPO and TCC/CAC Meetings**

The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met last week and recommended to adopt the FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and various projects into the FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Mobile MPO will vote on the recommendations on August 20, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room. 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

We were going to include the FY2014 TAP grant awards into the TIP scheduled for 2015, but ALDOT does not have them scheduled to let until 2016. They will be included in the TIP when the new 2016-2020 TIP is adopted next year.

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, are available for public review and comment

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#### **Mobile MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

AGENDA

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

Mobile Area Transportation Study  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 13, 2014  
12:00 p.m.  
GM&O Building Board Room  
Mobile, Alabama

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Introductions
- 3 Approve minutes of April 9, 2014 BPAC meeting
- 4 Discussion about Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants
- 5 Discussion about West Tunnel Interchange Bike/Ped facilities
- 6 Discussion about Bike/Ped facilities on the I 10 River Bridge and possible alternate routes
- 7 Discussion about Complete Streets Policy Implementation
- 8 Downtown Walkability and Bikeability Draft Study Scope of Work
- 9 Review of road projects for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - St. Louis Street
  - Hwy 90 from McVay Drive to Eslava Creek
- 10 Review of recent crash data involving cyclists and pedestrians
- 11 Old Business
- 12 New Business
- 13 Adjourn

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#### **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

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#### **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

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### **Sec. Foxx Addresses Transportation Policy in National Town Hall Meeting:**

Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx hosted a virtual town hall meeting entitled Moving from Uncertainty to Long-Term Transportation Investment. During the event, which drew state and local government officials, business leaders, transportation advocates, and the general public, Sec. Foxx stressed the importance of a long-term transportation funding bill and answered various questions from participants. He repeatedly urged voters to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge them to pass a long-term bill. He also highlighted portions of the Administration's Grow America Act. Sec. Foxx said that if the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) had full funding, his priorities would be to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), to build a robust freight program, to speed up projects, and to engage more private capital. [\[HERE\]](#) and [\[HERE\]](#)

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### **LaHood Slams Highway Bill Patch:**

Testifying before a joint legislative study committee on Tuesday, former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that the \$10.9 billion highway bill approved by Congress last week is "totally inadequate for any kind of planning or vision." LaHood also stated that he would like to see Congress raise the gas tax by ten cents. [\[HERE\]](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### **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.*

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## FY 2014-2015 SECTION 5310 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Modal Programs Bureau, is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for transit related services that assist the state's population of seniors & individuals with disabilities.

The following organizations are eligible to submit an application for the Section 5310 program:

1. Private nonprofit organizations
2. Governmental agencies that provide certifications to ALDOT that transit services furnished by nonprofit organizations are not readily available in the area
3. Governmental agencies approved by the ALDOT to coordinate transit services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

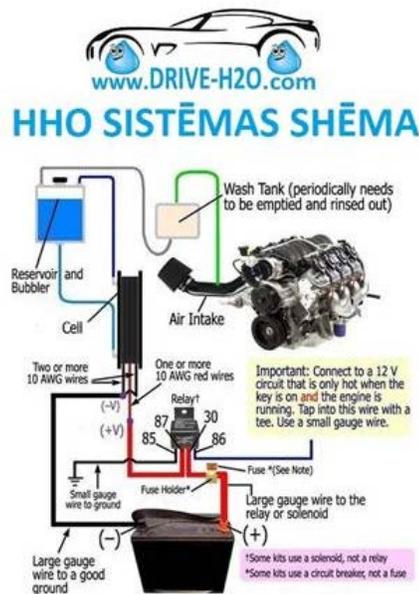
Applications are due to us (SARPC) by 5:00 PM August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Applications and guidelines can be found [\[HERE\]](#)

## Just For Fun

### That's a lot of hot air....or is it?

In a recent conversation with a young mechanical engineering major who is attending a well-known University (with a great football team), he discussed HHO. HHO is a mixture of hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) gases, and for the past several years there has been movement to convert gasoline guzzlers into HHO hybrids. Basically, you take hydrogen from a home-made hydrogen generator made out from mason jars, and instead of air mixing with gas to create combustion pushing your pistons, you use hydrogen. This burns all of your fuel, and increases your MPG drastically. The internet has thousands of examples of home mechanics installing these hydrogen generators to their vehicles with testimony as to the increase in MPG and engine efficiency.

Do yourself a favor and search for HHO hybrid cars, then wonder why every American and car manufacturer is not doing this. Why are we not using HHO instead of air in terms of combustible engine intake? Your pondering will be *Just For Fun*.



## In the News

Austal USA remains supportive of I-10 bridge project despite property losses



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

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on August 01, 2014 at 1:13 PM

An alternative parking structure for Austal USA would be included within the estimated \$850 million cost for a new Interstate 10 bridge over the Mobile River, an engineer with the Alabama Department of Transportation said Friday.

Matt Erickson, construction engineer with ALDOT's 9th Division, said it is "still to be determined" on what type of alternative parking structure would be considered.

Austal, which is working with ALDOT on the parking structure, said in a statement that the proposed bridge will impact 500 of its 3,000 parking spaces as well as have the eastern main bridge footing location on company's vessel completion yard.

Despite the loss, Austal remains in support of a new bridge across the Mobile River to "alleviate the traffic traveling through the Wallace Tunnel on I-10."

Austal also does not have any problems with potential security concerns related to the construction of the new bridge.

"Austal recognizes the benefit of the new I-10 Bridge to the Greater Mobile area. We have a good working relationship with ALDOT and through meetings with their leadership, we will work together to minimize the impact this project has on Austal," the statement says.

The environmental impact study, released publicly Wednesday, indicates that a \$15 million parking structure could be built to alleviate the loss.

"If the site improvements for parking are not provided, the potential impact to Austal USA would be much larger, resulting in a loss of 2,277 jobs and a \$146.8 million annual loss to the regional economy," the report indicates.

Without sufficient parking, the report states, Austal estimates a \$5 million impact to its operations.

"The impact could occur due to the inefficiencies of transporting ship modules around the bridge support structures between Austal's manufacturing and assembly facilities," the report indicates.

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## **Drivers beware: I-10 repaving work to close lanes west of Wallace Tunnel starting Sunday night**



By [Glen Luke Flanagan | GFlanagan@al.com](mailto:GFlanagan@al.com)

on August 07, 2014 at 5:39 PM

MOBILE, Alabama – Roadway resurfacing work on Interstate 10 from the west end of the Wallace Tunnel to east of Halls Mill Creek is scheduled to begin Sunday, Aug. 10, according to a statement from the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Workers will start resurfacing at the Wallace Tunnel and work westward toward Halls Mill Creek. Lane closures will be ongoing Sunday through Thursday, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., and interstate closures will be announced on message boards in the area.

"It's routine maintenance of the road," said Kathryn Hamlett, a spokeswoman for the state highway department. "It was just time for that road to be resurfaced."

Drivers should pay special attention when workers are out at night, Hamlett stressed, both for their own safety and that of the workers. The Department of Public Safety will have patrols throughout the work zone, enforcing lowered 55-miles-per-hour speed limits. [\[HERE\]](#)

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## Tolls won't work as I-10 bridge funding source, Congressman Byrne says



By [Brendan Kirby | bkirby@al.com](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on August 05, 2014 at 7:02 PM

One of the biggest obstacles facing a proposed bridge over the Mobile River is its price tag, but U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne on Tuesday threw cold water on an idea offered by some to help foot the bill.

"Tolls won't work," he said.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley floated the idea of tolls last month as a possible funding mechanism for a project forecast to cost as much as \$850 million.

Byrne, R-Fairhope, said officials in Louisville, Ky., told members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce three years ago that imposing tolls on a bridge there prompted motorists to shift to a non-toll alternative.

If that occurred at the proposed Interstate 10 bridge in Mobile, Byrne said, it would defeat the purpose of alleviating the bottleneck that routinely chokes the Bayway.

To work, Byrne added, officials would have to toll the Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge and the Wallace and Bankhead tunnels.

Local political and business leaders have pushed for a new bridge for decades, but it has long been stalled by bureaucratic review and disagreements about the exact location.

Local leaders appear to have coalesced around a route that would take the bridge from Virginia Street to the center of the Bayway, with the road crossing the river just south of the Alabama Cruise Terminal and cutting across Pinto Island. [\[HERE\]](#)

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### **ALDOT: Savings plan still in effect despite temporary federal highway funding patch**



By [Mike D. Smith | msmith@al.com](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on August 08, 2014 at 8:49 AM, updated August 08, 2014 at 8:50 AM

Though a last-minute appropriation saved state transportation departments nationwide from reduced federal payments, the Alabama Department of Transportation will continue its savings plan until a permanent solution is reached, an official said.

Congress on July 31 agreed on \$11 billion in temporary spending to prevent the national Highway Trust Fund from going bankrupt -- which transportation officials said was to happen later this month.

The National Highway Trust Fund, supported by federal gas taxes that are still at 1993 levels, is the cash reserves which makes many state road projects possible.

States pay contractors as they work and are reimbursed by the federal government. Under the current transportation funding bill scheduled to expire Sept. 30, that has meant \$730 million per year for Alabama.

However, the fund was expected to run dry later this month, several weeks ahead of the end of the fiscal year.

The U.S. Department of Transportation planned to begin a system of reduced reimbursements to states on Aug. 1 based on how much money remained.

That, officials said, would have eventually stopped state road work across the country. The new \$11 billion patch only holds the system in place at current funding levels through May.

"While I am pleased that Congress took action to avoid the immediate insolvency of the Highway Account this summer, I am disappointed that they merely kicked the can down the road again," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx wrote in a letter sent to state transportation departments. "There is still no long-term certainty."

In anticipation of the August funding crunch, ALDOT began cutting budgets on projects to have enough cash flow to keep projects running as long as possible without interruption.

"We're going to continue with our plan until we get a long-term bill," ALDOT Chief Engineer Ronnie Baldwin said. [\[HERE\]](#)

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### **SEPTEMBER Multi-state Passenger Rail Meeting IN NEW ORLEANS**

This afternoon, 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

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### **American Community Survey (ACS) 2013 Data Release Schedule**

The 2013 ACS 1-year estimates will be released on Thursday, September 18, 2014. The 2013 ACS 1-year estimates will be available for the nation, all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more.

The 2011-2013 ACS 3-year estimates are scheduled for release on October 23, 2014. The statistics are derived from three years of data collection cover all geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more.

The 2009-2013 ACS 5-year estimates are scheduled for release on December 4, 2014. The statistics are derived from five years of data collection cover all geographic areas regardless of size, down to the block group level.

The Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files for each ACS release will be posted one to two months after each public release.

For more information, please visit the 2013 American Community Survey Release Schedule.

If you have questions about this survey, please call the Customer Services Center on 1 (800) 923-8282.

The ACS provides reliable statistics that are indispensable to anyone who has to make informed decisions about the future. These statistics are required by all levels of government to manage or evaluate a wide range of programs, but are also useful for research, education, journalism,

business and advocacy. If you have questions about this survey, please call the Customer Services Center on 1 (800) 923-8282.

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### **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

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### **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

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### **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

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