



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, December 9th, 2016

Volume 20, Number 8

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Recently Completed Planning Studies

Destination 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
 Toole Design Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile
 2016 Unified Planning Work Program
 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program
 Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

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Last week, there was a meeting of the Mobile MPO, and we received the INRIX Truck data. We are massaging it now and will keep you posted as it is a lot of data; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. Continuing Resolution passes the House, please see *Legislative Updates*.

This week's Just For Fun,

Stay warm and have a great weekend! And check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

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

www.mobilempo.org  check us out on FACEBOOK

Mobile MPO Updates

MPO Meeting 11/30/2016

There was a meeting of the Mobile MPO last week. Some of the items on the agenda included the CMP (*below*), and the TAP (*below*). Also on the agenda were some minor amendments to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program:

Bridge Funds

100054972 Extend Eastbound Bridge on SR-42 (US-98) Over Big Creek; CN; 6/30/2017; \$4,040,000
 100064691 PE Replace Bridge on SR16 (US90) westbound over Tensaw –Spanish River; \$707,000; 11/1/2016

National Highway Funds

100060152 SR-158 Extension from Lott Road (Sr-217) To Schillinger Road. Grade Drain, Base, Pave, and Bridge (EB Seabury Creek, EB Ramp over Seabury Creek Tributary, EB Rogers Road, and Schillinger Road Intersection); CN; 9/29/2017; \$24,048,858
 100060153 SR-158 Extension from 0.5 Mile East Of Glenwood Road To West of Lott Road (Sr-217). Grade, Drain, And Bridge (Eastbound Collins Creek); CN; 1/26/2018; \$17,721,177
 100060154 SR-158 Eastbound Extension From 0.5 Miles East Of Glenwood Road to Lott Road (SR-217). Base, Pave, And Bridge (Eastbound McCrary Road and Eastbound Collins Creek Tributary); CN; 5/25/2018; \$15,351,485
 100052812 Construct Bridge on Glenwood Road Over SR-42 (US-98); CN; 9/29/2017; \$5,372,832

We have Six New Members to the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board

Mayor Tom Williams; City Satsuma
 Mayor Jimmie Gardner; City of Prichard
 Mayor David Baker; City of Semmes
 Mayor Terry Downey; City of Bayou La Batre
 Mayor William Criswell; Town of Creola
 Mr. Bryan Kegley, PE, (*County Engineer's Office*)

INRIX TRUCK DATA



Origin Zone: For this Project, trips were analyzed that started in or initially passed through any of the Origin Zones.

Middle Filter Zone: For the Project, trips were analyzed that went through any of the Middle Filter Zones after starting in or passing through an Origin Zone and before ending in or passing through a Destination Zone.

Destination Zone: For the Project, trips were analyzed that ended in or passed through any of the Destination Zones after starting in or passing through an Origin Zone and then passing through a Middle Filter Zone.

Locations:

Middle Filter zones:

1. Moffet Road – Between Rolf Ridge and I-65
2. I-65 – Between US 90 and Airport Blvd
3. Rangeline Road – Between Hamilton and I-10
4. Cochrane Bridge
5. I-165 – Between
6. Water Street and Bay Bridge Road
7. Broad St – Between I-10 and Virginia Street

Origin and Destination Zones:

These zones are located on the edges of the study area on the following routes:

1. I-65
2. US 43
3. US 45
4. US 98
5. Airport Blvd
6. I-10 at the State Boarder
7. State Route 188
8. I-10 on the Bay Way

Trip Indices:

The StreetLight Trip Index represents trip activity but does not indicate actual number of trips or vehicles. The values are provided on an index. Personal and Commercial values use different indices. The value is normalized by adjusting the number of trips in the data sample to the actual number of trips on a region around Sacramento CA, as derived from the measurements published by the California Department of Transportation. This allows us to capture monthly and seasonal variation more accurately, even as our sample grows.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

The Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met two weeks ago. Elections were held and Mr. Jeff DeQuattro was elected as the new chairperson and Mr. Hanlon Walsh was elected as the vice chairperson. We would like to thank these

gentlemen for stepping up and taking on this responsibility. We would also like to thank Mr. John Blanton for his previous service as the BPAC chairperson. The changes to the Mobile MPO's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants were discussed. The meeting also included a discussion about several projects in the MPO area that have bike/ped components, including the City of Mobile's Broad/Beauregard Street TIGER project, the Water St. project, the road diet on Springhill Ave. from Broad to Ann, and the proposed 110 Mobile River Bridge. Recent crashes involving cyclists and pedestrians were also discussed. The minutes of the meeting are being transcribed and will be posted on the BPAC webpage soon.

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

One of the items that was discussed at the TCC/CAC and last week's MPO meeting is a reinvention of the Mobile Urban Area CMP. Prior to FY 2017, the Mobile CMP was a thorough process for monitoring congestion, developing improvements, and prioritizing improvements; however, it was inefficient, and ineffective. The current federal transportation funding bill, the FAST ACT, has introduced requirements for performance measures for projects and processes. As a performance measure, projects not being implemented through a Congestion Management Process, is an indicator that it is time to reinvent the process.

Our intention is create a new funding program out of the STP Attributable Funds of \$500,000 (federal) annually for strictly intersection type improvements. These can be new adaptive signals, access management strategies, roundabouts, etc. It has to be additional capacity, as that is what the STP Attributable Funds are for, but the new program would concentrate on intersections. The projects would have to be justified, with performance measures. These performance measures would be included in the project ranking process, and would include a travel time index (free flow / congested speed), a roadway congestion index (capacity index), and a rear-end collisions per mile factor. We have developed this for some corridors and presented them to the TCC/CAC on November 9th with a lot of discussion. The Long Range Transportation Plan *Destination 2040* will have to be modified to account for this new program. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has to be fiscally constrained, which means this \$500,000 has to come from somewhere. The LRTP identified a grade separated interchange at Azalea Rd and Airport Blvd. Rather than spending \$14 Million on such a large project that may not be well received with the business owners, we are proposing to use that money in the mean time for smaller intersection type improvements all over the Urban Area.

The Mobile MPO approved for staff to move forward with this, so we will be modifying the LRTP and the TIP, which will require MPO adoption, at the next meeting.

TIP Projects modified last week

Project : 100057811 (CN)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : RESURFACE I-10 FROM CR-39 TO CR-59 (CAROL PLANTATION ROAD)
Old Engineers Estimate : \$6,256,387.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$8,692,399.44

End of the Fiscal Year

We just wrapped up Fiscal Year 2016, and the Mobile MPO had four projects totaling over **\$8.6 Million** authorized to be spent in FY 2016 out of the STP Attributable Funds. Considering we can program \$8.9 Million per year, I would say we are doing pretty good. Those four projects are:

CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) ADD LANES FROM SR-42 (US-98) TO SR-217 (LOTT RD), UT, \$243,946
CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) ADD LANES FROM SR-42 (US-98) TO SR-217 (LOTT RD), CN \$2,440,547
CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) ADD LANES FROM SR-42 (US-98) TO SR-217 (LOTT RD), CN, \$5,105,061
CR-656 (ZEIGLER BLVD) ADD LANES FROM CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) TO CR-429 (CODY RD),RW, \$835,000

The MPO met 4 times in FY 2016 approving federal spending in the Mobile Urbanized Area with funds spent at the State's discretion, from: Interstate Maintenance Funds, Surface Transportation Funds, National Highway Funds, High Priority Funding, Bridge Funds and Transportation Alternative Program Funding. The total amount approved by the Mobile MPO to be included in the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was **\$56,781,580**.

Of those funding categories above, there were 37 projects that were already in the TIP that were authorized to be spent in FY 2016 in the Mobile Urbanized Area totaling **\$50,268,574**.

South Alabama RPO Updates

SARPC's RPO Program is finalizing the list of the current transportation projects and safety needs for the RPO area. This list is broken down by County and by Category (roadways, bridges, bike/ped, and transit). If there is anything you would like to add or delete or if there is a project listed that has been completed please let us know.

This list is an amendment to the RPO Transportation Plan and list of safety needs that we update each September. This comprehensive list of projects will be submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation as a list of prioritized transportation needs for the rural areas of our region.

Further information is available on our [website](#).

Projects Within Region Let December 2nd, 2016

Mobile County

For constructing the Clearing and Grubbing on CR-656 (Zeigler Boulevard) from the junction of Athey Road to the junction of Forest Hill Drive in Mobile. Length 2.764 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$105,386 to \$128,805 .

Baldwin County

For constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31) from the junction of SR-16 (US-90) to west of the junction of Spanish Village in Spanish Fort. Length 0.735 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$368,617 to \$450,531 .

Escambia County

None at this time

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

House Passes Continuing Resolution and Water Bill

December 8, 2016

A four-month continuing resolution (CR) passed the House on December 8, 2016 by a 326-96 vote, and must be finalized by today, December 9, 2016 to avert a government shutdown. The CR funds federal agencies through April 28 with additional dollars for a few urgent needs such as natural disaster relief and war operations, and \$7 million for New York City law enforcement for protecting President-elect Trump while he is in Manhattan (New York lawmakers and officials requested \$35 million). Democrats and Republicans both expressed disappointment about passing another CR rather than an omnibus package for the remainder of fiscal year 2017. The Senate will now consider the CR, but there are threats to its passage which may result in a government shutdown over the weekend. Congress has until midnight tomorrow night to pass this CR before current appropriations expire.

The House also passed the [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act](#) (WIIN; previously known as the WRDA bill) by a 360-61 vote today. The House Rules Committee attempted to add an amendment making the one-year "Buy America" provision permanent, but it was rejected in a 3-8 vote. However, an addition was made Monday to provide relief for California's drought. The bill authorizes \$170 million for Flint, MI, which was appropriated through the CR, and nearly \$11.7 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to improve water infrastructure. The House Rules Committee approved a single closed rule for both the CR and WIIN Act by voice vote, allowing no amendments to be made on the floor. Senator Boxer (D-CA) has threatened to block the bill in the Senate over provisions that would waive environmental review regulations on projects related to drought relief in her state.

[50 YEARS OF US TRANSPORTATION CHECK IT OUT!](#)

Funding Opportunities

FHWA Soliciting INVEST Implementation Projects - Round 3

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is pleased to announce an applied research funding opportunity for transportation agencies to use the Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST) to evaluate the sustainability of their projects and programs, identify areas for improvement, analyze options for improving sustainability, and document results.

The funding opportunity is available to State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and Federal land management agencies (FLMAs). Funding levels for applied research projects may vary depending on the depth and extent of analysis proposed as well as the potential benefit to FHWA and the recipient. FHWA anticipates making approximately four to six awards.

Agencies that would like to apply should send letters of interest to Robert Hyman (Robert.hyman@dot.gov) and their corresponding FHWA Division Office by January 5, 2017. For more information about eligibility and funding, please visit: www.sustainablehighways.org.

ALDOT TAP FUNDING (deadline December 16th, 2016)

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is soliciting applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for FY 2017.

The TAP application and instructions are located on the ALDOT website at:

http://www.dot.state.al.us/moweb/specialprograms_section.htm

The TAP application is available on this page and on page two (2) of the instructional information is a listing of eligible improvement projects for TAP funding. The deadline for submission of FY 2017 TAP applications including support documentation is Friday, December 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Some major application requirements of the TAP are:

1. Only cities, towns and county commissions can apply for funding;
2. Due to limited funding, there is a \$400,000 cap on the amount of federal funds that a sponsor can apply for;
3. Only one application can be submitted by an eligible sponsor due to limited funding;
4. The funding ratio for TAP projects is 80% federal funds and 20% sponsor funds. The sponsor is responsible for the cost of required preliminary engineering;

5. Public involvement is optional;
6. Fifty (50) percent of the TAP funds are sub-allocated to the MPO's by population
1. and fifty (50) percent is distributed to any area of the state by ALDOT ;
7. All TAP projects are selected by a competitive application process administered by ALDOT ;
8. Independent landscaping projects are not eligible;
9. Transportation museums are not eligible;
10. For cities/towns located within the six (6) largest MPO's (Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery , Mobile, Columbus, GA, and Pensacola, FL), the TAP funds that are being administered by ALDOT are completely separate from the TAP funds that are dedicated to the aforementioned MPO's.

Please contact Bob Kratzer at (334) 353-6442 if you have questions regarding this matter.

DOT seeks proposals for Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers

Posted by Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx

Our release of the draft [Beyond Traffic](#) report in early 2015 launched a national conversation around the critical challenges that our country's transportation system will face over the next 30 years. Our educational institutions are critical to helping us solve these challenges, and today, building on that conversation, I am announcing a call for applications for entities who want to join this effort as officially designated U.S. DOT Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers.



[Continue Reading DOT seeks proposals for >>](#)

FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

New funding is available from the Federal Highway Administration's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program to encourage the transportation community to adopt proven innovations. [Funding](#) or the AID Demonstration program, launched in 2014 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was continued by the 2015 [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act](#). Since AID Demonstration was introduced, FHWA has provided more than \$43 million for 61 awards.

Under the program, funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects that use proven innovations in any project phase, including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through [Grants.gov](#), the federal government's website for information on funding opportunities. For more information on the AID Demonstration program, contact [Ewa Flom](#) of the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Deadline: Rolling

Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Through the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. EDA is employing a new two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO. Proposals will be reviewed by EDA within 30 days of receipt; and following the proposal review, full applications will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt.

Industrial Access Road and Bridge

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) and the project sponsor (city or county) must maintain the completed facility unless the facility consists of turn lanes, crossovers, etc., that are located on state highways. Industrial access funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs.

Prior to the date the qualifying (new or expanding) project is "placed in service," the sponsoring entity or its local development agency must notify the Alabama Department of Commerce of its intent to claim the incentives under Section 41-9-202.1, Code of Alabama 1975. Effective October 9, 2008, the Industrial Access Road and Bridge Corporation application submittal should include the notification acknowledgment letter from the Secretary of Commerce. For more info, see [HERE](#)

Just For Fun

Riddle me this.....

Four cars come to a four way stop, all coming from a different direction. They can't decide who got there first, so they all go forward at the same time. They do not crash into each other, but all four cars go. How is this possible?

A car's odometer shows 72927 miles, a palindromic number. What are the minimum miles you would need to travel to form another? (a palindrome can be read both forwards and backwards, like "Kayak")

Where will you find roads without cars, forests without trees and cities without houses?

What does a frog do when its car breaks down?



Answers published next week!

In the News

Will President-elect Trump's visit help Mobile 'Build the Bridge'?



By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com), Press-Register

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

on December 07, 2016 at 10:11 AM



President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally on Aug. 21, 2015, at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala. Trump is expected to return to Mobile for a rally during his "Thank You" tour on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016. (file photo)

When Donald Trump [comes back to Mobile Dec. 17 on his "Thank You" tour](#), it wouldn't be surprising to hear him pledge again to "Build the wall" along the U.S.-Mexico border.

But he might be surprised to hear murmurs of "Build the Bridge" being whispered into his ear.

"I think the profile has gotten higher and higher and the feelings of the public are much higher than it used to be," said Mike Lee, chairman of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's "Build the Bridge" Coalition about the need for an [\\$850 million bridge over the Mobile River and accompanying expansion of the Interstate 10 Bayway](#).

The bridge, currently in its [preliminary design phase](#), is considered the preeminent infrastructure project for the region by local and state officials. At this point, the biggest obstacle is funding.

But opportunity seems to beckon, as the incoming Trump administration talks of a \$1 trillion program to rebuild highways, tunnels, bridges and airports.

"That's a hopeful sign," Lee said.

"We'd be foolish not to take advantage of talking to our president-elect about our No. 1 priority," said Ginny Russell, vice president of community and governmental affairs with the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

'Higher congestion'

The I-10 project involves construction of a new six-lane bridge with 215 feet of air space above the river. The Bayway spanning Mobile Bay would be widened from four to eight lanes.

The goal is two-fold:

- Clear away traffic congestion that's choking I-10 at a major port and booming industrial hub, as cars and trucks queue up for miles and miles, waiting to get through the George Wallace Tunnel.
- Open a free-flowing evacuation route through which tens of thousands of evacuees - coming from the south, east or west -- could rapidly move away from hurricanes.

"Every month goes by, particularly during the summer months, and we see the increasingly higher congestion," said Lee. "It's a handicap for economic development, safety, evacuations and tourism. Who wants to get into the middle of that on a busy weekend?" Projections call for worse congestion to come. According to a preliminary study of the I-10 project, the interstate at the George Wallace Tunnel carries about 80,000 vehicles per day. Future forecasts show average daily traffic reaching 131,082 vehicles -- a 64 percent increase.

The number of trucks hauling hazardous material is also expected to jump considerably: From 280 in 2010 to an estimate of 396 trucks per day by 2030, a 41 percent hike.



"We have an infrastructure challenge that is not a Mobile issue or an Alabama issue, it's a commerce issue all along the Gulf Coast," said Wiley Blankenship, president/CEO of the Coastal Alabama Partnership.

New secretary

Even if Trump is briefed on the project while he's in Mobile, coastal officials are likely going to need to develop relationships with [incoming U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao](#).

Chao was Labor secretary under President George W. Bush and is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

She is at least somewhat familiar with Mobile, having visited in 2005 during a conference assessing the area's economic needs following Hurricane Katrina.

Blankenship said a Washington, D.C. trip involving local elected representatives in Mobile and Baldwin counties is being planned for April 24-26. The trip's aim is similar to previous excursions to the Capitol in lobbying for the I-10 project, he said.

And like those prior trips, the local contingent wants to meet with the Federal Highway Administration to "re-educate" officials about the project.

Past such efforts paid off. President Obama's first transportation secretary, Ray LaHood, traveled to Mobile in 2012, and his successor, Anthony Foxx, [came to the city last year](#).



U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx speaks before members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015. Foxx, during his visit to Mobile, discussed options to finance the \$850 million Interstate 10 Bridge project over the Mobile River. (John Sharp/jsharp@al.com)

The Foxx visit brought national attention to the bridge project. The Hill newspaper, in May, listed I-10 among the "five infrastructure emergencies" in the U.S.

Russell said she had hoped that Foxx's interest in the bridge would lead to more emphasis on the project in the Obama administration. She now hopes the project wins a place in federal transportation planning surfacing in the Trump administration.

"Selfishly, we want to confirm that our highest need - the bridge and the Bayway -- is included in that," she said.

Russell added, "It puts a lot of people to work, and business needs good infrastructure to move goods and products."

While few details have emerged about Trump's transportation ambitions, some conservative lawmakers have begun [questioning how the incoming administration plans to pay for vast infrastructure construction](#).

Seth Morrow, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Fairhope, said the congressman believes the infrastructure package "will be good news" for the I-10 project. He said the "key question is how to make the package fiscally responsible" in order to get it passed out of Congress. He said there are talks about pairing the infrastructure plan with tax reform.

'Payback time'

Meanwhile, more preliminary work is needed on the I-10 project before any construction can begin, even if financing comes together. Alabama Department of Transportation spokeswoman Cheyenne West said that the state is conducting stakeholder meetings, finalizing interchange concepts, and studying bicycle and pedestrian alternatives and environmental impacts. She said that ALDOT plans to hold a public involvement meeting in the spring 2017, where more details will be released.

Lee said he's hopeful that the final environmental impact study, which is a key component of advancing the project, can be completed by January. He said that the bridge advocacy coalition plans to meet with ALDOT in the next few weeks and will get an update.

At the same time, Trump will likely be learning about the project during his Mobile stop.

"Trump could not have gotten to where he is without Alabama and the South," said William Stewart, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Alabama. "Even though we wouldn't be so crude as to say, 'Now, it's payback time,' it is a fact that, in politics, rewards go to the areas that supported you.

He added, "Mr. Trump obviously, has a high regard for Mobile."

Submit Talking Freight Webinar Topics to FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration's Freight Office is seeking suggested topics for 2017 for its monthly professional development webinar series Talking Freight. Practitioners are encouraged to submit brief descriptions of topics they would like to learn about and/or suggested speaker names. Send information to Chip Millard, at chip.millard@dot.gov, and Nicole Coene, at nicole.l.coene@ejidos.com. Note that FHWA is already planning to include some webinars on freight provisions in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Talking Freight often covers a mix of policy and practice relating to many different aspects and modes of freight transportation, including many issues affecting rural transportation.

Visit http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/EPD/talking_freight/index.htm to find out more information about the Talking Freight webinar series or view recordings of past webinars.

ALABAMA RECREATIONAL TRAILS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 15, 2016
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Five Rivers Delta Resource Center
Blakeley Hall
30945 Five Rivers Boulevard
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
251-625-0814

The Alabama Trails Commission will be hosting the Alabama Recreational Trails Leadership Workshop on Thursday, December 15, 2016. The workshop will be held at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama. Leaders of recreational trails user groups, planning agencies, and governments interested in recreational trails are encouraged to attend. The workshop agenda and a link to the workshop registration can be found below.

<http://www.uaced.ua.edu/alabama-recreational-trails-leadership-workshop-dec-15-2016.html>

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-

U.S. DOT 50th Anniversary Event Focused on Future Transportation Leaders

Posted by Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez

Many of us were shaped by our school upbringing. Experiences that we have in classrooms or on field trips can spur an interest in a career field. Some students become fascinated in science by mixing chemical compounds. Some are fascinated by the stories of history, and go on to become storytellers themselves in classrooms. But rarely do students get an opportunity to learn about transportation and pipeline safety. As we celebrate the Department's 50th Anniversary, we are striving to open doors to students at a young age to learn more about our multi-faceted transportation industry and inspire them to join us as we work to build a safer, more innovative and inclusive transportation future for all Americans.

To kick-start that process, on December 8, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) collaborated with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and hosted a "Future Leaders in Transportation" event at FAB LAB DC. The FAB LAB is a facility offering the community access to modern tools for invention, and was an idea that began as an outreach project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Bits and Atoms and has now spread to a number of cities around the country.



[Continue Reading U.S. DOT 50th Anniversary >>](#)

Transportation Research

BTS Releases Geographic Databases for 2016

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released the 2016 edition of the National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) this week. The NTAD is a compilation of datasets representing the nation's transportation infrastructure, including more than 500,000 miles of roadway, over 600,000 bridges, and in excess of 19,000 airports. This year's NTAD consists of over 60 individual data layers, most of which have been updated within the last year. The NTAD also includes several new features: the U.S. portion of the North American Rail Network, truck parking, and road and airport noise layers. The 2016 NTAD marks the end of the traditional annual update. BTS will now begin using a dynamic publication cycle, making updated data available throughout the year, allowing for more timely delivery to users. Also new this year, NTAD will be available exclusively online. To offer larger and more complex data sets and enhanced functionality, DVDs have been eliminated. The enhanced online NTAD datasets allow for customizable downloads and APIs. They are available as GeoJSON and GeoServices (REST) services and are also available for download as shapefiles, kml and csv files. Contacts: Press: Dave Smullen: (202) 366-5568. For technical information: Dominic Menegus: (202) 366-8717.

Pocket Guide to Transportation Statistics

If you need transportation statistics at a moment's notice – for example, if you want to see a list of the most congested urban areas or if you want to find the busiest Amtrak stations – the Bureau of Transportation Statistics has a solution for you.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, BTS is introducing its most innovative product yet – a smartphone app for the [Pocket Guide to Transportation](#).



[Click Here to continue reading Introducing the Pocket Guide to Transportation App](#)

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.