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Recently Completed Planning Studies

Mobile County
Comprehensive Bicycle and
Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System
Diversion Route Planning Study

[Click Here](#) to see when and
where federal and state projects
will be happening
in your area.

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We hope everyone has had a great week. We had a Mobile MPO meeting this past Wednesday, and we are coming to a close on our Origin Destination Study; please see *MPO Updates*. The Transportation Alternatives Program is released, and there are more and more funding opportunities becoming available: please see funding opportunities. Finally, there is an upcoming meeting regarding the Mobile River Bridge Project and Bicycle and Pedestrian Access; please see *In The News*. Have a great weekend.

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

Mobile MPO Updates

Mobile MPO Meeting

The Mobile MPO and TCC/CAC met on Wednesday of this week and agreed to push up a couple of projects in the funding schedule. We have had a recent decrease of carryover funds by about \$250,000, but our current apportionment has gone up slightly. We are now allocated \$6,875,917 of federal funds annually which is an increase of almost \$350,000; this left a balance of over \$4.5 Million in FY 2015. The MPO agreed to push up the following projects:

CN, McGregor Ave from Dauphin St to Airport Blvd;	from 2016 to 2015	\$2,000,000
PE, McFarland Rd from Old Pascagoula Rd to Three Notch Rd;	from 2016 to 2015	\$2,500,000

The current STP Attributable funding schedule can be found [\[HERE\]](#). Staff reviewed with the MPO and TCC/CAC the new funding program Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which is listed under **Funding Opportunities** in this newsletter, and the Origin Destination Study which is discussed below.

Long Range Planning Efforts Update

As most of you know, our Long Range Transportation Plan (L RTP) is based on a travel demand forecast model. The cell phone Origin-Destination Study is a new and innovative way to validate that our traffic volume produced by the model (or simulator) represents the actual base year traffic. The next step is to forecast the socioeconomic data that goes into that model to represent traffic conditions in year 2040. To help us do that we are incorporating the S.L.E.U.T.H. (Slope, Land use, Exclusion, Urban, Transportation, Hill shade) model to predict what will be urban in year 2040. This is using remote sensing, historical satellite imagery, census data, and aerial photographs to model and predict what will be urban in year 2040.

The 2010 travel demand model is validated to less than a percent of total overall Vehicle Mile Traveled (VMT). Please see [\[HERE\]](#). Validation is the comparison to what the model produces and the actual traffic counts. We have over 800 traffic stations that ALDOT counts for us within the study area, and the statistics look great. The model's parameters were developed using data gathered from cell phones. Data include trip length frequency, trip length distribution and area to area flows. If there are any questions pertaining to the model, please call Kevin.

Projects Within Region Let January 25, 2013

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

for constructing the Permanent Slope Repair on CR-27 (Robinson Road) approximately 0.9 miles northwest of Sardis Church Road northeast of Robinsonville. Length 0.056 mi.

BALDWIN COUNTY

constructing the Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Signs and Bridges on I-10 Interchange at CR-68 with connector to Baldwin Beach Express. Length 1.084 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

for constructing the Planning, Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on I-65 from north of SR-158 (MP 13.648) in Saraland to north of SR-13 (US-43) (MP 19.988). Length 6.340 mi.

Legislative Updates

U.S. DOT Secretary LaHood Looks Forward to the 113th Congress

Citing the successes in passage of MAP-21, advancements in rail and distracted driving, among other priorities; Secretary LaHood's most recent [FastLane blog post](#) thanks the 112th Congress for their efforts in advancing the nation's transportation network and expresses confidence in the working relationship his department will have with the new Congress.

Pilot Program Could Help Determine the Viability of Mileage Fees for Certain Vehicles

Mileage-based user fee initiatives in the United States and abroad show that such fees can lead to more equitable and efficient use of roadways by charging drivers based on their actual road use and by providing pricing incentives to reduce road use. Mileage fees for passenger vehicles, however, continue to face significant public concerns related to privacy as well as cost challenges. Privacy concerns are particularly acute when Global Positioning System (GPS) units are used to track the location of passenger vehicles. Reliable cost estimates for mileage fee systems are not available, but implementing a system to collect fees from 230 million U.S. passenger vehicles is likely to greatly exceed the costs of collecting fuel taxes. Commercial truck user fee systems in Germany and New Zealand have achieved substantial revenues and benefits such as reduced road damage and emissions with fewer privacy concerns, but ensuring compliance in a cost effective manner presents trade-offs. Few commercial truck mileage fee pilots have been conducted in the United States, but efforts in two states suggest such fees pose fewer privacy and cost challenges than passenger vehicle fees. [\[HERE\]](#)

Incoming EPW Ranking Member Changes Staff

National Journal [reported](#) that EPW Ranking Member David Vitter (R-LA) is changing several members of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Republican staff that served previously under Sen. Inhofe (R-OK). Senator Vitter's spokesman commented, "A new ranking or chairman usually brings in new staff. That's my impression of other committees."

House T&I Chairman Announces Committee Members

On January 3, 2013, House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Shuster (R-PA) [announced](#) the panel of Republican members that will serve on the House T&I Committee. Additionally, he indicated that subcommittee assignments will be announced at a later date. This completes the full committee membership, as Ranking Member Rahall (D-WV) [announced](#) the Democratic members of the T&I Committee in late December.

Funding Opportunities

Update on the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was created in the new federal transportation law, MAP-21 (P. L. 112-141), which combines three previously separate programs—Transportation Enhancements, the Recreational Trails program, and the Safe Routes to School program. Most, but not all eligible activities from these earlier programs have been preserved in the new program. Overall, funding has been reduced by about \$300 million compared to FY2012 apportionments, down to \$814 Million nationwide. TAP funding will comprise about 2 percent of total federal highway spending over the next year.

The State of Alabama will receive about \$16,670,000 in federal funding. This funding is all subject to a 20% match. \$1,700,000 will be set aside for the Recreational Trails program through ADECA. The large urban areas (with a population over 200,000) will have \$2,670,000 set aside. Of this the Mobile MPO will receive \$531,431 federal funds. The remaining \$12,300,000 will be administered through ALDOT and will be divided between Small Urban Areas (\$1,600,000), Rural Areas (\$3,200,000) and statewide (\$7,500,000).

Local Governments and other local or government entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than State agencies and metropolitan planning organizations) are eligible for TAP funding. School districts, Colleges and Universities, nonprofits, public land agencies, transit agencies, and Tribal governments are not eligible.

The application process for these funds has not yet been developed. Notification will be forthcoming once we know more. Click [here](#) to view FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program interim guidance.

Industrial Access Grants

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.

Contact

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Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
10:00 am
Capitol Building 600 Dexter Avenue, Suite E-317 Montgomery, AL 36104 Application Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2013, 5:00 pm

Forms
A White Paper
Policies and Procedures
Applications for Funding - The "online version" is a fill-in-the-blanks form. Complete the form online, print, sign, and submit.

Microsoft Word 2003 & 2007
Online Version
Print Version

Adobe Acrobat PDF
Print Version

Transportation Enhancement Funding Announcement

Application Due: May 3, 2013

The Transportation Enhancement Program was not continued under the new transportation bill MAP-21. ALDOT has a small balance of TE funds for a few additional TE projects. It is ALDOT's desire to use this remaining TE Funds to correct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Deficiencies. Therefore, to utilize all of the State's TE funds, ALDOT is soliciting applications for a few additional projects for FY 2013. The deadline is May 3, 2013 and an application can be picked up at SARPC, or please call Mr. Kevin Harrison at SARPC(251)706-4635, or Mr. Cecil Colson at ALDOT (334)353-6403. The eligible projects under this particular application are for:

1. Streetscapes to achieve compliance with ADA guidelines. A streetscape can include items such as sidewalk replacement, improvement for ADA compliance, pedestrian lighting and landscaping.
2. Projects to make sidewalks ADA Compliant, such as curb cuts.

Bicycle Friendly America Program

The Bicycle Friendly America program provides incentives, hands-on assistance, and award recognition for communities, universities and businesses that actively support bicycling, and ranks states annually based on their level of bike-friendliness. Across the U.S., the interest in bicycling is skyrocketing-- and it's easy to see why. A bike is a ticket to health, mobility, freedom and fun. Bicycling isn't just a way to get from one place to another; it's an avenue to a better life. And when communities, businesses and universities get on board, great things happen. How do you capture and capitalize on the tremendous benefits of biking?

[Download the new Bicycle Friendly America Brochure](#) and click the links on the top right of the page to learn more about each of the BFA programs.

Rural Assistance Match Program (RAMP)

This is only available to Escambia County in our region because Mobile County and Baldwin County both received \$5,000,000 or more of ATRIPS Awards for Phase I and Phase II.

The Rural Assistance Match Program (RAMP) is designed to assist counties and cities to participate actively in the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP). ATRIP was originated by Governor Robert Bentley to assist counties and cities across Alabama as they work to meet the transportation needs of their local areas. Over the 3 year period, ATRIP will enable the distribution of up to \$1,000,000,000 of Federal Highway funds to address eligible road and bridge projects submitted by counties and cities.

The Governor and the ATRIP Committee are aware that some communities in Alabama may be unable to provide matching funds to complete desirable projects. Accordingly, working with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama and the Alabama League of Municipalities, the ATRIP Committee has developed this proposal to establish RAMP as a means to aid counties and cities with the necessary matching funds to replace eligible bridges posted for school bus traffic as well as other projects meeting ATRIP criteria. For more information and deadlines concerning RAMP, please see [HERE](#).

Just For Fun

Believe it or not, we here at the Mobile MPO sometimes use Google Streetview <https://maps.google.com/>. This is where Google provides images at the street level by moving the little yellow stick figure man to a street from there "map" tool. It is actually a very useful tool. MPO/RPO staff actually drove **ALL of Baldwin County** and obtained speed limit information this way, recorded from speed limit signs! We did not have to actually drive every street in the county, Google did that for us we were able to drive it from our

office here at the GMO building. Here are some pretty funny Street Views from Google:



In the News

Upcoming meeting regarding the Mobile River Bridge Project and Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

ALDOT has requested input regarding the Mobile River Bridge project. It is a long term endeavor but preliminary recommendations are upcoming with respect to potential bicycle facilities on this bridge. Engineers with ALDOT 9th Division will be in attendance to explain the choice between bike facilities across the new concept bridge versus using earmarked monies for 'mitigation' projects elsewhere for bicycle facilities.

The meeting has been set for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 23rd at the GM&O conference room on the first floor. Please RSVP to Tom Piper (tpiper@sarpc.org). Please note that this meeting is to occur well before ALDOT's public advertised meetings which we anticipate for 2013.

These are now in Montgomery, soon to be in Mobile. Digital message boards along I-65.

Our driving experience on Interstate 65 throughout Montgomery is about to become a bit safer. The Alabama Department of Transportation is making plans to erect 7 overhead message boards. The high-tech digital boards will have messages ranging from Amber Alerts to weather-related situations.



[\[HERE\]](#) and [\[HERE\]](#) with video

PBIC Announces Free Webinar on Toward Zero Deaths Strategies

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announces the next free Webinar in its Livable Communities Webinar Series:

Toward Zero Deaths: Strategies for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

Thursday, January 31, 2013

2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. EDT

To register, please visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/860927866>.

The vision of "Toward Zero Deaths" (TZD) is predicated on the assumption that no traffic death or serious injury should be considered to be acceptable. Launched as a plan for highway safety in Europe, the principle has gained popularity in the U.S. in recent years, and some state and local agencies have adopted TZD language among their agencies' safety goals. Researchers at the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center have developed a list of key TZD strategies that are considered to be among the most effective in reducing pedestrian- and bicycle-related deaths and serious injuries on our nation's streets and highways.

Presenters Charlie Zegeer, PBIC director, and Carl Sundstrom, PBIC program manager, will discuss a wide range of engineering, education, enforcement, policy, and funding strategies that are the most promising in reaching TZD successes for non-motorized travelers.

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

Transportation Research

BTS Releases Pocket Guide to Transportation 2013

Friday, January 11, 2013 - The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), has published the [Pocket Guide to Transportation 2013](#) – a quick reference guide to significant transportation data. The 16th annual Pocket Guide covers data on transportation safety, state of good repair, system use and performance, economic competitiveness, and environmental sustainability. To order a copy of the *Pocket Guide to Transportation 2013*, go to the [BTS website publications](#) page. This free guide can also be obtained by contacting BTS by phone at 800-853-1351, by e-mail at ritainfo@dot.gov or by mail sent to Product Orders, RITA/Bureau of Transportation Statistics, USDOT, 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Room E36-109, Washington, D.C. 20590. For inquiries other than placing orders contact Dave Smullen: 202-366-5568.

Not going to TRB this year, then check out FHWA Resource Center

How do Federal-aid requirements apply to my local public agency?

Visit FHWA's Resource Center Booth No. 2005 in Exhibit Hall B to learn about a new online resource called Federal-aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies. This new Web site features a central online library of 80-plus informational videos and resources designed specifically to help local public agencies—counties, cities, and towns—manage their Federal-aid Highway Program projects. The videos cover seven major topic areas: Federal-aid overview, civil rights, environment, finance, right-of-way, project development, and project construction and contract administration. The Web site is located at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials>.
