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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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Please plan to join us at the SARPC Annual Meeting planned for January 15th and 16th at the Grand Hotel at Point Clear (See In the News). The TCC/CAC met Wednesday, December 17, 2014. Currently there are no projects that are in immediate need of a resolution. The Destination 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan was reviewed with the TCC/CAC and there will be a public meeting on the Plan in January; we will adopt it at the March 4th MPO meeting. MPO members will receive a hard copy of the DRAFT document shortly. The document must be reviewed and approved by ALDOT and FHWA as well. Minutes of the TCC/CAC meeting and the last MPO meeting will go out with my MPO notices.

The Federal Highway Administration will be in Mobile on March 3 and 4, 2015 for our triennial Certification Review, and some of you may be asked to participate in those field reviews. We hope your new year is off to great start!



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



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

Mobile MPO Updates

PUBLIC NOTICE MOBILE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

The Mobile MPO Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Training Room at 110 Beauregard Street. The purpose of the meeting is to rebalance the STP Attributable funding schedule, review the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and discuss adding the following item to the Transportation Improvement Program.

HSIP Funds

Construct offset left turn lanes and a WB right turn lane US98 at McCrary Road; 4/24/15; \$780,000

Additional information may be obtained from the Transportation Planning Coordinator at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 433-6541. Written comments regarding the projects are welcome and may be submitted to:

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

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

Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities)

Our 5310 grant has received all of the final stamps! We have been officially awarded the grant. We will begin the procurement process next week.

The approved projects 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

Non-motorized Mobility study for Downtown Mobile

We have given Toole Design Group Notice to proceed on the Non-motorized Mobility study for Downtown Mobile. If you would like to be stakeholder, please let us know. There is going to be plenty of time for public input as laid out in the scope of work [HERE](#).

I-10 Mobile River Bridge

Although the comment period is over, please stay tuned to the following web sites for details and information about the I-10 Mobile River Bridge.

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/>

DESTINATION 2040

The MPO Staff is wrapping up the Draft 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 December 5th, 2014

Baldwin County

- for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Wilters Street from the intersection of SR-59 to Rock Creek to include the extension of Wilters Street from Rock Creek to the junction of CR-83 (Baldwin Beach Express) in Robertsedale. Length 2.575 mi
- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the east end of Blakeley River Bridge (MP 42.718) to just west of the I-10 Westbound Ramp (MP 44.083). Length 1.364 mi.

Escambia County

- for constructing the Division wide Emergency Repairs at Various Sites as indicated in the plans.
- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-21 from just north of the intersection of Sunset Drive (the beginning of the four-lane section) to just south of the junction of CR-14. Length 3.705 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

Members Urge Long-Term Highway Bill

Reps. Reid Ribble (R-WI), Tom Reed (R-NY), Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) sent a letter to Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner (R-OH) and Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) urging passage of a long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill. The current highway bill extension expires on May 31, 2015, and the letter expresses the need to end the cycle of short-term extensions that "kick the can down the road by doing the work needed to pass a long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill." Nearly 80 members have signed the letter in addition to dozens of industry and advocacy groups. The letter asks Congress to agree on a reliable funding mechanism that would give states and local governments the certainty that federal infrastructure dollars will continue to flow.

Congress Adjourns for the Session

After finalizing a massive omnibus appropriations bill to fund most of the government through the end of the fiscal year, the Senate passed a package of tax extenders and confirmed a number of Obama nominees, including the Director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. By a 76-16 vote, the bill extends roughly fifty tax breaks through the end of 2014. One break grants temporary parity in the tax treatment of parking and transit benefits. The bill also includes a nine cent tax increase on diesel fuel that barge operators pay. This increase is expected to generate \$260 million over 10 years for the Waterways Trust Fund. With those actions, this Congress adjourned for the session. The 114th Congress will be confirmed in early January.

Transportation Hurdles Ahead in 2015 For Congress

In the New Year, Congress faces far-reaching policy and spending choices that will put members under both time and political pressure. Will there be enough time to accomplish all that needs to be done, or will decisions be postponed in favor of short-term expedients?

[Here](#) are some of the issues that are likely to be contentious in 2015

Shuster says highway bill won't be funded through gas tax, motorist user fees

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Transportation Committee says passing a bill to pay for America's aging roads and bridges will be a top priority next year, but he is ruling out a gasoline tax increase or motorist user fees as the way to do it.

Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Hollidaysburg, has said a vehicle-miles-traveled tax should be considered as an alternative to increasing the 18.4-cent-per-gallon gas tax, given the rise in fuel-efficient vehicles that makes taxing by the gallon rather than the mile less effective. Looking ahead to a GOP-controlled Congress, Shuster said this month that both proposals are unworkable. Read more [HERE](#).

Funding Opportunities

U.S. Forest Service – Community Forest Program Funding

Deadline: January 16, 2015

The Community Forest Program is a grant program that authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to provide financial assistance to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Click [HERE](#) for the funding opportunity.

HUD \$1 Billion National Disaster Resilience Competition

Application Deadline: March 2015

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently launched a National Disaster Resilience Competition, which makes \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The competition promotes risk assessment and planning, and will fund the implementation of innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for future storms and other extreme events. Representatives from eligible communities will have the opportunity to attend Rockefeller-supported Resilience Academies across the country to strengthen their funding proposals. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

HUD – Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants

Applications Due: February 9, 2015

The Choice Neighborhoods program supports locally driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

- Housing: Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
- People: Improve educational outcomes and intergenerational mobility for youth with services and supports delivered directly to youth and their families; and
- Neighborhood: Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

Just For Fun

10 New Year's safety resolutions for drivers

Below are 10 New Year's safety resolutions for drivers from Consumer Reports (www.consumerreports.org). I am sure glad I found this, as last week I was on my V16 motorcycle (with no helmet and child on the handlebars), driving way too fast while talking on my cell phone to my mum, through a school zone, trying to hit pedestrians, after I had a couple of beers. BUT NOW I have the consumer reports resolutions, and that is *Just For Fun*. Use common sense, drive defensively and stay safe!!!

1. **Never drink and drive.** Over 9,800 people died in drunk driving car crashes in 2011 (over 30 percent of all traffic fatalities). If you plan on drinking, make sure you have a designated driver, hand over your keys, or call a cab.

2. **Not use my cell phone behind the wheel.** In 2011, over 3,300 people died in crashes related to using a cell phone or texting while driving. Put the phone down or pull over to use it. If you can't control the urges, use an app to block the phone from being operated while driving or make use of vehicle/phone interfaces such as Bluetooth that makes phone use much safer.
3. **Drive the speed limit.** Speeding is a factor in about one-third of all fatal crashes. With high-speed crashes, the forces are so severe, it's hard to maintain survival space in the vehicle and the body can be traumatized from the deceleration and impact, even without hitting vehicle structure. In addition, when you crash at high speeds, air bags and safety belts cannot protect occupants to their maximum benefit because of the force, so injury levels become severe.
4. **Always buckle up.** New research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that nationwide seat belt use is at 86 percent, an all-time high. However, many people are still killed because they simply failed to buckle up. Seat belts save over 12,000 lives a year by protecting passengers from hitting hard vehicle surfaces or being ejected from the vehicle in a crash. Make it a habit to buckle each and every time—even for short drives—and don't start driving until you know passengers are buckled, as well.
5. **Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.** Pedestrians make up 13 percent of all motor vehicle-related deaths each year and bicyclists less than 2 percent. Drivers need to be especially diligent around crosswalks and remember to look both ways for bikes even on one-way streets. Likewise, pedestrians need to be aware of their surroundings, not walk distracted, and wear bright and/or reflective clothing.
6. **Always use a proper car seat.** Children under age 8 should be secured in a proper car seat and all children under 12 should be in the back seat.
7. **Wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle.** Studies show that the use of motorcycle helmets is 42-percent effective at preventing deaths and 69-percent effective at reducing head injuries.
8. **Protect teen drivers.** If you're the parent of a teen driver, make sure they follow all the graduated licensing rules in your state. If they are not strict enough, enforce your own rules such as always wearing a seat belt, no texting, limit teen passengers, and prohibit late-night driving.
9. **Be more fuel efficient.** Driving a more fuel-efficient vehicle will not only impact your wallet, but it can contribute toward national petroleum independence. If you're not in the market for a new car, you can be more fuel efficient in your existing car by not idling, combining trips, keeping your tires properly inflated, and obeying the speed limit.
10. **Maintain your vehicle and tires.** Performing regular tire checks and routine maintenance will help to ensure your vehicle will stay in optimal condition. This will aid performance, fuel economy, and tire wear.

In the News

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) Annual Meeting

Please plan to join us at the SARPC Annual Meeting planned for January 15th and 16th at the Grand Hotel at Point Clear. The annual meeting provides representatives of SARPC's thirty-two member governments as well as other interested citizens an opportunity to participate in a day and a half conference that features informative presentations and information exchanges on a variety of public policy issues confronting the South Alabama region. Please contact Ms. Grace Crawford or Ms. Paula McGlasker at (251) 433 – 6541 for further information.

2015 ANNUAL MEETING			
GRAND HOTEL MARRIOTT RESORT, POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA			
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015			
2:00 PM	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	10:00 AM	TRANSPORTATION SESSION <i>MR. VINCE CALAMETTI, DIVISION ENGINEER ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</i>
3:00 PM	FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING		
5:00 PM	REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN	11:00 AM	EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SESSION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE <i>Mr. Sydney Raine, Mobile Works Ms. Laura Chandler, SAWDC</i>
6:00 PM	PRE-DINNER RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT BY PHIL PROCTOR		
7:00 PM	DINNER / PROGRAM AWARDS PRESENTATION	12:00 PM	LUNCH BUFFET PLANNING SESSION TOURISM UPDATE & ECONOMIC IMPACT PRESENTATION <i>MR. HERB MALDINE, CEO GULF COAST VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU</i>
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015			
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	REGISTRATION CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	1:30 PM	WRAP-UP / CLOSING REMARKS STAFF CONSULTATIONS (IF NECESSARY)
8:30 AM	WELCOME <i>Mayor Tim Kant, City of Fairhope</i>		
	INSPIRATIONAL/MOTIVATIONAL WARM-UP <i>Dr. Ted Mashburn, University of Mobile</i>		
9:00 AM	AGING SESSION: <i>Lara Barber, MPP, Director Hunger Initiatives National Council on Aging</i>		

ALDOT Study Looks at Roundabouts at SR-158 and U.S. 45

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are studying a proposal to replace the signalized intersections of State Route 158 (New U.S. 98) on/off ramps at U.S. 45 with roundabouts (Project HSIP-0017(554)). ALDOT is investigating all aspects of this proposal in order to determine its feasibility. ALDOT is very much interested in the views of public officials and agencies concerning this proposed highway facility. Public input concerning the project's purpose, need, and alternatives is welcome. You may contact ALDOT Southwest Regional Office for further details.

Here's how to avoid GoDaddy Bowl traffic on Saturday and Sunday in Mobile

By [Angela Leyvins | alevins@al.com](mailto:Angela.Leyvins@al.com)

MOBILE, Alabama -- The **GoDaddy Bowl**'s revelry in Mobile could create some traffic headaches for drivers this weekend.

Saturday night plays host to downtown Mobile's first parade of 2015. [The Greer's/AL.com Mardi Gras parade](#) featuring NASCAR driver Danica Patrick as grand marshal rolls at 6:30 p.m.

Parade route:

- Start: Claiborne Street in front of Mobile Civic Center
- North then right on Government for three blocks
- North onto Conception St.
- Right at northwest corner of Bienville Square
- Right onto St. Francis St.
- North onto St. Joseph St.
- Right on St. Louis St. to Royal St.
- Ends at Royal and Church Streets

Following the parade there will AL.com plays host to a pep rally at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center. The pep rally will feature Arkansas State and Toledo's marching bands, cheerleaders, fans and alumni.

Mobile Police Public Information Officer Ashley Rains said that "Government between Water and Royal Streets will be closed for a little while due to foot traffic coming to the pep rally."

The closure will be about thirty minutes before and after the pep rally.

Fireworks will also burst in air starting at 8 p.m. over the Mobile River near the convention center, and then the street party begins.

Sunday, drivers can expect heavy traffic around Ladd-Peebles Stadium. The GoDaddy bowl kicks off at 8 p.m.

There is a shuttle available for gameday. Find out more by [clicking here](#).

Transportation Research

\$163 Billion Needed to Fix Nation's Aging Surface Transportation System

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) released the *2015 Bottom Line Report*, which estimates that the U.S. needs to invest \$120 billion in the nation's highway and bridge network and \$43 billion in America's public transportation infrastructure over the next 6 years. Currently, \$83 billion is invested in roads and bridges and \$17.1 billion in public transit. These investment needs are calculated based on an analysis of demand trends and current network performance. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

FHWA is offering an 8 hour workshop on the New FHWA Roadway Lighting Handbook.

The purpose of the event is for participants to learn about roadway lighting design and the requirements from the new Handbook. Presentations and discussion will focus on:

The Impact of New Solid State LED Lighting technology
Lighting Design Standards from the FHWA, AASHTO and the IES
Warranting and the Impact of Lighting on Roadway Safety
New Innovative approaches to Roadway Lighting Design

The workshop presenters will be:

Dr. Ronald Gibbons, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute,
Paul Lutkevich, Parsons Brinckerhoff and
Don McLean, DMD and Associates

Date/Time: January 20th, 1pm – 5pm,

January 21st, 8am to Noon

Questions? Joseph Cheung - FHWA Office of Safety

202-366-6994 Joseph.Cheung@dot.gov