



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, January 24th, 2014

Volume 9, Number

4

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It's Senior Bowl weekend, and it looks like it will be perfect football weather. This Tuesday is the special [general election for House District 104](#), so get out there and vote! **ALDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds have been announced**; please see *Funding Opportunities*. Speaking of funding, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has a new site that tracks the balance of the highway and transit accounts of the Highway Trust Fund. DOT projects the highway account will have a shortfall before the end of the fiscal year, when Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) expires. Click [HERE](#) for the ticker.

This week's *Just For Fun* is brought to you by Kevin's Great Grandfather-in-law....

Have a good weekend.

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



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

Mobile MPO Updates

Regional Climate Change Workshop, February 6th.

Over the past five years, the SARPC has been working in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on an in-depth U.S. DOT study exploring opportunities to increase resilience of Mobile's transportation system to climate change and extreme weather. The project, *Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure: The Gulf Coast Study, Phase 2*, involved identifying critical transportation systems, projecting the local impacts of climate change, developing scenarios for planning, evaluating vulnerability for key links and assets across all modes of transportation, and evaluating engineering options for adaptation.

Please join the Gulf Coast Phase 2 project team for a day-long workshop to discuss the implications of this study for the communities of the central Gulf Coast. During this workshop, we aim to:

- Share Mobile-specific findings from the study;
- Recount lessons learned during this in-depth analysis;
- Introduce tools and methodologies developed for the study that are designed for use across the country; and
- Host a working session to discuss how the findings of this study may inform your local resiliency planning efforts. The interactive working session will allow attendees to begin developing a plan for local action.

During this workshop, the project team will walk through a series of tools that were developed for the Gulf Coast 2 study. These tools will be available from the U.S. DOT for any agency to use for free, and include:

- **CMIP Climate Data Processing Tool:** An Excel-based tool for utilizing state-of-the-art climate model information in transportation planning. The tool pulls best available climate model information and translates outputs into terms that are relevant to decision makers (e.g., frequencies of extremes).
- **Vulnerability Assessment Scoring Tool:** This Excel-based tool serves as a framework for conducting a quantitative, indicator-based vulnerability screen. The tool is intended for state DOTs and MPOs interested in assessing how components of their transportation system may be vulnerable to climate stressors.

Register today! The workshop is February 6th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the GMO building in Mobile and will be open to the **first 40 registrants**. Registration includes a \$15 fee per person for lunch, which will be provided at the workshop. The fee should be paid in full at the time of registration to ensure that food can be ordered in advance.

Please register here <http://mobilempo.org/climatechange.html> and make checks payable to South Alabama Regional Planning Commission and send to Kevin Harrison at 110 Beaugard St. Suite 207, Mobile, AL 36602. To contact the U.S. DOT partner, you can reach Rob Hyman of FHWA at Robert.Hyman@dot.gov or (202) 366-5843.

Destination 2040

The initial Destination 2040 public meetings were held last week. We thank all of those who braved the cold temperatures and took the time to attend. At each meeting Kevin Harrison gave a short presentation on the planning process and afterwards participants were asked to visit stations set up around the room. There were stations addressing Highway, Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian, Congestion Management, and Socio-economic Forecasting. At each station, manned by a transportation planner, there were surveys pertaining to each category and maps were available for reference and for participants to indicate where they thought roads should be improved, bus routes should be, bike/ped facilities should be, where the most dangerous intersections were located, and where growth is likely to occur in next twenty-five years. The results of all of this public input will be incorporated in the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan and there will be more public meetings held in the coming year.

Of the public comments we received concerning highways, there seems to be slightly more comments favoring interchanges on Airport Boulevard rather than using Snow Road as an Arterial Loop. We received several comments pertaining to the bicycle element of the Destination 2040 LRTP, and others pertaining to growth projections and safety. There was a lot of positive feedback in our early outreach process.

<http://www.destination2040.org/>

Projects Within Region Let January 31st, 2014

BALDWIN COUNTY

- for constructing the Intersection Improvements (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Striping, Signing, and Signals) at SR-59 and CR-48 in Robertsedale. Length 0.356 mi.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-21 from 0.2 miles south of I-65 (MP 7.947) to the south abutment of the Little River Bridge. Length 10.760 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the Halls Mill Creek Bridge to the Pavement Joint at Pinehill Drive in Mobile. Length 5.203 mi.
- for constructing the Welcome Center Replacement (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Demolition, Building, Lighting, Landscaping, Sewer, and Lagoon Removal) on I-10 at the Alabama/Mississippi State Line.
- for constructing the Sidewalks and Crosswalks on 12th Avenue and Kansas Street in Chickasaw. Length 0.794 mi.

What's Under Construction?

Legislative Updates

GAO Report, Federal-Aid Highways

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) could further mitigate locally administered project risks. Many local officials that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) interviewed reported a variety of challenges experienced when administering federal-aid projects, but believe the benefits of federal funding for local infrastructure outweigh the challenges of complying with federal requirements. GAO was asked to review FHWA's oversight of locally administered projects and make recommendations. Read the summary [HERE](#) and the full report [HERE](#).

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) New Panel

T&I Forms New Panel: The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) will have a new special panel that will look into public-private partnerships and what role they can play in transportation projects. The *Panel on Public-Private Partnerships* will be chaired by Republican Rep. John Duncan and Democratic Rep. Michael Capuano.

Current and Former DOT Chiefs Issue Separate Warnings on Transportation Funding

BY [JIM WATTS](#)

JAN 23, 2014 3:27pm ET

DALLAS - The current U.S. transportation secretary and his predecessor on Thursday separately warned about the dangers of letting the Highway Trust Fund become insolvent on or before the end of fiscal 2014.

Anthony Foxx, the current secretary of the Transportation Department, called on America's local leaders to press Congress for a bipartisan solution to highway funding. "The Highway Trust Fund is teetering on the edge of

insolvency," he said in an address at the 82nd annual winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "The fund needs to be replenished in fiscal 2015, but we may go upside down before fiscal 2014 concludes."
"It's a serious problem," Foxx said. "The Highway Trust Fund may start bouncing checks as early as August."
[\[HERE\]](#)

U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx Outlines Transportation Vision Focused on Overcoming Infrastructure

Deficit: In a speech before the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting in Washington DC, Secretary Foxx outlined his top priorities for U.S. DOT, highlighting America's infrastructure deficit and identifying ways to use innovation and improved planning to stretch transportation dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible. He also discussed his vision for multimodal transportation providing greater economic "ladders of opportunity" to all Americans, and reiterated the Department's commitment to safety. Click [HERE](#) for the full briefing, and [HERE](#) for Secretary Foxx's speech.

House Chairman Wants Transportation Bill by August: House Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) said on Tuesday that he wants the House to pass a new transportation funding bill by August. "My hope is to get reauthorization done on time," Shuster said. "We hope to take committee action in the late spring or early summer with the goal to be on the House floor before the August recess. This way there will be time to conference our bill with the Senate's bill." The current funding bill expires in September. Witnesses strongly urged Congress to increase funding and pass a long term deal. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

Funding Opportunities

STATE TAP FUNDS

Deadline: May 2, 2014

Please be on the lookout for communication from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for the announcement and applications for the FY 2014 Transportation Alternates Program (TAP) funding. The TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

ALDOT TAP Funding applications can only come from ALDOT [\[HERE\]](#). The federal guidance on TAP funds is here: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

Please understand that each large Urban Area also receives TAP funds as well and will have a **separate TAP Funding application**. In Mobile, we will have a \$750,000 (fed+match) Program for fiscal year 2014. This includes remaining carryover that was not spent last year and our due date will be May 2, 2014 also. Applications for the Mobile Urban Area TAP are currently not available and will be in the next several weeks; we will keep you posted.

If anyone has any questions concerning TAP Funds, please call Kevin Harrison at 706-4635.

GRANT: U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Availability of \$24.9 Million to Put More Zero-Emission Buses into Service Across America

Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the availability of \$24.9 million through its brand new Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (LoNo) that will put a new generation of advanced, non-polluting transit buses on the road in communities nationwide. The funds are intended to encourage more widespread adoption of reliable "green energy" buses into transit fleets. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

GRANT: Projects to Improve Air Quality at Ports 2013 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Funding Opportunity

Deadline: February 13, 2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) is soliciting proposals that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure, from fleets operating at marine and inland water ports. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions include verified emission control technologies such as exhaust controls and engine upgrades, verified idle reduction technologies, certified engine repowers, and/or certified vehicle or equipment replacement. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

Resiliency funds available for resilience projects that is at risk of being damaged or destroyed by a future natural disaster

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of approximately \$3 Billion in

funds under the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program and the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013. This announcement solicits proposals for resilience projects – defined as those projects designed and built to address current and future vulnerabilities to a public transportation facility or system. This resilience funding is intended to protect public transportation infrastructure that has been repaired or rebuilt after Hurricane Sandy or that is at risk of being damaged or destroyed by a future natural disaster. These investments reduce the likelihood that U.S. taxpayers are asked to repair the same infrastructure after a future major storm or natural disaster. Furthermore, the activities funded under this notice will help strengthen and build more resilient communities to better withstand future disasters. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 was enacted on January 29, 2013, and provided \$10.9 Billion for FTA's Emergency Relief Program. FTA has previously allocated \$5.7 Billion for recovery and resilience projects to public transportation agencies impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Additionally, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 permits the Secretary to transfer up to \$5.383 Billion to other agencies to fund programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, in order to carry out resilience projects in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized the Emergency Relief Program. With the authorization of this program, Congress provided FTA with primary responsibility for Federal reimbursements for emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or major disaster that affects public transportation systems. The Emergency Relief Program allows FTA to make grants for eligible public transportation capital and operating costs in the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, that affects a wide area, including projects to protect public transportation assets from damage. Beginning in late October 2012, President Obama issued major disaster declarations for specified counties in the following States: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia as a result of the impacts Hurricane Sandy and its remnants. Providers of public transportation in the affected areas as defined by these Presidential declarations are eligible to apply for funding for public transportation resilience projects. This notice includes a description of eligible projects, the criteria FTA will use to identify projects for funding, and a description of how to apply for funding. This announcement is available on the FTA Web site at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov>. A synopsis of the funding opportunity will be posted in the FIND module of the government wide electronic grants Web site at <http://www.GRANTS.GOV>. FTA will announce final allocations in a **Federal Register** notice and on the FTA Web site.

Round 3 of the Implementation Assistance Program SHRP2:

Deadline: February 14, 2014

FHWA recently released the recipients of Round 2 grants and announced the schedule for rounds 3 and 4. These grants are intended to help transportation agencies deploy new products developed under the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2). If you would like additional information or have questions about the program, please contact Carin Michel, FHWA SHRP2 Implementation Manager at goSHRP2@dot.gov or 410-962-2530. [Click HERE](#) to read the release about the upcoming rounds.

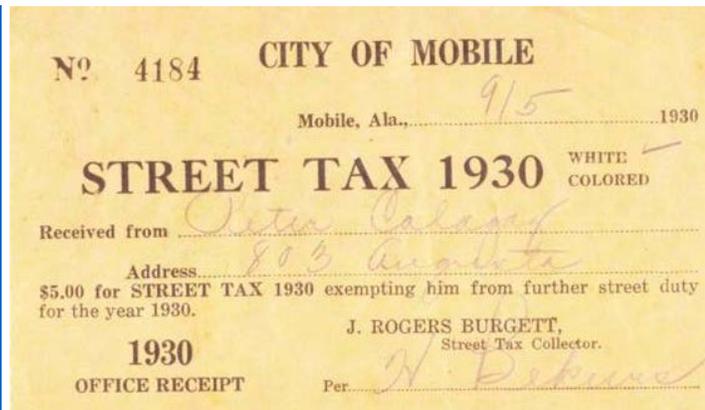
Economic Development Administration

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

EDA provides strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas of the United States. Under this FFO, EDA solicits applications from both rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. [Link to Additional Information: EDA's website](#) Please contact Diane Burnett of SARPC staff for questions 706-4621. Also, don't forget SARPC has a revolving fund loan program. <http://www.sarpc.org/rlf.asp> The RLF is a locally controlled source of capital used to finance small business start-up and expansion whose projects will create permanent jobs. By combining RLF and bank financing the borrower can realize an effective rate well below market rates.

Just For Fun

This week's *Just For Fun* is a blast from the past. Apparently, at some point in the history of the City of Mobile, there was a Street Tax. The only history we could find on the internet is the location of tax receipts from 1928-1930 for the City of Mobile Street Tax. If you were an able man between the ages of 21 and 45 and paid your \$5, you did not have to help build/clean the streets of Mobile. Interesting concept, but apparently it never...took to the streets



In the News

Launch of BicycleMobile.org provides a central place for biking related information for Mobile, AL

Mobile, AL - January 13, 2014

Introducing the launch of BicycleMobile.org ! A new website devoted to sharing information about Mobile's growing bicycle community. The website provides important information on current local bicycle related issues and petitions, volunteer opportunities, organized ride schedules, maps, and other bicycle-related resources.

John Blanton, a representative of Team Share the Road spearheaded the project. "We were looking for a way to encourage people to sign bicycle infrastructure petitions, and the idea transformed into a clearinghouse of all sorts of useful information about bicycling in and around Mobile," said Blanton.

Over the last several months Blanton and his team developed the site and gathered information from a variety of organizations and services to display on it. The team, composed of Blanton; local web developer, Jeff Mroz (jmroz.net); and bicycle advocate/media specialist, Ben Brenner (benbrenner.com), recognized the need for better coordination between bicycle organizations, environmental and advocacy non-profits, and the city. Brenner says, "Mobile has great potential to become a bicycle-friendly city. To get there, we need more people understanding the issues, signing petitions and volunteering their time. This website provides a convenient place to become involved in grassroots efforts to improve the quality of life in Mobile."

In addition to information for biking advocates, BicycleMobile.org has useful resources for anyone with a bike from those just starting out to those that ride hundreds of miles a week. Visitors can find local bike shops, safety guides, route maps, and information on biking groups and group rides.

Team Share the Road is a 501(c) (3) Non Profit Organization dedicated to promoting safe access to streets, roads, and highways for both Pedestrians and Cyclists.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bicyclemobile.org>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bicyclemobile>

[Click here: ? BicycleMobile.org - Studio10 - YouTube](#)

Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood acquires Kemp & Seagle Consulting Engineers

on January 23, 2014 at 10:02 AM, updated January 23, 2014 at 12:28 PM

The Executive Committee at Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. recently announced the firm's acquisition of Kemp & Seagle Consulting Engineers, Inc. (KSCE), a civil engineering company specializing in transportation design, civil site development and construction engineering inspection.

"The management and shareholders of GMC, Inc. are pleased to welcome Kemp & Seagle Consulting Engineers, Inc. into our firm," Executive Vice President David Reed said. "The experience and professionalism of Principals Bobby Kemp and Doug Seagle will serve as the basis for the much anticipated growth and expansion of our Transportation Division."

KSCE brings with them more than 50 years of combined experience providing design, development, construction and management of civil and transportation engineering projects for clients in the state, county, municipal and private sectors.

"Doug and I are very excited about joining the GMC team," Kemp said. [\[HERE\]](#)

West Mobile County Park Announces spring 2014 Sporting Programs

January 21, 2014

Everything old is new again, especially if you're an adult and can recall playing countless hours of kickball on the playground. Well, your chance to relive your glory days is here. The West Mobile County Park will launch its spring 2014 Kickball Program on March 10.

"This sport does not require a lot of outstanding athletic talent, it's great for exercise, meeting new friends, being active and having lots of fun," said Terri Mosley, Park Operation Coordinator for West Mobile County Park. She added "Once you play you will absolutely love playing."

The park is currently allowing teams to register. The squad can consist of a total of 10 players on the field and up to 20 players on the roster and anyone age 16 or older is welcome to play. Team fees are \$370.

Softball leagues for men, ladies, co-ed and church teams will also be offered in the spring. Softball fees for adult leagues range from \$185 to \$360. The league play begins in mid-March.

Players for both sports will have the luxury of playing on lighted fields. Other amenities at the park include picnic tables, a small playground, restrooms and concession areas.

To register your team for kickball or softball, call (251) 574-7275.

[View PDF](#)

Pedestrian Traffic Rerouted for Government Plaza Roof Work

January 21, 2014

Roof work on Government Plaza downtown will begin in earnest this week, requiring the closure of the east doors between Government Plaza and its Annex building, along with restrictions on pedestrian traffic in the main building.

The east entrance doors to Government Plaza will be closed Wednesday, January 22, and a crane will be set up outside the doorway. The driveway and the pedestrian area outside those doors will be cordoned off and no foot or vehicular traffic will be allowed.

Another important change will be implemented on Friday, January 31, when pedestrian traffic in Government Plaza will be strictly limited to designated walkways along the periphery of the Atrium for safety reasons. At the same time, jurors will be required to use the Government Street doors and the line-up into security will be confined to the areas in front of the doors.

Please find below a more detailed, preliminary schedule for roof work.

- January 21, 2014 – Roof work on the towers begins in earnest, but should not be disruptive.
- January 22, 2014 – Roof work that is more centrally located above the Atrium will start and the East entrance doors will be blocked and closed to pedestrians. A crane will be set up outside the east doors. The driveway as well as the pedestrian area outside the east doors will be cordoned off and no foot or vehicular traffic will be allowed.
- January 23, 2014 – This is the date in which materials will start to be brought to the roof (safety equipment, lumber for roof staging, etc.)
- January 27, 2014 – Staging will begin on roof (platform will be built, safety cable set-up, etc.)
- January 31, 2014 – Pedestrian traffic will be strictly limited to designated walkways in the Atrium, most along the periphery. Jurors will be required to use the Government Street doors and serpentine lines for them (as they wait to get through security) will be set up in front of the doorways.
- February 3, 2014 – Skylight demolition will begin

Transportation Research

Are you Curious how much bike and pedestrian infrastructure costs?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through its Active Living Research program, and the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center have developed a document that quantifies how much bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure costs around the country. You can download it [here](#).

"This document (and associated database) is intended to provide meaningful estimates of infrastructure costs by collecting up-to-date cost information for pedestrian and bicycle treatments from states and cities across the country. Using this information, researchers, engineers, planners, and the general public can better understand the cost of pedestrian and bicycle treatments in their communities and make informed decisions about which infrastructure enhancements are best suited for implementation. By collecting countrywide cost information, this database should contain useful information for any state or city, even if costs from that particular state or city are not included for a given treatment."

SDITE 2014 Annual Meeting in GA - Hotel filling up fast!

The Southern District ITE 2014 Annual Meeting is being held on March 30 - April 2 in Greensboro, GA at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge (Reynolds Plantation). For information on the meeting, visit www.sdite2014.org.

The hotel rooms at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge are actually filling up very fast, so if you are planning on attending the meeting, you will want to go ahead and reserve your hotel room very soon! Visit www.sdite2014.org and click on "Conference Hotel" at the top of the page, or simply click [here](#)

ITE 2014 Technical Conference and Exhibit

ITE is pleased to invite you to attend our 2014 Technical Conference and Exhibit, taking place March 9-12, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Miami, Miami, FL, USA. This is a not-to-be missed conference of 2014 for anyone in the transportation profession seeking to learn about how to address the critical topics in our industry and grow their professional skills.

This year's conference – ***Applying Innovation and Technology to Transportation*** - will focus on the challenges and opportunities of working with multidisciplinary teams to meet customer, community and political expectations for the creation of vibrant regions to safely live, commute, work, and play. The program will include plenary sessions from nationally recognized transportation and policy professionals as well as presentations, peer-to-peer exchanges, technology showcases and workshops focused on safety, design, operations and planning considerations.

The ITE 2014 Technical Conference and Exhibit delivers significant return on investment. Over four days, attendees will receive the immediately actionable tools and techniques and hear about latest industry trends and topics shaping and transforming the transportation landscape. As a focal point of the conference, the ITE Exhibit Hall showcases the latest technology, products, and services for the transportation industry. In addition, technical tours allow participants to see first-hand the practical application of some of the topics presented in the sessions. These technical tours are being finalized. Watch your inbox for an email update shortly.