



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Volume 9, Number 5

## In This Issue

- **MOBILE MPO UPDATES**
- **PROJECTS LET January 31, 2014**
- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
- **JUST FOR FUN**
- **IN THE NEWS**
- **TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH**

## Recently Completed Planning Studies

Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

## Contact Us

<http://www.mobilempo.org>

[transportation@sarpc.org](mailto:transportation@sarpc.org)

Kevin Harrison, PTP  
Director of Transportation  
[kharrison@sarpc.org](mailto:kharrison@sarpc.org)

Tom Piper  
Senior Transportation Planner  
[tpiper@sarpc.org](mailto:tpiper@sarpc.org)

Monica Williamson  
Transportation Planner  
[mwilliamson@sarpc.org](mailto:mwilliamson@sarpc.org)

We hope everyone is thawed out this morning after a crazy week of crazy climate. Speaking of climate, next week is the *last full meeting of the Mobile MPO Climate Change Work Group*, and a multi-state MPO workshop concerning the Climate Change study. Please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. Also ALDOT has released TAP Applications, please see *Funding Opportunities*.

We have had trouble with our email, so we apologize to those who have not received our Transportation Friday E-newsletter in the past couple of weeks. We think we have figured it out. If you are interested in seeing a previous newsletter that you might have missed, all of the MPO newsletters are archived [here](#) on our Mobile MPO webpage.

A BIG thank you to all counties, municipalities and ALDOT for the quick action on our roads this week. Have a good weekend.

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



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

## Mobile MPO Updates

### Climate Change Workgroup Meeting and Regional Climate Change Workshop

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. This study is coming to a close, and your input is needed one last time.

Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the SARPC Training room, will be the last meeting of the Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup. If you are on the at committee, or are just interested the study, please plan on attending.

The following day, Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 AM in the GMO Board Room will be a multi-state workshop geared towards MPO's and other public agencies 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.

Anthony Johnson  
Transportation Planner  
ajohnson@sarpc.org

South Alabama Regional  
Planning Commission  
110 Beauregard St  
Mobile, Alabama 36602  
(251) 433-6541

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.

The workshop is February 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the GMO building in Mobile and will be open to the **first 40 registrants**, *there are some spots still available*. 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 Beauregard 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](mailto:Robert.Hyman@dot.gov) or (202) 366-5843.

## Projects Within Region Let January 31<sup>st</sup>, 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

---

### State of the Union

President Obama delivered his fifth State of the Union address on Tuesday, though he made fairly scant mention of transportation or infrastructure issues in his speech. The President mentioned, again, his desire to reform corporate taxes and use the savings to increase transportation funding. He also pushed for Congress to complete surface transportation and waterways reauthorization this summer. Finally, he promised to act on his own to reduce bureaucracy and streamline permitting for certain projects, to speed up project delivery and get workers building more quickly. The full text of the speech is [HERE](#).

### Highway Trust Fund Shortage Could Slow Reimbursement Payments

The U.S. DOT may have to slow reimbursement payments to states for roads and bridge projects during the peak of construction season to avoid emptying the Highway Trust Fund. Peter Rogoff, the department's acting undersecretary for policy, said "based on the numbers we're seeing

coming out of the Treasury Department each month, we won't make it" to the end of the fiscal year.

---

#### **Members Call for Hearings to Address Highway Trust Fund**

Based on current spending and revenue trends, the U.S. DOT estimates that the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) will run out of cash before the end of this fiscal year, earlier than previous projections. Democrats on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee have written Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) requesting a hearing on the HTF and ways to fund it. The letter, signed by all 16 minority members of the committee, expresses concern regarding the consequences of an insufficient balance in the HTF to both transportation infrastructure and the economy as a whole. The letter is [HERE](#).

---

#### **New Five-Year Farm Bill Passes House**

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 251-166 to pass a new farm bill Wednesday morning. The bill would end direct federal payments to farmers and expand crop insurance programs while cutting funding for food stamps. The legislation is the first new comprehensive farm package since 2008. Up next is the Senate, where a vote is expected Monday. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) has said she wants to finish the bill no later than next Wednesday.

## 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: 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](#).

---

### **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](mailto:goSHRP2@dot.gov) or 410-962-2530. Click [HERE](#) to read the release about the upcoming rounds.

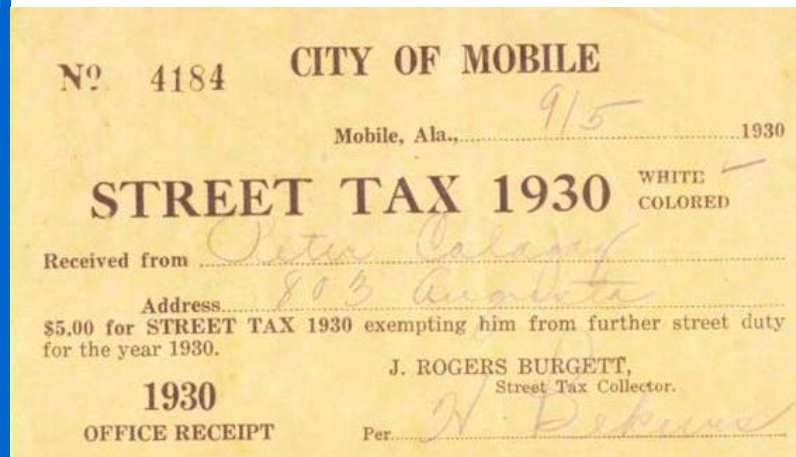
#### **Economic Development Administration**

<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/rf.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

Because we have had problems with sending out our newsletter, this week's *Just For Fun* is the same as last week. 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

### **Super Bowl dubbed 'first mass transit' game**

By Keith Laing

The upcoming National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl game in New Jersey on Sunday has been dubbed the "first mass transit" championship contest.

New Jersey Transit officials are encourage Super Bowl attendees to eschew driving to the championship game in favor of commuter trains that will carry them directly to Newark's MetLife Stadium.

"All of us at NJ TRANSIT have been working closely with the NY/NJ Super Bowl Host Committee to

help you get to the Big Game and other exciting Super Bowl Week activities with ease," the transit agency said in a statement on its website.

[Read More](#)

## 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](http://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](http://www.sdite2014.org) and click on "Conference Hotel" at the top of the page

---

### **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.