



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, July 18th, 2014

Volume 11, Number 2

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The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) will meet on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 and the Mobile MPO Policy Committee will meet on August 20th, see Mobile MPO Updates. ALDOT has a call for projects for the rural FTA 5310 funding and applications are due to SARPC August 14th, please see *Funding Opportunities*. Four years ago today, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill was coming to a close with the official capping of the well occurring on July 19th, 2010, see *In the News*.

Have great weekend

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



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

Mobile MPO Updates

The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) will meet on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Training Room at 110 Beauregard Street. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and include various projects into the FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Mobile MPO will vote on the recommendations by the TCC/CAC at a meeting on August 20, 2014 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room. Projects to be included into the TIP are:

Urban Transportation Alternatives Program Projects as proposed by the Mobile MPO:

- Mobile County, for construction of a sidewalk along Burroughs Lane from Washington Boulevard to Burroughs Elementary School; \$126,534 (fed)
- City of Mobile, for construction of sidewalks on the North side of Old Shell Road from the Springhill Shopping Center to the intersection of Old Shell Road and Myrtlewood Lane; \$161,015 (fed)
- City of Chickasaw, for construction of sidewalks on 2nd Street from Johnston Street to West Lee Street; \$136,392 (fed)
- City of Prichard, for construction of sidewalks on the Historic Whistler Street Area from N. Price Avenue to N. Shelton Beach Road; \$158,001 (fed)

Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Funds projects recommend for approval. The projects selected 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

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South Alabama Regional
Planning Commission
110 Bearegard St
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HSIP Funds

- ROW, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$208,000
- UT, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$48,048
- CN, Interchange modifications on US 45 at SR 158 to install roundabout design; \$1,248,000

Copies of the proposed fiscal year 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which details the federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Mobile urban area in FY 2015 by the Alabama DOT, the Wave Transit System, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, will be available for public review and comment next week at the following locations:

- South Alabama Regional Planning Comm., 110 Bearegard Street
- Alabama DOT, Division Engineer, 1701 N. Beltline Hwy., Mobile
- The Wave Transit System, 110 Bearegard Street
- Mobile Community Action, Prichard
- Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government Street, Mobile
- All Public Libraries within the study area
- All Public Housing Offices within the study area
- Mobile City/County Government Complex, 9th Floor, City Clerk's Office
- Prichard City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Chickasaw City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Saraland City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Satsuma City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Creola Town Hall, Clerk's Office
- Bayou La Batre City Hall, Clerk's Office
- Semmes City Hall, Clerk's Office

Comment forms are included with the documents at each location listed above. A copy of the documents may be purchased for a nominal copying fee from the Transportation Planning Coordinator at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, 433-6541. Written comments regarding the program are welcome prior to that date and should 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.

ALDOT HAS ANNOUNCED TAP GRANT AWARDS

Once again, the counties of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission has a great percentage of TAP applications to get funded. Statewide, about half of the applications that were submitted to ALDOT were funded and of the 42 applications funded, 9 applications were from cities within the SARPC region. That is over 20% of the State's awarded applications coming from our region. Congratulations to all that were awarded, and South Alabama!

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|--|--------------|---------------|
| • City of Robertsdale – Sidewalks - College Av., Fairground Rd | \$389,126.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Atmore – Sidewalks along AL 21 and Various Streets | \$400,000.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Chickasaw – West Grant Street Sidewalk | \$232,731.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Satsuma – Sidewalks along US 43 & Various Streets | \$364,426.40 | Federal funds |
| • City of Semmes – Sidewalks along US 98 & Various Streets | \$196,576.00 | Federal funds |
| • Town of Dauphin Island – Sidewalk Improvements | \$219,990.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Citronelle – Downtown Streetscape - N. Main Street | \$178,812.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Bay Minette – Sidewalks along Various Streets | \$218,100.00 | Federal funds |
| • City of Fairhope – US 98 & AL 104 Multi-Use Path | \$400,000.00 | Federal funds |

Destination 2040

The MPO Staff is continuing to develop the 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](#).

Mobile MPO's Transit Development Plan (TDP)

At the beginning of this fiscal year, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission hired the firm SARCOR to update the Mobile MPO's Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is a detailed five-year plan for implementation of new or revised transit services and a more general overview plan of projects which should be undertaken in the five to ten-year time frame. This TDP is not just for the WAVE Transit, but all of Mobile County. It will investigate transfers with BRATS, some form of a rural Mobile County system, and obviously evaluating existing WAVE routes and potential for future routes. The TDP is driven by surveys that have taken place at a variety of hot spots like the airport and downtown. The surveys are not just for existing riders, but future potential riders as well. This week SARCOR submitted a summary of route recommendations for the TDP for the final draft document. SARPC Staff is currently reviewing this draft document. Details will soon follow.

Projects Within Region Let July 25th, 2014

MOBILE COUNTY

for constructing the New Concrete Loading Ramp to include General Improvements to the Boat Docking Facilities for the Mobile Ferry Dock

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Deere Creek Road from the intersection of James Road to the intersection of Jones Road (Site #1) and on James Road from the intersection of Jones Road to the intersection of SR-3 (US-31) (Site #2). Length 1.969 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

Senate May Take Up House HTF Bill Next Week

With only two weeks until the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) becomes insolvent, U.S. Senate is acting on a bill the U.S. House of Representatives passed last week (see next article). Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) sent a "hotlining" request on the House bill, allowing for a unanimous consent agreement to bring the bill up for debate. If no Senators object, the bill could be on the floor early next week. Only five amendments would be allowed, including one from Sen. Boxer (D-CA) to shorten the duration of the extension and one by Sen. Lee (R-UT) related to devolution of the program. The underlying bill and all of the five amendments will require 60 votes to pass. If the underlying bill passes without amendment, the bill will go straight to the President. Click [HERE](#) for bill text.

President Announces *Build America Investment Initiative*

Yesterday, President Obama announced the launch of the *Build America Investment Initiative*, a new executive action intended to increase private investment in the nation's transportation system. As part of the initiative, the Administration will create the Build America Transportation Investment Center – housed at the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) – to encourage greater partnership between state and local governments, public and private developers, and investors seeking to implement innovative transportation financing tools. The center will include a "navigator service" that will provide support, advice, and expertise related to federal credit programs; improved access to U.S. DOT credit programs; technical assistance; and permitting assistance in an effort to

reduce delay. Click [HERE](#) for the White House fact sheet.

Funding Opportunities

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) has \$682,757 available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a grant program that develops community parks, trails and outdoor recreation projects. This program, through The U. S. Department of Interior, provides funding to Alabama cities and counties for the development or establishment of outdoor recreational areas. Projects include parks, playgrounds, forest and wildlife refuges, recreational lakes and ponds, outdoor playing fields, and picnic and camping areas. The deadline for the 2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund Pre-applications is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. If you have any questions, you may contact:

Maureen Neighbors
Community Services Unit Chief
Community and Economic Development Division
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue | Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Post Office Box 5690 | Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690
334.242.5467

More information and the grant application is available [HERE](#).

FY 2014-2015 SECTION 5310 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Modal Programs Bureau, is now accepting Applications for funding consideration through the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for transit related services that assist the state's population of seniors & individuals with disabilities.

The following organizations are eligible to submit an application for the Section 5310 program:

1. Private nonprofit organizations
2. Governmental agencies that provide certifications to ALDOT that transit services furnished by nonprofit organizations are not readily available in the area
3. Governmental agencies approved by the ALDOT to coordinate transit services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Applications are due to us (SARPC) by 5:00 PM August 14th, 2014. Applications and guidelines can be found [\[HERE\]](#)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA): Ladders of Opportunity Initiative Deadline August 4th.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces [\[HERE\]](#) the availability of prior year Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program discretionary funds for the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014.

FTA will make available approximately \$100 million from recoveries from the Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59 and prior authorizations. Additional recoveries or other unallocated program funding may result in additional funding for proposals submitted under this notice. This notice solicits proposals to compete for funding under the aforementioned program and initiatives, and includes the priorities established by FTA for these discretionary funds, the criteria FTA will use to identify meritorious projects for funding, and the description of how to apply for funding under these discretionary programs. This announcement is available on the FTA Web site at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov>.

A synopsis of this 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 selections on the FTA Web site and may also announce selections in the Federal Register.

DATES: Complete proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 4, 2014; all proposals must be submitted

electronically through the GRANTS.GOV APPLY function. Any agency intending to apply should initiate the process of registering on the GRANTS.GOV

2014 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program

Approx. Grant Amount: \$60,000

The DERA program provides public and/or private on-road and off-road diesel fleet owners and operators funding to help reduce diesel emissions within the State of Alabama. Reducing diesel emissions, such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter will help improve air quality and human health in Alabama. We would like to partner with fleet owners/managers to retrofit 2006 or older on-road diesel engines and 2009 or older off-road engines, with diesel emissions control devices and/or anti-idling systems.

Diesel Emissions Exhaust Control Devices and Anti-Idling Systems Used in Previous Projects:

- Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOC)
- Closed Crankcase Ventilation (CCV)
- ZTR Smartstart II (Locomotive Anti-idling System)
- Tri-Pac (Long Haul Truck Anti-idling System)
- Arctic Breeze (Long Haul Truck Anti-idling System)

All devices and systems must be EPA and/or CARB-certified.

Entities awarded funding under this program must secure vendors and contractors through a competitive bidding process required by the U.S. EPA and the State of Alabama.

Interested parties should contact:

Anthony Smiley	Dale Hurst
Office Number: 334-271-7803	Office Number: 334-271-7882
Email: asmiley@adem.state.al.us	Email: adh@adem.state.al.us

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2059

Just For Fun

Forget the Shortest Route Across a City; New Algorithm Finds the Most Beautiful

If you prefer beautiful routes over short ones, GPS mapping algorithms are of little use. But Yahoo researchers have come up with an approach that could change that. Check [THIS](#) out.

In the News

Gulf Oil Spill: Four Years Later

Jeff DeQuattro, the Nature Conservancy's Director of Restoration in the Gulf, reflects on restoration progress since the Gulf oil spill and what lies ahead for the Gulf.

Four years ago today, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill was coming to a close with the official capping of the well occurring on July 19th, 2010.

It was an obsession for many (including myself), who watched as millions of gallons flowed, unfettered into the Gulf of Mexico and threatened our way of life. The situation has turned into an enormous call to action, that four years later, we're still dedicated to making sure what we have now is not lost. With or without spill fines, we are at a point where our chances for saving this gem are running out. [Q&A with Jeff DeQuattro](#).

EIS for Mobile River Bridge Delayed

Yesterday Channel 15 news (WPMI) reported that the federal government is delaying the release of an environmental impact study into a proposed I-10 bridge over the Mobile River. A spokesperson for the Federal Highway Administration said a comment period was extended, causing the delay. Federal officers are now finalizing the impact study before releasing it. For more information click [HERE](#).

Cyclists peddling for action on area's transportation plan

By: **CHELSEA WALLACE** | Lagniappe, July 9, 2014

It's an all-too-familiar sight for drivers in Mobile: a bicyclist riding at the edge of the road or, at times, in the center turn lane of a major thoroughfare. Traffic backs up without room for cars to skirt cautiously around the cyclist, and everyone's nerves get a nice jangle until the moment passes. The cyclist remains braced for the continued onslaught of close-driving cars while automobile drivers may bemoan bikers blocking the road.



Photo/Chelsea Wallace

Mobile's only designated bike lane is a .8-mile stretch along Hillcrest Road.

But for the most part, cyclists remain slaves to the existing infrastructure – or lack thereof.

“Mobile is, for a city this size, an ideal place to be biking. The distance from, say, beyond Schillinger and Cottage Hill to downtown is a reasonable distance to do. It's not a reasonable ride though, and it could be,” biking enthusiast Scott Carter, a professor of mathematics at the University of South Alabama said.

Carter and many other bikers in the city often bike in an unsafe or unfriendly environment in an effort to enjoy what is otherwise a peaceful, healthy pastime. Though many claims have been made that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the city will be improved upon and expanded, the question remains: when?

A not-so-fun fact to begin with: according to a recent study from Smart Growth America, an organization aimed at making “America's neighborhoods great together,” Mobile leads the state in pedestrian deaths, with pedestrians making up an astounding 18.1 percent of traffic fatalities between 2003 and 2012.

Mobile isn't the only city to blame, though. A highway safety plan prepared for the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that nine Alabama cyclists were killed in 2012 alone, the most cycling deaths since 2007. In addition, the Alabama Department of Transportation reports that cycling injuries in traffic collisions steadily increased between 2009 and 2012, with more than 200 injuries statewide in both 2011 and 2012.

What about Mobile endangers pedestrians and cyclists? What could possibly account for these numbers? The lack of bike paths and lanes throughout the city certainly does, with a whopping one designated bike lane in the entire city.

The Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) compiled the Mobile County Bicentennial Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in October 2011. One of the maps included in the study shows that there exists less than a mile's worth of designated, marked bike lane within the Mobile city limits: the 0.8-mile stretch of Hillcrest Road between Airport Boulevard and Old Shell Road.

In addition, the study revealed that a review of county maps indicates that more than 50 percent of Mobile County roads have no sidewalks, also noting that "sidewalk connectivity [is] virtually nonexistent outside of the older sections of Mobile." Not that sidewalks do much good for cyclists anyway, considering the Code of Alabama prohibits any vehicle from accessing the sidewalk – bicycles included.

The dangers of biking on Alabama's streets has been discussed before. In 2011, Lagniappe writer Shannon Donaldson wrote that Alabama ranked 47th in the nation in a report by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). In 2014, Alabama landed at the bottom, ranking 50th in the nation in areas of general bike friendliness. Out of 100 possible points regarding legislation, policies, infrastructure, education and planning, Alabama received 17.4 points, with no score higher than two (out of 10) in any category, receiving an F on LAB's bike friendliness "report card."

There are several groups in Mobile wanting to change the cycling landscape and improve Alabama's dismal scores. BicycleMobile.org founder Ben Brenner originally started the website with a handful of partners to help consolidate information about local biking, such as charity and group rides. Part of the site's mission now includes spreading information about bike safety and how the city can improve the safety of its infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.

"If you look at the roads that have been repaved, roads that have been widened, how intersections have been put together, it's been 100 percent about traffic flow and how do we get people in cars going as fast as they can to their destination. What we've seen in other cities is that this is a horrible trend and causes these pedestrian deaths, it causes bicycle deaths, it causes people to be afraid to get out and walk," Brenner said.

Attempts have been made to account for pedestrians and cyclists. In 2011, the city passed a Complete Streets policy, a growing national campaign that encourages – but does not mandate – officials to take pedestrians and cyclists into account when planning and designing city streets.

"Our Complete Streets policy ... has no teeth. You only have to consider it. It's not required like in other cities," Delta Bike Project founder Jeff DeQuattro said. "It's not very safe to ride on the roads [in Mobile], it's that simple."

So loose is the Complete Streets policy that the aforementioned LAB "report card" did not even acknowledge the policy. Out of 10 "top signs for success" on which LAB evaluates each state, Alabama has but five, not including the weak Complete Streets protocol.

Tom Piper, senior transportation planner within the MPO, explains that the need has been noted and steps are underway to improve the situation. Every five years, the MPO conducts a long-range transportation plan to study what issues need addressing. The Bicentennial Master Plan mentioned before came from the most recent plan meeting in 2011. After writing that plan, the committee realized that the focus needed to shift, and shift quickly.

"We realized that there was a prolific, growing interest in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the area. There's not a lot here right now, but there are certainly a lot of

people wanting to see it develop,” Piper said.

Piper explained the MPO’s current plan to commission a study focused solely on the “walkability/bikability” of downtown Mobile. Come October, MPO will hire a consulting agency to carry out the study over an estimated six months to a year. “We do recognize this [limited bikability] to be a critical need that needs to be addressed, so we’re trying to put something together, but it’s very preliminary at this point,” Piper said.

Should this estimate hold true, the results of the study may not be back until almost 2016, not allowing any plans or changes to be made until even later. However, without having hired a consulting firm to conduct the study, the time estimates may not be exact. So, what’s a Mobilian cyclist to do for the next two years, minimum?

To start, Brenner suggests signing a petition to include biking and pedestrian infrastructure on the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge, which would allow cyclists to cross the bay. Sponsored by the Mobile Bicycle Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, the petition currently has nearly 3,000 signatures with an ultimate goal of 10,000. (There is a link to the petition on BicycleMobile.org).

Brenner explains that after the results of an environmental impact study (EIS) have been released, a 45-day public comment period opens up, during which time the petition will be presented.

“Once that public comment period is up, the bridge is kind of on its own. There’s really very little chance of changing anything in the plans of the bridge. We have a short period of time, and that EIS has been delayed and delayed. We’re expecting it any day,” Brenner said.

Cost also plays a huge role in deciding which city projects become full-baked realities and which ones stay indefinitely simmering on the back burner. The UNC Highway Safety Research Center published a study in October 2013 entitled “Costs for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Infrastructure Improvement.” The report compiles information from hundreds of cities and states around the country to provide “meaningful estimates of infrastructure costs.” According to the study, paved bike lane could cost an average of \$133,170 per mile while a paved multi-use path set apart from the roadway could average \$481,401 per mile.

In the meantime, Piper encourages Mobilians to be patient and respect cyclists on the road while the city works to improve infrastructure for everyone.

“A lot of people don’t realize this, that a cyclist has just as much right to be on the road as a car, and there’s a lack of awareness of what it would be for the community to have these facilities. It makes it more livable, safer when you have these facilities,” he said.

With improved infrastructure, many – including Brenner, DeQuattro, and Carter – believe that biking will pick up even more popularity around the city. “Livable cities are cities where you can walk if you choose, or bike if you choose. It’s a fun and it’s a worthwhile activity,” Carter said.

The WAVE Transit is Hosting the 2014 Transit Awareness Day Celebration.



SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00p.m.
PLATEAU COMMUNITY CENTER 850 EDWARDS STREET, MOBILE, ALABAMA

Transit Vehicle Showcase, Vendors, Face Painting, Balloons, Music and FREE Refreshments!!!

Scheduled Activities Include:

Exhibition Basketball Games featuring Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Mobile Patriots Wheelchair Basketball Team & Others!!!!

For more information call 251-344-6600 or visit www.thewavetransit.com

The Alabama Department of Transportation's Compliance and Business Opportunities Bureau Presents a Series of Informational Sessions on Title VI-Nondiscrimination Sub-Recipient Responsibilities (August 6th, 2014)

As a recipient of US Department of Transportation (USDOT) financial assistance, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is committed to promoting fairness and equity in federally assisted programs and activities.

In August and September of this year, ALDOT will present a series of informational sessions to outline the basic Civil Rights responsibilities of all ALDOT sub-recipients (and future sub-recipients) of Federal financial assistance to include emphasis on ***Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.***

Please click [HERE](#) for the date and time an informational session will be held in your area. Any questions or comments regarding these sessions may be directed to ALDOT's Title VI Coordinator, **Mr. Cornell Tatum at (334) 213-1274 or TatumCL@dot.state.al.us.**

Transportation Research

Your Input is Needed

ADECA's Community and Economic Development Division is seeking your input with a couple of surveys. Notice a need in your community or notice barriers to fair-housing choice? Here is your chance to give your input via online survey. The surveys will be available until August 1, 2014. Each survey should take 10 minutes or less.

Community Needs Survey: This survey's goal is to identify needs in Alabama communities of all sizes that may be addressed by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that are made available to the state annually. The survey results will be incorporated into the five-year consolidated plan for CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds that are available to the state and managed by ADECA's Community and Economic Development Division.

[Click here to take the Community Needs Survey.](#)

Survey of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice: The goal of this survey is to identify barriers and adverse policies that may exist in home rentals and sales. Part of the study includes collecting the opinions and experiences of people involved in the housing industry and of housing consumers. The survey results will be included in a statewide "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice" required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

[Click here to take the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Survey.](#)

Wetlands Compliance Workshop

The next Wetlands Compliance Workshops are scheduled and registration is open. Mobile County will have theirs on Thursday, July 31 and Baldwin County will take place on Tuesday, August 19. These workshops serve to guide professionals involved in land use issues and to provide current and accurate information on issues dealing in wetland regulation, permitting, and compliance regulations. The cost to attend is \$30 and after completing the full course, you will receive a certificate of CEU.

The Mobile Workshop will be at the Mobile Area Association of Realtors and the Baldwin Workshop will be at the Weeks Bay Reserve Resource Center. [Click here](#) to register for your workshop and you can [click here](#) for a brochure with full information on who is presenting, subjects being covered, and other details.

Combined Intelligence - Working Together for Smarter Transportation

In September of 2014 the Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society (GRITS), the Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida (ITSFL) and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia (ITSGA), will come together for a joint annual meeting. Join us in 2014 for the ITS 3C Summit.

ITS 3C Summit

The conference will be held **September 14-17, 2014** at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center along the waterfront in Mobile, Alabama.

Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center

One South Water Street

Mobile, AL 36602

Passenger Rail Study

A feasibility study regarding the restoration of passenger railroad service between Birmingham and Montgomery is now complete. The study examines the costs, benefits and projected ridership for a variety of potential routes and schedules and was completed with input from local officials and a survey of residents.

 [Click here to read the full study.](#)