



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, July 25th, 2014

Volume 11, Number 3

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Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

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In case you missed it, the Draft EIS for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge has been approved by the FHWA [\[HERE\]](#); please see in the News

The 45 day period begins. Stay tuned for ALDOT meeting dates and document availability....

ALSO, we just got data in from **cell phone capture on the Bayway** for July 2, 2014; please see Mobile MPO updates.

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*.

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

WHO IS ON THE BAYWAY?

We just received (this morning) data from [Airsage](#) that gives us a look at who was on the Bayway and Causeway on July 2. If you recall we did this on November 13th, 2013 which was a typical Fall Wednesday. We are calling July 2 a typical Summer Wednesday. Since we just received that data, we have not had time to massage it into a map, but generally of the cell phones captured, 27% live in Baldwin County, 29% live in Mobile County, which leaves 44% of the folks on the Bayway were from all over the country (A lot of AL, TX, LA, FL and a few surprises). Not surprisingly, that number (44%) was a lot less in November (28%).

MPO and TCC/CAC Meetings

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 Beaugregard 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:

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

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

We were going to include the FY2014 TAP grant awards into the TIP scheduled for 2015, but ALDOT does not have them scheduled to let until 2016. They will be included in the TIP when the new 2016-2020 TIP is adopted next year.

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, are available for public review and comment at the following locations:

South Alabama Regional Planning Comm., 110 Beauregard Street
Alabama DOT, Division Engineer, 1701 N. Beltline Hwy., Mobile
The Wave Transit System, 110 Beauregard 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!

| | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| • 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

Congressional Activity Advances for Short-Term HTF Fix:

Early next week, the U.S. Senate will begin debate on H.R. 5021, which provides a funding patch for the HTF. H.R. 5021 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 16, and would provide an additional \$11 billion to keep the HTF solvent until May 31, 2015. Without a patch, U.S. Department of Transportation has indicated that it would be forced to reduce and delay reimbursements for projects beginning August 1.

Under the Senate agreement, there will be two hours of general debate, in addition to consideration of four amendments with an hour of debate for each. The amendments – which will require 60 votes to pass – include a devolution proposal and a change that would force action during the "lame duck" session of Congress after the election. If none of the amendments are accepted and the underlying bill passes – which will require just a simple majority vote – it will be ready for the President's signature. Any change to the bill will send it back to the House.

The bill is expected to pass, but previous bipartisan support for proposals that would reduce the funding and duration of the bill indicate that an amendment is possible. With only a few days remaining until insolvency, this would require quick agreement between the chambers and new votes in each.

Vice President on Rebuild America:

As Congress considers a \$10.9 billion funding patch for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), Vice President Joe Biden made the case for a long-term extension of federal transportation funding on Wednesday. In a five minute video posted on the White House website, Biden used the White House's "white board" to discuss the history and importance of the nation's highways and the funding that made them possible. He stated that while it's good that Congress is most likely going to prevent the HTF from becoming insolvent with a short-term fix, a long-term solution is absolutely necessary and is the best way forward for our nation's infrastructure and for the people, communities, and businesses connected to it. This video comes as both the President and the Secretary of Transportation have been publicly urging Congress to pass a long-term bill right away.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/rebuild-america> for video.

Senate Confirms Two Transportation Nominees:

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nominations of Victor Mendez to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Peter Rogoff to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, both by voice vote.

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](#).

Also, there are more funding opportunities from the ADECA Energy Division are listed below. All proposals are due by Friday, September 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Eligibility should be verified before submitting a proposal.

1. [Energy Codes Training RFP](#)
Soliciting proposals from qualified applicants to provide training on the statewide commercial and residential energy codes
2. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of K-12 Schools RFP](#) [Addendum A \(K-12 Schools\)](#)
Soliciting proposals from public school systems in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements in K-12 schools located within their jurisdiction
3. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Non-Profit Organizations RFP](#) [Addendum A \(Non-Profit Organizations\)](#)
Soliciting proposals from non-profit organizations in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to their buildings
4. [Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Wastewater Treatment Facilities](#) [Addendum A \(Wastewater Treatment Facilities\)](#)
Soliciting proposals from wastewater treatment facilities in Alabama for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient improvements to wastewater systems.

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](http://www.GRANTS.GOV) APPLY function. Any agency intending to apply should initiate the process of registering on the [GRANTS.GOV](http://www.GRANTS.GOV)

Just For Fun

A couple of skateboard wheels, a pallet, and you are using public transit for free. Probably not legal, but very clever. I would try this in New Orleans, but San Francisco, no way!



In the News

Draft of Interstate 10 Bridge study welcomed, but prompts more questions about funding



By [Michael Finch II | mfinch@al.com](mailto:mfinch@al.com)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 22, 2014 at 5:48 PM, updated July 22, 2014 at 11:58 PM

MOBILE, Alabama -- While many will welcome the much-awaited study of the Interstate 10 bridge, the

highest hurdle to clear may be just before the massive project: funding.

The idea has some scratching their heads, wondering how to pay for the structure.

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration released the draft version of the long-awaited environmental impact study, a document that details the bridge's potential impact on the current maritime, historical and environmental surroundings.

Funding to replace bridges often calls for an 80-20 split between the state and federal government, letting the federal government pick up the larger end of the tab.

An estimate of the cost to build the I-10 Bridge is about \$850 million, but it's not considered a bridge replacement, said Vince Calametti, chief engineer with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

"Bridge projects typically come out of our normal federal allocations," Calametti said. "This is going to be difficult to fund -- it's almost going to be impossible to fund out of our normal budget appropriations because quite frankly it's more than one year's worth of appropriations."

In 2013, the transportation department received about \$480 million in state funds and about \$733 million from the federal government.

"It's going to have to be really looked at -- hard," Calametti said. "Our primary goal right now is to get us to a place where we can start looking at the funding and this is one of the big steps with this draft EIS."

There's no clear timeline yet for the project, but U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne estimated it could take as little as 6 years to build.

The selection of the so-called "B prime" location was favored because it proposed a minimal impact on the many areas the study reviewed. But no option is off the table.

The preferred route will begin at Virginia Street, crossing over the Mobile River just south of the Mobile Cruise Terminal. It would move across Pinto Island and merge in the center of a widened bayway and in to Daphne.

Residents will be allowed to voice their opinions or concerns about the project at a pair of public meetings in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Dates for those meetings have not yet been decided, but many questions still loom.

"There is going to have to be a decision made on a bicycle pedestrian facility (and) whether that will be included on the bridge or not," Calametti said.

There will also be more consultation with historic preservation groups. The National Environmental Policy Act requires the agency to address each of the comments.

Lots of good articles from John Sharp at AL.com keeping a close eye on the Draft EIS on the bridge:

http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2014/07/governor_excited_about_i-10_br.html

http://www.al.com/news/mobile/index.ssf/2014/07/rep_bradley_byrne_hopeful_i-10.html

http://www.al.com/news/mobile/index.ssf/2014/07/i-10_bridge_support_coming_fro.html

http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/07/which_will_happen_first_a_new.html

http://www.al.com/news/mobile/index.ssf/2014/07/do_you_agree_with_mobiles_supp.html

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.**

SEPTEMBER Multi-state Passenger Rail Meeting IN NEW ORLEANS

This afternoon, representatives from the Southern Rail Commission held a conference call with staff members of the Federal Railroad Administration to discuss and initiate formal coordination for a multi-state passenger rail meeting. The meeting will be primarily sponsored by the SRC.

Where: New Orleans Regional Planning Commission offices. 10 Veterans Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70124

When: September 18th, 2014 (this year – 57 days from now)

Time: 10am to 2pm (tentative)

Agenda topics will tentatively include:

SRC will lead discussion regarding gulf coast passenger rail service restoration from New Orleans to Orlando

FRA will lead workshop/discussions on their recently announced funding for multi-state planning and ways to jointly apply for this funding.

Opportunities for individual states to share their rail planning, and discuss their opportunities and plans to connect with neighboring states

Invitees: To include key mayors from our gulf coast route, DOT representatives from each state, and Regional Planning Commissions from key cities that are actively working on rail projects.

States involved: - Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee

Sponsor opportunities: The Southern Rail Commission is the major sponsor, along with the

FRA, and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission.

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.