



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, June 14, 2013

Volume 6, Number 11

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Recently Completed Planning Studies

Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

Mobile County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

Click Here to see when and where federal and state projects will be happening in your area.

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Friday, June 28th is the deadline for both the State's and Mobile MPO TAP grant Applications, so we're getting down to the wire if you are seeking those funds. Remember, you can only apply for one project to the State. Speaking of applications, The US DOT announced this week it had received 568 TIGER applications for the \$474 Million that was available. Those 568 applications were over \$9 Billion! Please see *Legislative Updates*. There is a HOT topic in the *Just For Fun*, check it out.

Happy Flag Day, and if you get a chance do yourself a favor this weekend and go to Foley for the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival [\[HERE\]](#)

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

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Mobile MPO Updates

At the MPO meeting on June 5, all resolutions passed, including the resolution to recommend to the Department of Transportation that bicycle and pedestrian facilities be included on the future Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge or that if deemed unfeasible that mitigation alternatives to crossing the river be included in the Environmental Impact Statement. This resolution along with all comments, letters, and petition the MPO has received will be formally submitted to ALDOT during the upcoming comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which should take place later this year.

Today the Draft 2014 Unified Planning Work Program was submitted to ALDOT for FHWA, FTA and ALDOT final review. Once final comment is received, the document will be out for public review at 40 locations around the study area, and adopted by the MPO in August.

TAP FUNDING APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Mobile MPO is now accepting applications for the Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funds, *Please see Funding Opportunities below*. These TAP funds are the previously Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails and the Transportation Enhancements programs. [Please SEE HERE](#) for the TAP process. The deadline for the Mobile MPO TAP funds **AND** ALDOT's TAP funds is June 28th. If you need help, please let us know.

Projects Within Region To Be Let June 28, 2013

BALDWIN COUNTY

for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing, Bike Lane Addition, and Traffic Stripe on CR-4 (Cotton Creek Drive) from the intersection of SR-59 to Cotton Creek Bridge in Gulf Shores. Length 2.262 mi.

for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Bayview Drive and Ridgewood Drive East of North Main Street in Daphne. Length 1.894 mi.

for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-71 (College Avenue) over Rock Creek in Robertsdale. Length 0.183 mi.

for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-42 (US-98) from SR-104 (MP 43.685) to CR-98 (MP 52.241) in Barnwell. Length 8.555 mi.

for constructing the Widening (Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave) on SR-181 from south of CR-48 to south of CR-30 in Fairhope. Length 1.188 mi.

MOBILE COUNTY

for constructing the Access Improvements (Widening and Lighting Relocation) on the Service Road south of the Bankhead Tunnel going onto SR-16 (US-90/98) in Mobile. Length 0.123 mi.

Legislative Updates

U.S. Senate Commerce Committee Announces New Subcommittee Chairs: Chairman Rockefeller (D-WV) [announced](#) that

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) will assume the Chairmanship of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation.

U.S. DOT Nominee Advances Out of Committee: The nomination of Mayor Anthony Foxx for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [passed](#) out of Committee 23-0.

Senate Appropriations Committee Holds Hearing on the State of the Nation's Infrastructure: In the wake of the bridge collapse over the Skagit River in Washington State, Chairman Murray (D-WA) held an [oversight hearing](#) on the state of the nation's infrastructure.

U.S. House Science Committee Holds Hearing on EPA Air Quality Regulations: The U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology held a [hearing](#) to examine the feasibility of meeting lowered federal air quality standards.

U.S. DOT Receives 568 Applications for TIGER Funds: The U.S. DOT [announced](#) this week that it had received 568 applications for the \$474 million that will be awarded through the most recent round of National Infrastructure Grants, or TIGER grants.

FHWA Releases Interim CMAQ Guidance: The U.S. FHWA issued [Interim Guidance on CMAQ Operating Assistance](#).

Funding Opportunities

Applications now Available for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): ALDOT AND URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS

ALDOT TAP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

ALDOT has announced the release of their application process; applications are due to the State by June 28th. Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for the TAP funding, and the Alabama Department of Transportation has mailed the application to each city and county in the SARPC region. ALDOT TAP Applications are only available at ALDOT. If you are a city or county and have not received an application, please let us or ALDOT know. Mr. Cecil Colson is the program manager for the TAP funds; his phone number is (334)353-6403.

MOBILE URBAN AREA APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

The application the Mobile MPO Transportation Alternative Program Funds is **available** [\[HERE\]](#) and due to the SARPC by 5:00 PM, June 28th. You must be a municipality within the Mobile Urban Area or Mobile County to apply for these funds. Eligible Activities are:

*If you are a city within the Mobile MPO or Mobile County, and have a project in mind, it is possible to apply for the Mobile MPO TAP funds, **AND** the ALDOT Statewide TAP funds. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Just For Fun

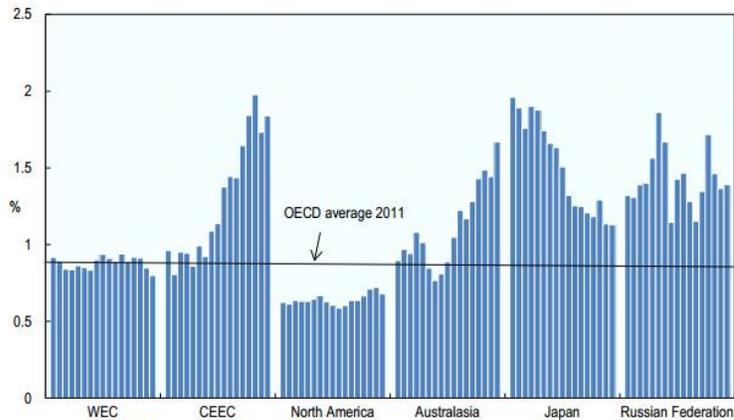
It is already June and it's **hotter than a two dollar pistol**. But what effect does that have on travel? Is it ever too hot for airplanes to fly? There have been cases where planes have been grounded due to temperature [\[HERE\]](#). However, there is a study out that suggested that on 9/11, when all of the airplanes in the world were grounded, something astonishing happened. Since there were no contrails in the sky, the earth got 2 degrees hotter. [\[HERE\]](#)



In the News

Despite the amount of TIGER applications that were submitted, there seems to be a disparity on how much is spent on infrastructure in the US. The latest estimates indicate a slight growth in investment as a share of GDP, reaching 0.7% since 2009. These changes are, however, marginal and the investment share of GDP has remained relatively constant both in Western European countries and North America. [\[HERE\]](#)

Figure 2. Investment in inland transport infrastructure by region 1995-2010
(as a percentage of GDP, at current prices and exchange rates)



Source: International Transport Forum at the OECD.

Gator Alley in Daphne

Gator Alley / Eastern Shore Trail will be closed from the North side of I-10 to South of the Welcome Center (Overlook) until further notice. This closure is due to drainage repairs. You will be notified once the repairs have been completed and the walkway is reopened. Contact: Public Works Department 621.3182

Bicycle Tourism

Some regions are preparing for bicyclists to be the next wave of tourists in their region. Click [HERE](#) to see what one region is doing to help promote bicycle tourism in their community. Just imagine a three day bike tour in our region...Dauphin Island, the Eastern Shore, and Fort Morgan...and that is just a few of the areas. There are many more possibilities.

The Magnificent Bioswales & Stormwater Treatment Along the Indy Cultural Trail

by [Clarence Eckerson, Jr.](#), on June 11, 2013 | 1,520 Plays

Click [HERE](#) to view the video.

Many American cities are growing to the idea that they need to do a much better job handling their stormwater runoff at ground level. In Indianapolis, they decided to not only do that but significantly green the city along its newly opened [Cultural Trail](#). The 8 mile separated biking and walking route loops thru the heart of the downtown and as you'll see in this short (expanded from our larger work) Karen S. Haley, the Executive Director of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, tells us a little about the substantial and verdant bioswales they installed. Imagine if these became standard for roads in some vulnerable-to-storms- U.S. cities?



[Clarence Eckerson, Jr.](#), has been making fantastical transportation media in NYC since the late 1990s. He's never had a driver's license and never will.

PBIC News Brief

News from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center



June 12, 2013

Free Webinar on ITE Recommended Practices for Accommodating Pedestrians and Bicyclists at Interchanges

CHAPEL HILL, NC — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) is pleased to announce the next free Webinar in its Livable Communities Webinar Series:

ITE Recommended Practices on Accommodating Pedestrians and Bicyclists at Interchanges

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

To register, please visit: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/965985402>.

This webinar will present the draft Recommended Practice soon to be released by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) on Accommodating Pedestrians and Bicyclists at Interchanges.

The membership of the ITE Pedestrian and Bicycle Council (PBC) has long recognized concerns regarding pedestrian and bicyclist safety at interchanges as a key barrier to increasing the walk and bike mode shares in our transportation networks. While some local and regional jurisdictions have already developed interchange design guidance to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists, currently a collection of best practices is not available in the U.S. or Canada. In response, the PBC initiated a series of interactive workshops over three years to discuss interchange design issues and opportunities with regard to pedestrian and bicyclist safety and

accommodation. These workshops focused on the following types and aspects of interchanges:

1. On-ramps
2. Off-ramps
3. Single-point urban interchanges (SPUIs)

The purpose of this report and webinar is to summarize the recommendations from these workshops to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and accommodation at interchanges. The guidelines identify specific dimensions, safety features, signage, pavement markings, design geometries and other treatments. These best practices may provide insight into future updates of statewide or federal Highway Design Manuals.

Speakers include Matthew Ridgway, principal with Fehr & Peers; Meghan Mitman, associate at Fehr & Peers; and Mariana Parreiras, senior transportation planner/engineer, with Fehr & Peers.

PBIC offers free, public Webinars approximately every month. To register for upcoming Webinars and to access archived presentations, please visit www.walkinginfo.org/webinars.

NTI Webinar on Estimating Rural Transit Demand: July 23

On July 23, 2 - 3:30 p.m., the National Transit Institute (NTI) will present a webinar on the Transit Cooperative Research Program Report 161 Methods for Forecasting Demand and Qualifying Need for Rural Passenger Transportation.

Register for the free webinar at www.ntionline.com.

Transportation Research

The **U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** released, [*Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2012*](#), a fact sheet summarizing statistical projections of traffic fatalities in 2012.

Bloomberg has [*reported*](#) that delays at the U.S.-Mexico border crossings are costing the U.S. economy \$7.8 billion in 2011 and could reach \$14.7 billion annually by 2020 if growth continues as predicted. While *Bloomberg's* analysis focuses primarily on the immigration implications, the article does discuss the implications for truck crossing delays and their impact on the U.S. economy.

The **Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP)** released, [*Freight Data Sharing Guidebook*](#), which provides a series of guidelines for sharing freight data, primarily between public and private freight stakeholders. It also identifies barriers to successful data sharing, offers guidelines and examples for freight data sharing, and provides two successful case study examples.

The **U.S. FHWA** released, [*Public Roads May/June 2013*](#), which highlights developments in federal highway policies, programs, and research and technology.

TRB's second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) released, [*Incorporating Greenhouse Gas Emissions into Transportation Planning and Decision Making*](#), a project brief that summarizes the results of SHRP 2 Capacity Project C09, Incorporating Greenhouse Gas Emissions into the Collaborative Decision-Making Process.

The **New Zealand Transport Agency** has released, [*Development of a Public Transport Investment Model*](#), a report that develops an economic modeling tool for making public transport investment decisions, including one for estimating optimal public transport subsidies.
