



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, June 21, 2013

Volume 6, Number 12

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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.

## Contact Us

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Are highways bigger than freeways? Is it a traffic circle or roundabout? What is may-uh-naze, and when does the devil beat his wife? Check out this week's *Just For Fun*.

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.

There is a proposed SAFE Bridges Act that would provide \$5.5 billion for bridge replacement and rehabilitation and would distribute funds among States "by a needs-based formula based on each State's share of deficient bridges." Alabama would receive \$35M for 2013 and \$35M for 2014 [\[HERE\]](#). Also, [lawmakers are pushing states to make room on roads for bikes, pedestrians](#); it's been a busy week so please see *Legislative Updates*.

Don't forget the [Bankhead Tunnel](#) will be closed for maintenance starting at 9 p.m. on Friday, June 21 Happy Summer Solstice!

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



[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org)

706-1CAR

## 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.

We are currently updating the Existing and Committed (E+C) network for the Travel Demand Model and finalizing the future year 2040 socio economic data. Today some staff members are at the ALDOT Safety training seminar at the soon to be "South West Region" office of ALDOT.

For those of you unaware, starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> Division of ALDOT will be called the South West Region for ALDOT's pilot reorganization program. The South West Region will cover Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Marengo, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox.

Vince Calametti said "We are not losing a division, we are gaining a region. We will be able to make more decisions at local level, and be able to provide better service".

### Level of Effort Project

The State has proposed the following changes in the State Transportation Improvement Program. The State has included the following. Because it is a Level of Effort project, we have five days to decline the Project in writing.

From HSIP Funds

PE Interchange Modification on SR-17 (US-45) at SR-158 7/1/2013 \$300,000

### Public Awareness Campaign Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety

As part of a public awareness campaign that we discussed at the last BPAC meeting, we have assisted Team Share the Road in developing the attached bicycle safety brochure. We will be printing these out next week and we will have them available for anyone that would like to have some to hand out. We would like to also develop a brochure geared toward drivers and their interaction with cyclists and pedestrians. If anyone has any ideas for this, please let us know.

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

## 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

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### **Lawmakers push states to make room on roads for bikes, pedestrians**

By Keith Laing

A bipartisan pair of lawmakers in the House have introduced a bill to force states to make room on their roads for people other than car drivers. The bill, dubbed the Safe Streets Act, would require states to make all of their roads that are built with federal money accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The sponsors of the bill, Reps. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) and David Joyce (R-Ohio), said it was time for states to think more about commuters who are not driving individual automobiles in their street designs. "Too many of the roads in our country are designed solely with drivers in mind," Matsui said in a statement. "The risks of such design are evident in the number of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths and injuries we see every year, and often discourage more people from considering other transportation methods.

[Read more...](#)

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### **House Dems introduce bill to spend \$5.5 billion on bridges**

By Keith Laing

Democrats in the House have introduced a bill to spend \$5.5 billion on repairing bridges in the United States, which they say is necessary after a bridge collapse in Washington state last month. The bill, dubbed the Strengthen and Fortify Existing Bridges (SAFE Bridges) Act, would reduce a back log of more than 150,000 "structurally deficient" bridges that are in use, its sponsors said. The introduction of the measure comes as the portion of Interstate 5 that runs on a bridge over the Skagit River was [reopened](#) to drivers on Wednesday after being closed for several weeks when a truck hit one of its support structure in late May, sending car plunging into the water.

[Read more...](#)

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### **House releases \$44B DOT, HUD budget**

By Keith Laing

The House Appropriations Committee has unveiled a \$44 billion budget for the departments of Transportation (DOT) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The amount for the agencies in the 2014 fiscal year is \$7.7 billion less than their 2013 spending levels. Republicans on the Appropriations Committee the bill is \$4.4 billion below the current level of spending that went into effect after the March 1 sequester. The House is proceeding with 2014 bills that cut below the sequester for domestic programs and which increase spending for defense. Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.), said the committee had to make painful choices given the dictates of the sequester.

[Read more...](#)

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### **House moves to slash community development, transit spending**

By Erik Wasson

The House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday moved forward with a bill to slash community development and housing spending, as part of the House GOP's plan to deepen automatic sequester cuts to discretionary spending. The transportation and housing subcommittee approved its 2014 spending bill at \$44.1 billion, a cut of \$7 billion from last year. It is a cut of more than \$4 billion from the current sequester level. The bill moves to full committee where it will be open for amendment debate July 27. Hardest hit in the GOP bill is the Community Development Block Grant program, which is cut nearly in half to \$1.6 billion, a cut of \$1.3 billion that makes its budget lower than in 1975. There is no funding for high speed rail at all. [Read more...](#)

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### Who is the New Member on the House Transportation Committee?

A new Representative, elected in recent special election, joins the House Transportation Committee. In early May Republican Mark Sanford was elected to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Rep. Tim Scott to the U.S. Senate. That seat was open due to the resignation of Jim DeMint to take a position with the Heritage Foundation. Sanford previously represented the same district from 1995 to 2001 before being elected Governor of South Carolina, a position he held from 2003 to 2011. See a [Wikipedia biography](#) for more information.

## Funding Opportunities

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

#### ALDOT TAP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>

ALDOT has announced the release of their application process; applications are due to the State by June 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup>

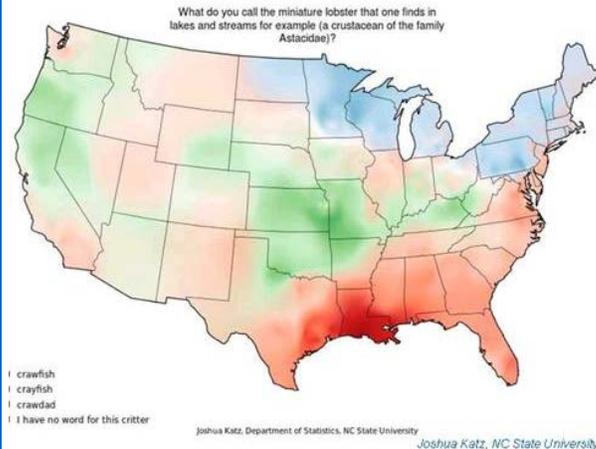
The application the Mobile MPO Transportation Alternative Program Funds is **available** [\[HERE\]](#) and due to the SARPC by 5:00 PM, June 28<sup>th</sup>. You must be a municipality within the Mobile Urban Area or Mobile County to apply for these funds. Eligible Activities are:

\*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

“Now that I have syrup on my pajamas, can you please pass a pop and the mayonnaise for my crawdad hoagie before I get on the rotary at the freeway?” I think I just spanned the entire country with one sentence.

Here are 22 maps that show how we Americans speak the English language differently. So before you “pak tha ca in tha yad”, find out where people call a roundabout, a “rotary”. [\[HERE\]](#)



## In the News

Traffic roundabout construction to begin next year in Daphne; similar proposal on table in Fairhope



By [Marc D. Anderson | manderson@al.com](#)

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

on June 17, 2013 at 2:25 PM, updated June 17, 2013 at 2:29 PM

Email



Daphne's first roundabout at Pollard and Whispering Pines roads will soon be joined by a second traffic circle at Baldwin County 64 and 13 with construction expected to begin early next year. (Press-Register file photo)

**DAPHNE, Alabama** -- Construction of a second roundabout in the city is expected to begin early next year at the intersection of Baldwin County 64 and 13.

The estimated \$1.4 million project is a collaboration between the Baldwin County Commission and city of Daphne. While 80 percent of the construction cost will be covered by a grant through the [Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, or ATRIP](#), the city and county will split the remaining \$672,000 in construction, design and engineering costs. The intersection is current controlled by a traffic light. [\(Continue\)](#)

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### The tax you pay for what you use every day (Traffic Mike)

[Print](#)



By [Mike D. Smith | msmith@al.com](#)

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

on June 14, 2013 at 4:49 PM, updated June 15, 2013 at 11:08 PM

I know I can tell you to the cent what I gave Alabama Power last month. Same goes for my cellphone bill, car note and my apartment complex.

All that really matters when we're direct-depositing hard-earned cash into a gas pump is the full amount leaving our accounts, right?

How much of that total breaks down into state and federal gas taxes? Got me. Never really thought about it -- except that I could find gas for between 95 cents and \$1.10 total per gallon when I first started driving. How I long for some 2004 throwback prices under \$2.

Based on a recent survey by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, [40 percent of Americans don't know how much they pay monthly in gas taxes, Better Roads Magazine reported](#).

On average, it's about \$46 per month for the average household, according to a Federal Highway Administration estimate. That means average households spend more than three times as much per month to power their homes, more than twice as much for cable/satellite television, radio or Internet access.

I'll have to crunch my own numbers, but I can see that as possible. [\(Continue\)](#)

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### Some great pictures of Alabama:

**From Styx River Water World to Dry Gulch: 10 of Alabama's lost roadside attractions (Odd Travels with gallery)**



By [Kelly Kazek | kkazek@al.com](#)

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

on June 20, 2013 at 7:50 AM, updated June 20, 2013 at 8:43 AM

Email

ON THE BACK ROADS OF ALABAMA – Most of us have seen the statue of the Vulcan in Birmingham, or visited Tusculmbia's Ivy Green, the birthplace of Helen Keller and home to the famous water pump where the deaf and blind child learned to communicate with the world around her. [\(Continued\)](#)

## Transportation Research

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### **Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) symposium**

Below is a link to a recent announcement by the Transportation Research Board's (TRB's) second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) symposium, which will be held over two days in October 2013. TRB has issued a call for papers focused on innovations in freight modeling. More information about the symposium and the call for papers can be found in the link below:

<http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/169110.aspx>

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### **Upcoming webinar detailing the Florida DOT's approach to Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).**

ContextSensitiveSolutions.org and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities is pleased to present a free webinar on "Adopting CSS: the Florida Greenbook," Florida's experience integrating design flexibility and context sensitivity from planning through final design.

The webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 10th, 2013, from 2:30 - 4:00 PM EDT, and is brought to you by FHWA, in partnership with the Project for Public Spaces and Sevatec.

[Register Now](#)

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### **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.

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### **2013 Technical Outreach Workshop for state and local agencies.**

The FHWA-Alabama Division is offering its first 2013 Technical Outreach Workshop for state and local agencies. Workshop details are provided below:

Date: July 11<sup>th</sup> (8:30am – 4:30pm)  
Location: ALDOT 4<sup>th</sup> Division Auditorium  
240 Highway 280  
Alexander City, Alabama 35011

The workshop sessions will address the following topics:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
- FHWA's Emergency Relief (ER) Program
- Safety (e.g. MUTCD and Low Cost Safety Improvements)
- Right-of-Way

This training is designed for State DOT and local government personnel, MPOs, including engineers and planners, particularly local government personnel typically not involved in the Federal-aid highway program. Further details are included on the attached flyer. Feel free to forward this information to other individuals and organizations (e.g. rural planning organizations, city and county engineers) who may be interested in this opportunity.

**If you are interested in attending this workshop session (or hosting another session), please register with FHWA by email or phone.**

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