



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 28th, 2014

Volume 9, Number 13

In This Issue

- MOBILE MPO UPDATES
- PROJECTS LET APRIL 4TH, 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

Kevin Harrison, PTP
Director of Transportation
kharrison@sarpc.org

Tom Piper
Senior Transportation Planner
tpiper@sarpc.org

Monica Williamson
Transportation Planner
mwilliamson@sarpc.org

There is a Recreational Trails Program Workshop and Alabama Trails Conference announced, please see *Funding Opportunities*. There are several webinars coming up and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) will be published today in the Federal Register; please see *Transportation Research*. *Legislative Updates* is all about the Funding Crisis, meanwhile, Atlanta...\$59 "B"illion, Holy Moly. (see *In The News*).

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is hosting a one day conference on May 2, 2014 at the Daphne Civic Center concerning highway funding. (This is a chance for local governments, engineers and planners to hear what others are doing around the country in terms of innovative funding strategies to assist in funding local infrastructure. It will also allow for a regional forum of needs, priorities and funding issues.)

	South Alabama Highway Funding Conference Friday, May 2, 2014 Daphne Civic Center	Conference Highlights: Construction costs are over twice what they were 20 years ago. The federal gas tax has not seen an increase in over 20 years. Vehicle fuel economy is decreasing revenues: What can we do? What are some success stories in funding road projects? Find out at the South Alabama Highway Funding Conference Various regional and national keynote speakers Luncheon Speaker: U.S. Representative Bradley Byrne
Conference Details: When: Friday, May 2, 2014 Time: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Where: Daphne Civic Center Cost: \$40 (includes lunch) More info: (251) 433-6541 Visit: www.mobilempo.org/conference to register.		
Sponsored by: South Alabama Regional Planning Commission and Alabama Transportation Planning Association		

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



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

Mobile MPO Updates



South Alabama Highway Funding Conference
Friday, May 2, 2014
Daphne Civic Center

South Alabama Highway Funding Conference

As part of the SARPC Strategic Sessions held in January, a recommended action goal was to host a regional transportation forum for our member governments. The full SARPC board met this week in Brewton, and among several topics discussed, the forum/conference was on the agenda. Since *transportation* is a broad subject with many facets, this forum has turned into the South Alabama Transportation Funding Conference. It is a timely topic with [ALDOT's current funding situation](#), and the federal outlook [\[SEE HERE\]](#). Is there anything local governments can do? Please plan on registering for the [South Alabama Highway Funding Conference](#) now. US Representative Bradley

Anthony Johnson
Transportation Planner
ajohnson@sarpc.org

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

Byrne will be the luncheon speaker, and we will have several regional and national speakers; the agenda will be out soon.

The Mobile MPO Unified Planning Work Program (annual budget) is due to ALDOT in mid June, and we have several other items that require action from the MPO. There will be a MPO meeting on May 21 at 10:00 AM in the GMO Board Room. Prior to that meeting, there will be a Mobile MPO TCC/CAC meeting on April 30th at 10:00 AM in the SARPC Training Room on the second floor. April 30th is the same day as the City/County luncheon at noon, so hopefully this will be a short TCC/CAC meeting. I will get notices out shortly and if you have anything you would like on the agenda, please let us know.

Projects Within Region Let April 4th, 2014

BALDWIN COUNTY

- for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on South Hoyle Avenue from CR-57 (Brady Road) to the L & N Railroad Right-Of-Way (ROW) in Bay Minette. Length 0.424 mi.
- for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-181 from near SR-16 (US-90) (MP 16.493) to the intersection of SR-3 (US-31) (MP 18.260). Length 1.070 mi.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- for constructing the Industrial Park Improvements (Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave) on Wind River Road Extension from CR-14 to Wind River Road South in Atmore. Length 0.093 mi..

MOBILE COUNTY

- for constructing the Safety Widening, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-163 from the junction of SR-193 to the south abutment of the Dog River Bridge east of Theodore. Length 2.482 mi

What's Under Construction?

Legislative Updates

AASHTO Announces New Information Tool Designed to Educate about Trust Fund Crisis

WASHINGTON – The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials this week unveiled a new informational tool designed to educate the public and elected officials about the potential impact of an insolvent Highway Trust Fund.

The "[Nation at a Crossroads](#)" is a web-based infographic, mobile app and printed brochure that provides a national perspective on surface transportation investments. It also provides state-level information to help tell the story of how federal funding affects transportation investment priorities.

"Surface transportation is a national issue, but it also is a very local issue that affects Americans on a personal level," said Bud Wright, AASHTO executive director. "This information tool describes the national implications of not supporting the Highway Trust Fund, as well as how transportation will be impacted on a state and local level."

The information included in the infographic was collected from AASHTO members as well as industry sources such as the US Department of Transportation, TRIP, American Public Transportation Association, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The web-based version of the infographic is available at <http://invest.transportation.org>, and the mobile app version for both iOS and Android is available for download at <http://invest.transportation.org/app>.

If not the gas tax, then what?

By Keith Laing

That's the dilemma facing Congress as it seeks to plug a growing hole in transportation funding that state and local governments say is reaching crisis proportions.

While the gas tax has long been the bedrock of the transportation trust fund, the revenue is drying up as cars become more fuel-efficient and people spend less time on the roadways. House Republicans have ruled out an increase in the tax, leaving lawmakers to search for an alternative method of funding.

But some of the ideas circulating in Washington, such as an expansion of toll roads, would likely be unpopular with the public, leaving lawmakers without an easy solution.

The Congressional Budget Office has projected that the Department of Transportation's Highway Trust Fund will run out of money as early as August. The trust fund's coffers traditionally have been filled by the 18.4 cents per gallon federal gas tax, but infrastructure expenses have outpaced receipts in recent years by as much as \$20 billion annually.

With the shortfall looming this summer, some groups that lobby on transportation funding are pushing to get their proposals in front of lawmakers.

International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association Executive Director Patrick Jones said there is more support for tolling among state and local governments than meets the eye.

"One of the reasons tolling is a great option is because it's a proven option," Jones said in interview with The Hill.

"People want to know where their money is going," Jones said. "When they drive underneath a gantry or an overpass with a toll booth, they know some of the money is going to pay off bonds that were used to construct the road, another portion goes to operations ... and another portion is going to maintenance."

Jones said tolling has a leg up on other potential funding sources, like redirecting funding from corporate tax reform, because it ensures that highway users bear the burden of paying for transportation projects.

President Obama and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) each have released proposals for transferring more than \$125 billion in revenue from tax reform to the Highway Trust Fund. [\[Continue HERE\]](#)

LT. GOV. TSUTSUI CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING CRISIS

Posted on Mar 25, 2014

HONOLULU – With the Highway Trust Fund projected to become insolvent this year, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution, cosponsored by Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui, calling on Congress to, "Develop a shared, long-term vision for surface transportation." Tsutsui cosponsored the resolution while attending the NLGA conference in the nation's capital last week.

Without adequate funding, the deterioration of roads, bridges and other systems will negatively impact Hawaii's quality of life in the way of safety, tourism and business in general. [\[Continue HERE\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

Recreational Trails Program Workshop / Alabama Trails Conference

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is sponsoring an application workshop for the Recreational Trails Program. The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at the Lake Guntersville State Park in the Grandview Ballroom. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the application workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. The formal program will end at noon.

Anyone interested in competing for RTP grant assistance during this funding cycle is encouraged to attend.

To confirm your attendance, please call Bessie Sharp at 334-353-3151, or email her at bessie/sharp@adeca.alabama.gov by April 4, 2014. Additionally, ADECA's Recreation Programs staff will be available to meet with individual applicants who would like technical assistance regarding previously unfunded projects. Please contact Ms. Bessie Sharp if you would like to schedule an appointment.

The workshop will be accessible to all persons. If you have a disability that requires special service,

materials or assistance, please notify Ms. Sharp when you preregister.

Please note, the Alabama Trails Commission is holding the 2014 Trails Conference April 10-11 at Lake Guntersville State Park. If you are interested in registering for that conference, please visit www.landoftrails.org

President Obama, DOT Secretary Foxx Announce \$600 Million for Sixth Round of TIGER Funding
[Notice of Funding Availability](#) now available.

ST. PAUL – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will join President Barack Obama today to announce that \$600 million will be made available to fund transportation projects across the country under a sixth round of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s highly successful Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The announcement will be made at the Union Depot in St. Paul, which received \$35 million in the first round of TIGER to renovate the facility and restore tracks. Combined with roughly \$480 million in federal funding for the Central Corridor light rail transit line, St. Paul’s Union Depot is proof of the impact that transportation investment can make, leading to job creation, downtown revitalization and economic growth.

“President Obama knows that transportation means opportunity for so many Americans,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “TIGER investments answer the President’s challenge to expand opportunity through a strong transportation system that connects Americans with a better way of life.” [\[HERE\]](#) <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program –TAP FUNDS

Deadline: *May 2, 2014*

Only cities and counties can apply for TAP funds, and your jurisdiction will determine your application for TAP Funds. If you are in the Mobile Urbanized Area, you are eligible for the Urban Area TAP Funds available through the Mobile MPO at South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. If you are outside of the Mobile Urbanized Area you will apply to ADLOT for TAP funds (see below).

The applications, guidelines and funding limits between the STATE TAP and the URBAN TAP *are slightly different*. Please be aware, and if there are any question please do not hesitate to call us. The federal guidance on TAP funds is here: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

MOBILE URBANIZED TAP FUNDS

The Mobile MPO announces the availability of the FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$200,000 (federal). 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. Applications for Mobile Urban Area TAP Funds can be found [\[HERE\]](#)

ALDOT TAP FUNDS

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) announced application availability for the FY 2014 Transportation Alternatives 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*** [\[HERE\]](#).

GRANT: FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration
Open until the Program Ends or Funding is No Longer Available

FHWA announced on February 19 the availability of \$30 million (M) in funding and requests grant applications for FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within

the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). On a rolling basis, AID Demonstration funds will award multiple projects that meet eligibility, requirements, and selection criteria. [\[HERE\]](#)

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/rlf.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

Strange and beautiful roads. I do not believe I saw any from our region in this video, but I know there are some beautiful roads here in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties. In fact, if you have photographs of beautiful road of South Alabama, let's see them! Reference them to this *Just For Fun* and send them to transportation@sarpc.org.



And then there is this form of transportation, that will unfortunately NEVER be available in South Alabama... YEE HA!



In the News

Gov. Robert Bentley talks beach convention center, transportation, prisons, at LuLu's in Gulf Shores



By [Dennis Pillion | dpillion@al.com](mailto:dpillion@al.com)

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

on March 21, 2014 at 12:22 PM, updated March 21, 2014 at 4:15 PM

GULF SHORES, Alabama -- Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley kicked off a week of vacation, or "running the state of Alabama from Gulf Shores," as he called it, Friday with breakfast remarks at a Coastal Alabama Business Chamber meeting at LuLu's in Gulf Shores.

Bentley began with an opening statement about job creation successes he's had since taking office in 2011 and took questions from the audience on a wide range of issues, from a proposed convention center and lodge at Gulf State Park to road, bridge and infrastructure projects along the coast, as well as his priorities for a second term if re-elected.

Here's what he had to say about Gulf State Park Lodge and Foley Beach Express [\[HERE\]](#).

Daphne's Gator Alley upgrades could begin by early summer



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

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

on March 24, 2014 at 3:41 PM, updated March 24, 2014 at 3:45 PM

DAPHNE, Alabama -- The city continues to work on plans to upgrade its popular Gator Alley boardwalk park.

With a \$320,000 federal transportation grant, coupled with a nearly \$93,000 city match, Daphne officials are working through a land purchase to expand and improve the park's rundown, gravel parking lot off North Main Street and add a new, nature drainage system to help D'Olive Creek.

"When you're standing there at the overlook and before you start to walk down the sidewalk to enter into Gator Alley you're going to have a view down, what is currently a very vegetative gully full of invasive plants, to a series of rock pools with native wetland plants in it," Public Works Director Richard Johnson said during a planning board meeting last week. "We really expect to make this into a very functional overlook area as well as something we're going to be proud to have people walking by to get to Gator Alley."

Johnson said he hoped the additional property, two parcels making up about .4 acres between U.S. 98 and the existing parking lot on North Main Street, will be in the city's hands in about a month. From there the city will have to bid out the project and aim to begin construction by early summer.

The new parking area will about two-and-a-half-times the size of the current lot and include a dual entrance for easier access. At present, the gravel lot has about a dozen spots where visitors have to partially back out into oncoming traffic in order to leave.

The existing gravel will be upgraded and expanded to pervious brick pavers identical to what was used at May Day Park a few years ago, according to Johnson. Continue [\[HERE\]](#)

Gulf Shores warns residents, spring-breakers of bridge work at Little Lagoon Pass



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

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

on March 27, 2014 at 11:06 AM, updated March 27, 2014 at 11:13 AM

GULF SHORES, Alabama -- An ongoing \$12 million bridge replacement project at Little Lagoon Pass on West Beach Boulevard will cause delays Thursday.

The city is warning residents and spring-breakers in the West Beach area that Alabama Department of Transportation contractors will be installing casing pipe on the Lee Callaway Bridge throughout the day Thursday.

A new release states that one lane will be closed during the day but is expected to be reopened by early evening.

In addition to the bridge work, all condos and houses on the north side of West Beach Boulevard west of the pass will be temporarily impacted Thursday night as crews install casing pipe along the shoulder.

Motorists can be expected to see flagmen and portable message boards.

ARC board approves \$59 billion Transportation Plan

By Andria Simmons
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Regional Commission board on Wednesday passed a \$59 billion long-range transportation plan that maintains existing infrastructure in the region while adding some congestion relief.

The plan takes into account the expected transportation spending in the 18-county metro Atlanta region through the year 2040. It now goes to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) for approval, which will likely occur sometime in April, before proceeding to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for federal approval.

More than 70 percent of the funding in the plan is needed to maintain existing roads, bridges and transit systems, leaving only about \$18 billion for expansion between now and 2040. Regional leaders prioritized projects that will unclog the major bottleneck points, ease congestion on heavily traveled arterial roads and add tolled express lanes to interstates for commuters who are willing to pay for a speedier trip. There is also a \$1.4 billion list of pedestrian and bicycle improvements aimed at making it easier for people to get around without a car. About \$12 million was set aside for the new Atlanta Streetcar, which is scheduled to begin operating mid-summer. That will cover about 80 percent of the first three years of operating costs.

The region's long-term transportation plan is updated every few years in response to updated population and employment forecasts and changing local priorities that cause projects to be delayed or fast-tracked. It was last updated in 2011. And it will have to be updated again in 2016.

Transportation Research

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) will be published in the Federal Register 3/28/2014.

This NPRM proposes changes to the HSIP regulations at 23 CFR Part 924 to address provisions in MAP-21 and incorporates clarifications to better explain existing regulatory language.

It removes provisions that were eliminated under MAP-21 and proposes to amend the regulations to address provisions required by MAP-21 to establish:

- A subset of roadway data elements States will be required to collect for all public roads to enhance their safety analysis capabilities.
- A State Strategic Highway Safety Plan update cycle
- An HSIP report content and schedule

The rule also proposes changes to be consistent with the transportation performance management requirements proposed under the companion Safety Performance Measures NPRM (FHWA-2013-0020) that was published earlier this month. The proposed changes described in this HSIP NPRM are intended to clarify the regulation for the development, implementation, and evaluation of highway safety improvement programs that are administered in each State.

We invite you to review the HSIP NPRM in its entirety to gain a better understanding of the proposed amendments. The link to the HSIP NPRM in the Federal Register, related outreach materials, and information on upcoming webinars will be available on the Office of Safety website tomorrow at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip>. The first public Webinar will be held on March 31, 2014 – you can register [here](#).

All public comments should be submitted to the Docket for FHWA-13-0019 at www.regulations.gov.

Your HSIP NPRM comments must be submitted by May 27, 2014 to be considered in the development of the HSIP Final Rule.

Please share this information with others who may be interested. Thank you – Linda Guin

Please join the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) [Office of Freight Management and Operations](#) for a webinar on the [Freight Analysis Framework \(FAF\)](#).

"How the FAF Can Help You"

April 10, 2014

1:00-2:15 PM Eastern

During this webinar, FHWA will offer practitioners in State departments of transportation, metropolitan/regional planning organizations, and other agencies an overview of how the FAF can make a difference. FHWA will outline the FAF's main components and give examples of using the FAF for statewide and metropolitan level issues. This webinar is aimed at practitioners with basic or no knowledge of the FAF but who would like to move to the next skill level. This webinar will also provide a useful foundation for more advanced topics (e.g., linking FAF with county-level data, using FAF for statewide freight planning) that will be covered in future webinars.

[To attend the webinar, please click here to register by April 7.](#)

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

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Offers Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Webinars and On-line Training Opportunities

Did you know the USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office (ITS JPO) offers FREE training and web-based resources?

Throughout the year, the ITS JPO's Professional Capacity Building (PCB) Program offers on-line training opportunities and regularly hosts T3 Webinars on a wide range of topics related to ITS planning, design, procurement, deployment, operations, noteworthy practices, and lessons learned.

[\[HERE\]](#)

Pavement Management 2013, Volume 3 released

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2368 consists of 14 pages that explore long-lasting perpetual asphalt pavements; a global sensitivity analysis of mechanistic-empirical performance predictions for flexible pavements; a framework for determining load equivalencies; mitigation of rutting in asphalt overlays of concrete pavements; top-down cracking of asphalt pavements in North Carolina; and an assessment of fatigue cracking in flexible pavements.

This issue of the TRR also examines the combined effect of three-dimensional contact load and thermal gradients on the cracking performance of heavy-duty asphalt pavements; the development of a full-scale reflective cracking test; the performance of prediction models for cracked, seated, and overlaid concrete pavements; improvements in full-depth repair practices for distresses in continuously reinforced concrete pavement; responses and performance of stabilized full-depth reclaimed pavements; available mechanistic-empirical procedures for reflective cracking in asphalt overlays of concrete pavements; a refined failure mode for thin and ultrathin whitetopping; and revised design procedures for thin and ultrathin bonded whitetopping.