



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, May 15, 2015

Volume 14, Number 6

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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

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It was Toole Design Week in Mobile, and if you missed providing input on downtown walkability, you will get a chance with the draft comes out (*please see Mobile MPO Updates*)

A **new round of FTA 5310 grants** through ALDOT (See Funding Opportunities). Congress and our Transportation Bill? (see *Legislative Updates*). [Map for Mobile](#) meetings next week, we have special guest coming to Mobile, and Fairhope is getting a roundabout, see *In The News*. What goes through my pea brain mind when I ride a bike... that's *Just for Fun*...

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



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

check us out on FACEBOOK

706-1CAR

## Mobile MPO Updates



What a week... This week was Toole Design Week and I would like to thank the Downtown Alliance for housing the Toole Design Group while they were here, and providing them with bicycles (along with Jeff DeQuatro).



I would also like to thank our stakeholders we met with: Bishop State, Mayor Stimpson, City of Mobile Engineering, Legal, and Traffic Engineering, Mikul Mulhotra, Map For Mobile (GMC), MLK Redevelopment Corp, Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Delta Bike Project, Team Share the Road, ALDOT, the Naman Group, DeTonti Square Neighborhood Association, The Downtown Alliance Exec . Committee, Mobile Chamber of Commerce, Alabama State Docks, and all of the citizens that showed up for the public meetings.

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We had two public meetings; Monday night was at the Government Plaza Media Center, and Thursday night was at the Temple Downtown. We heard a lot good ideas, comments, and some complaints, and in a few short days they came up with some preliminary, initial recommendations.



Some of the recommendations are more “robust” than others, like several roundabouts on the Henry Aaron Loop. The focus of the study is to make downtown more attractive. Providing non-motorized facilities does just that. Further, coming in into downtown, you will recognize you have made it to downtown by some signature urban facilities. The draft document will be completed shortly, and will be vetted with all the stakeholders and the public. The plan will produce recommendations and cost estimates, that will aid the TIGER Grant Application, and future TAP applications, and other funding sources if the City decides to tackle these recommendations. We will keep you posted. See [HERE](#)

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#### GIS online

We are upgrading and starting to utilize our online GIS capabilities. Please check out some of the current interactive maps we have been working on. Many more to come...

<http://mobilempo.org/maps.html>

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## DESTINATION 2040

The Mobile MPO [Long Range Transportation Plan](#), Destination 2040, has been adopted, subsequent comments from ALDOT, FHWA, and FTA. The DRAFT document that was out for public review and reviewed with MPO and TCC/CAC members may have some slight modifications in the FINAL Document. The FINAL will be out in a couple of weeks as we are still receiving comments from ALDOT.

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](#).

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### I-10 Mobile River Bridge

ALDOT has released the I-10 Mobile River Bridge Corridor Hearing Report Summary and it is now available online at [www.mobileriverbridge.com](http://www.mobileriverbridge.com). This report summarizes all of the comments that were received during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period in the Fall of 2014. The document suggests most of the support was for the B prime route. Although we are moving closer and closer to having a bridge, there are still several hurdles to cross, including funding, [tolling is an option](#).

For more information on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge:

ALDOT'S Web Site: <http://www.mobileriverbridge.com/>

Build The I-10 Bridge Coalition Web Site: <http://www.buildthei10bridge.com/>

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## Projects Within Region Let May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Mobile County

- **for constructing the Historic Whistler Bike Trail (Bike Path along an abandoned Railroad Corridor) along SR-17 from a point near the I-65 Interchange to a point near the SR-158 Interchange in Prichard. Length 1.293 mi.** The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$623,244 to \$761,743 .
- **For constructing the Intersection Improvements on CR-19 (Irvington-Bayou La Batre Highway) at the intersection of CR-24 (Half Mile Road). Length 0.148 mi.** The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$805,388 to \$948,363 .

### Baldwin County

None at this time

### Escambia County

- **for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Medical Park Drive/Martin Luther King Drive from the junction of West State Line Road to the junction of Johnson Street. Length 2.975 mi.** The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$641,982 to \$784,645 .
- **for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31) from north of the intersection of old US-31 (MP 64.710) to the south end of the Burnt Corn Creek Bridge (MP 68.954) in East Brewton. Length 4.244 mi.** The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,330,991 to \$1,626,767 .

### [What's Under Construction?](#)

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## Legislative Updates

### MAP-21 Extension Update

With a dwindling number of legislative days until the nation's transportation program expires, Congress is headed toward extending the program before the end of the month. Both the House and Senate intend to recess on May 22 and won't return until June, leaving little time to hammer

out an agreement. The House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee remain dedicated to finding the \$10-11 billion necessary to extend the program through the end of 2015, with little progress reported in locating the necessary offsets. The backup (though with the report of many Democrats) remains the “free” program extension through the end of July. No offsets would be necessary because the program’s funding does not run down until early August. Republican lawmakers remain split on their preferred option.

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### **MAP-21 Reauthorization Update**

Despite the necessity of a short-term extension to keep the program operating, work continues at the Committee level on a long-term transportation reauthorization. The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee announced earlier this week that it will hold a mark-up of the policy provisions of a new bill by the end of the summer. In a conference call with NARC and others last week, EPW staff indicated that they plan to hold a markup on their proposal, to help keep the bill and its policies at the forefront of the Congressional policy agenda. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership have not announced a markup date.

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### **Committee Approves 2016 THUD Bill**

The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2016 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill by a 30-21 party line vote this week. The bill contains \$55.3 billion in funding, an increase of \$1.5 billion from last year. The bill would cut Amtrak, funding for the D.C. Metro train system, and the popular TIGER program.

## **Funding Opportunities**

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### **FY 2016 SECTION 5310 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (June 17<sup>th</sup> deadline)**

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 Federal funds administered through ALDOT are only extended to agencies providing transit services in the small urban and rural areas of the State.

Available federal funds for the Section 5310 program are approximately \$2,218,584 for small urban areas and \$3,187,286 for the rural areas. A local match of 20% is required for this capital program. The selection process may be based on the following criteria: financial and management capability; service needs; proposed services; utilization of requested equipment; and service coordination. Projects funded through these programs must be derived from a locally regional coordinated transportation plan. The application package provides specific eligibility requirements, match requirements, and eligible activities. The application and state management plan can be found at <http://www.dot.state.al.us/moweb/transit.htm>. Completed grant applications must be submitted to the appropriate regional planning council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Section 5310 transportation services are proposed.

Each regional planning council must review grant applications to ensure compliance with federal coordination requirements prior to formal submission to ALDOT. Only those grant applications submitted for funding consideration by the Regional Planning Councils will be considered for funding. The deadline for submissions to the appropriate regional planning council in the respective geographic areas of the state in which Section 5310 transportation services are proposed is 5:00 P.M. on June 17, 2015. Applications received after the established deadline will be returned. Postmarked submissions will not be accepted. All applications will be reviewed, evaluated, prioritized, and approved by ALDOT prior to the development and submission of a consolidated

grant application to the FTA Region IV office for funding consideration. If there are questions or comments concerning the grant application or if more information is needed in another language or alternative formats, contact Sharon Coats, ALDOT, Modal Programs Bureau, 1100 John Overton Drive, Montgomery, AL 36110; (334) 353-6443 or [coats@dot.state.al.us](mailto:coats@dot.state.al.us)

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### Gateway Grant Applications

The **Alabama Power Foundation** is accepting Gateway Grant Applications through June 26, 2015. Cities, towns and communities of all sizes can apply for up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of community signage. Access the online application [HERE](#). Suitable locations must be highly visible and a logical entry to the community. The funding must be used for signage only and cannot be used for landscape materials or design services. If the cost of the project exceeds \$2,000, you will be asked to provide sources of other funding to ensure the project is a success. Photos of the site and a drawing or representation of the proposed sign are also required. Applicants may also apply to have a sign refurbished.

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### New Round of TIGER Announced

Pre-Applications Due: May 4 (required)

Final Applications Due: June 5

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has announced \$500 million in available funding for transportation projects across the country under a seventh round of the highly successful Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. Click [HERE](#) for more information. The USDOT will host a [TIGER summit](#) at its headquarters on April 16, and a [series of webinars](#) to assist applicants on a number of facets of the process.

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### Incentive Opportunities

As the third round of the Every Day Counts initiative moves into high gear, the Federal Highway Administration is offering incentives and technical assistance to help the highway community mainstream innovations.

Fiscal year 2015 assistance is now available from the [State Transportation Innovation Council Incentive program](#). The program provides resources—technical assistance and funds—to help STICs make innovations standard practice. States can get up to \$100,000 a year for activities such as implementing system process changes, organizing peer exchanges and developing guidance and specifications. Contact the state FHWA Division Office or Mary Huie at (202) 366-3039 for information.

The Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program continues to accept applications through Grants.gov. Incentive funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects using innovation on any aspect of highway transportation, including planning, financing, environment, design, construction, materials, pavements, structures and operations. See the [AID Demonstration Web page](#) or contact Ewa Flom at (202) 366-2169 for details.

[Section 1304](#) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act allows an increase in the federal funding share of up to 5 percent on eligible projects that use innovations.

## Just For Fun

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It was an interesting week meeting with citizens and stakeholders for downtown walkability. We actually had some comments as to why we were paying attention to the “cyclist”. Fact of the matter is, 10 years ago we did not have Team Share the Road, Mobilians on Bikes, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Urban Assault Group, etc., etc. It is not only a more popular mode of transportation in Mobile, it is the direction of the FHWA, and [Alabama is far behind the curve](#). Not all of us are cyclists, but all of us should be responsible for the safety of all commuters.

So what goes into riding a bike? Why do children learn so much faster than adults? What goes on in your brain to learn to ride a bike? Do you think you can ride a bike? Ha ha.....

<http://viewpure.com/MFzDaBzBIL0?ref=bkmmk>



## In the News

### U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx coming to Mobile to discuss I-10 Bridge project



By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:Jsharp@al.com)

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

on May 12, 2015 at 12:03 PM, updated May 12, 2015 at 12:57 PM

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will visit Mobile on May 26 to learn more about the Interstate 10 Bridge project.

The [anticipated visit](#) comes on the Tuesday after Memorial Day weekend, which is one of the busiest summer travel dates of the year and is often one of the most congested along the I-10 Bayway from west of downtown Mobile and into Baldwin County.

"This is obviously an important visit to get the Secretary of Transportation to the Gulf Coast to see the need of the bridge project, first hand," Seth Morrow, spokesman with U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Fairhope, said.

Morrow said the timing is also good for emphasizing the need for continued highway transportation funding. Foxx, last year, [was in Birmingham during a stop along his bus tour, to express concerns about the potential insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund.](#)

Transportation funding issues have federal lawmakers scrambling for solutions before the end of the month, when the current highway and transit bill expires.

A bipartisan group of Congressmen are considering some short-term solutions that could keep the funding in place to the end of 2015.

[According to USA Today](#), there's bipartisan support in Congress for lowering the tax rate on overseas profits earned by U.S. corporations as a way to "repatriate" that money. Tax revenue from such repatriation would replenish the highway and transit trust funds.

Some leading Republicans want oppose repatriation as the only solution.

"The House, we expect will act on something before we recess for Memorial Day," Morrow said.

"It's a timely visit to emphasize the funding of our nation's highways."

Morrow said there is no set agenda yet for Foxx's visit to Mobile, although the I-10 Bridge and Bayway widening project will be a key focus.

The proposed \$850 million project calls for the construction of a new bridge southwest of downtown Mobile expanding across the Mobile River and leading toward an expanded Bayway taking eastbound motorists to Baldwin County.

In Baldwin County, transportation officials plan to redesign the U.S. 98 interchange in Daphne. [They are also considering whether to extend an expanded Bayway toward the Ala. 181 interchange with I-10 in Spanish Fort.](#)

Foxx's visit also comes as Alabama Department of Transportation officials study whether tolls will be a feasible solution in raising money to pay for the project.

[CDM Smith is contracted for \\$260,000 to do an analysis that is expected to be completed by summer.](#)

Foxx, the former mayor of Charlotte, N.C., is the second transportation secretary in the Obama

Administration to visit the Port City. Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood came in September 2012.

LaHood, while in Mobile, said the I-10 Bridge [would "absolutely happen" and that Washington, D.C. would help area leaders find the resources to make it happen.](#)

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## Fairhope's first roundabout expected to open in summer 2016



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

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

on May 12, 2015 at 5:47 AM, updated May 12, 2015 at 5:52 AM



By mid-summer 2016, Fairhope's first roundabout is expected to be open at the intersection of Fairhope Avenue and Baldwin County 13.

While many variables could change that timetable, Baldwin County Engineer Cal Markert said the joint project between the county, city and Alabama Department of Transportation is at a point where work can finally proceed.

The intersection that sees a daily traffic volume of 12,000 to 15,000 vehicles is also a busy site for utilities, too, and that slowed down the project, according to Markert.

"We had tremendous difficulties in getting utilities worked out," Markert told the City Council during a work session Monday.

The delay has bumped the expected bidding timetable from May to fall.

"Timeline-wise, we're shooting to start construction in September on the utilities and start actual construction on this ground in January and have it open and running by June or July," Markert said.

"A lot of that is out of our control (but) that's what we're shooting hard to do."

The new single-lane roundabout will be the [third one in Baldwin County](#). The first one opened in 2010 in Daphne at the intersection of Whispering Pines and Pollard roads, near the Bounds YMCA, and a larger one is [currently under construction at the intersection of Baldwin County 64 and 13](#).

A majority of the Fairhope project's estimated \$1 million cost will be covered by a grant under the [Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, or ATRIP](#), which is administered by the state highway department. The county and city agreed to split the required 20 percent match, including engineering and design fees. Continue [HERE](#).

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## MAP FOR MOBILE WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

# DESIGNING THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

MAY 18-21

Take part in a multi-day design event that will build off the Focus on the Future Workshop held in March, which drew nearly 500 participants. Help turn community ideas into a plan for Mobile.

**May 18**

(Monday)

6:30-8:30pm

## HANDS-ON DESIGN WORKSHOP

Come out and draw your vision for the future of Mobile.



**May 19-20**

(Tues.-Weds.)

9am-6:30pm

## OPEN DESIGN STUDIO

Drop-in to talk with the planning team and see the work in progress.



**May 21**

(Thursday)

6:30-8:30pm

## WORK-IN- PROGRESS PRESENTATION

See work completed during the week.



**THE GREATER GULF  
STATE FAIRGROUNDS**  
1035 CODY RD. NORTH  
MOBILE, AL 36608

Attend one or both programs at 6:30pm on May 18 and 21. You can also stop by during drop-in hours on May 19 and 20.

For more information visit:

[MapForMobile.org](http://MapForMobile.org)



## New turn signal to improve risky intersection on highway 59, south of Foley



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

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

on May 13, 2015 at 6:01 PM, updated May 13, 2015 at 6:10 PM

The intersection of Alabama 59 and Baldwin County 10, south of Foley, was upgraded Wednesday with a new signal to help remedy safety issues that flared up after a new store added traffic last year.

On Wednesday, an Alabama Department of Transportation crew installed a new left-turn signal on the southbound turn lane of Alabama 59, across from the new Dollar General that is on the east side of the highway.

According to Foley City Administrator Mike Thompson, ALDOT contacted the city after the state department received complaints from citizens about the dangerous intersection.

The intersection is in an unincorporated area of Baldwin County, as it sits at the southern edge of Foley's city limits. It's just north of Gulf Shores' limits but within its planning jurisdiction.

The state highway department is splitting the estimated \$24,000 cost of the new signal with Foley and the county, Thompson said.

"ALDOT is funding the equipment, which I believe is about half of the \$24K cost," Thompson wrote in an email. "The city of Foley and Baldwin County are splitting the labor cost, which is the other half. So we are very happy to see the safety issue addressed quickly since we are coming into the summer season, and we are very happy to see a partnership between ALDOT, the county, and Foley to jointly address the issue, because the light is kind of in no-man's land in terms of ownership."

An accident in early January, which was photographed by AL.com, was an example of the problems faced by motorists at the intersection. A large, four-door Toyota pickup traveling south on 59 turned left into oncoming northbound traffic and a Dodge Charger slammed into the passenger's side of the truck.

The truck was pushed to the east side of the road, ripping the right rear tire off and mangling the rear axle. Two people in the truck were injured and transported to the hospital, with what was believed to be non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the Charger was not hurt in the crash.

With the new signal in place now, motorists can only turn left when the arrow is green.

## Transportation Research

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### **Register for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Webinar on Rides to Wellness: Creating Healthy Communities**

**When: Thursday, May 28th, 3-4PM EDT**

**What:** The goals of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "Rides to Wellness" Initiative are to: increase access to care, improve health outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs. Approximately 3.6 million Americans miss or delay medical care due to transportation issues. By improving access we may be able to reduce hospital readmissions, as 18 percent of patients discharged from the hospital are readmitted within 30 days, one third within 90 days.

Rural residents tend to be poorer. On average, per capita income is \$7,417 lower than in urban areas, and rural Americans are more likely to live below the poverty level. The disparity in incomes is even greater for minorities living in rural areas. Nearly 24% of rural children live in poverty. In addition, only about ten percent of physicians practice in rural America despite the fact that nearly one-fourth of the population lives in these areas. Given these challenges, FTA is focusing much of the Rides to Wellness activities on rural areas. Key initiatives include: Healthcare Access Design Challenge Grants, Technical Assistance, and more.

**Who:** Danielle Nelson, 5310 Program Coordinator at the Federal Transit Administration, will speak and answer your questions in a live Q&A session.

[Register Now!](#)

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### **Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool**

May 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

May 28, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

June 3, 3:30 – 5:00 PM ET

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide three webinars to overview and demonstrate their new [EJSCREEN](#) tool, which is designed to highlight places in the U.S. that may have higher environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. The tool offers powerful data and mapping capabilities that display environmental and demographic information at a high geographic resolution across the entire country.

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### **Accessible Transportation Technology Research Initiative (ATTRI) Applications Workshop**

May 18-19, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM ET

The USDOT will inform and engage stakeholders on the progress of its [Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative](#) (ATTRI), which conducts research to improve the mobility of travelers with disabilities through the use of intelligent transportation systems. This workshop will identify technology solutions to address the travel needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans, and will utilize participant feedback to identify specific technology applications for further development through the ATTRI program.

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### **Bridging the Gap between Freight, Infrastructure Protection and Traffic Incident Management**

May 28, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

FHWA and the Transportation Incident Management (TIM) Network will sponsor this [webinar](#) to examine the multi-agency traffic incident management practices being conducted in the Philadelphia area, and discuss how TIM stakeholders are working to engage freight transportation stakeholders in that region. Presenters will also share information about the New Jersey State Police's unique, federally funded Incident Management Unit and the important role it has played in dramatically reducing incident clearance times in the state.

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### **Advancing a Sustainable Highway System**

May 28, 2:00 PM ET – Access and Affordability

June 25, 2:00 PM ET – Linking Asset Management and Planning

July 29, 2:00 PM ET – Sustainable Pavements

The Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Team within FHWA's Office of Natural Environment will present a series of webinars based on the [Advancing a Sustainable Highway System: Highlights of FHWA Sustainability Activities](#) report produced by the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center last year. The report illustrates how sustainability is incorporated into a wide variety of FHWA programs, projects, policies, processes, and partnerships. Each webinar will focus on a particular section of the report and will feature specific FHWA activities that advance sustainability.