



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, May 17, 2013

Volume 6, Number 7

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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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We hope everyone has had a great week. There are still grants available like The TIGER FUNDS and the deadlines are quickly approaching so be sure to check out Funding Opportunities below. The BPAC met this past week; see Mobile MPO Updates for a summary. Several meetings are coming up; the TCC/CAC meets **May 22nd** and MPO Policy committee will be meeting on **June 5th**.

We have a Facebook poll  in MPO Updates. A big thank you to the 7 people that voted, but I am not sure that is enough response rate to justify the commitment of maintaining a Facebook page; please give us your thoughts, this is the last day of the poll.

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

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Mobile MPO Updates

MPO and TCC/CAC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

There is a TCC/CAC meeting scheduled for May 22, 2013 at 10:00 in the SARPC Training Room on the Second floor. The results and recommendations from the TCC/CAC meeting will be brought in front of the MPO Policy board on June 5, 2013 in the SARPC Board Room. The agenda for both of the meetings includes drafting a FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), adopting the FTA JARC Program of Projects, and including several items into the TIP. Please plan on attending if you are on these committees.



Yay or Nay?

The Transportation Staff here at SARPC has been debating for some time to develop a Facebook page. We have looked at other MPOs across the country, and some urban areas with millions of people, have a couple dozen "likes". Yet on the other hand, it is a free way to disseminate information through social media. There are some Facebook users out there that use Facebook as their only source of news and information. What do you think?

Click [here](#) to vote

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Wednesday, May 15, 2013 12:00 pm SARPC 1st Floor Board Room, GM&O Building

In attendance:

Duncan Scott	Mobile County Health Department
John Blanton	Mobile Urban Assault
Edward Flotte	Mobile County Health Department
Ben Brenner	Mobilians on Bikes
Jeb Shrenk	Mobilians on Bikes
Deena Tyler	Team Share the Road
Vince Calametti	ALDOT
Don Powell	ALDOT
Edwin Perry III	ALDOT
Vince Beebe	ALDOT
Daniel Driskell	ALDOT
Carol Hunter	Downtown Mobile Alliance
Ricky Mitchell	Mobile County Engineering Department

Bryan Kegley	Mobile County Engineering Department
Jennifer White	Mobile Traffic Engineering
Butch Ladner	Mobile Traffic Engineering
Bert Hoffman	City of Mobile Planning Department
Katherine Pitman	Mobile United/leadership Mobile
Dan Otto	City of Mobile Parks and Recreation Department
Michael Sutherland	Airbus

MPO Staff:

Kevin Harrison
Tom Piper
Monica Williamson
Anthony Johnson

The Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met this past Wednesday. Items on the agenda included a discussion about the Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge regarding including a bike/ped facility on the bridge vs. mitigation activities that would connect Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Public meetings for the bridge should take place this summer. Anyone interested in this subject should attend the meetings and sign up to speak in the public forum. Once the venue for these public meeting is set, we will post them in our newsletter. The BPAC also voted to recommend to the TCC/CAC and the MPO Policy Committee that the MPO recommend that bicycle and pedestrian facilities be included in the design of the future Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge.

Another topic of discussion was to develop a prioritized list of bicycle and pedestrian projects identified in the Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. John Blanton laid out a framework he has developed for doing this.

Also discussed was the development of a public awareness campaign for bike/ped safety, a recommendation to the Mobile Planning Commission regarding bicycle parking requirements for businesses, and a brief discussion about the Downtown Mobile Alliances proposed elevated bike/ped park.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of recent reported crashes that involved cyclists or pedestrians and what could be done, in anything, to avoid a recurrence. The particulars of this discussion will be available in the meeting minutes, which will be forthcoming.

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 Let May 31st, 2013

MOBILE COUNTY

constructing the I-65, Frontage Road Relocation and the Roadway Improvements (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, and Signals) on SR-158 in Saraland. Length 0.950 mi.

Legislative Updates

The **Congressional Budget Office** released the [May 2013 Baseline of the Highway Trust Fund Account](#). This report predicts a spend-out of the Highway Trust Fund by 2015, if no additional revenues into the account are authorized.

Chairman Rockefeller Sets Foxx Nomination Hearing: Chairman Rockefeller (D-WV) announced that the confirmation hearing for Mayor Anthony Foxx to be the next Secretary of the U.S. DOT will take place Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 2:30pm ET. Mayor Foxx's chances of being confirmed appear to be positive, with several Members of Congress voicing their support for his nomination. Both [Chairman Rockefeller](#) and [Ranking Member Thune](#) have released statements that do not oppose the Mayors nomination.

Funding Opportunities

TIGER GRANTS

DOT is authorized to award \$474 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-6, March 26, 2013). This appropriation is similar, but not identical to the appropriation for the "TIGER" program authorized and implemented pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). Because of the similarity in program structure, DOT will continue to refer to the program as "TIGER Discretionary Grants." As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the FY 2013 TIGER program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to look through Frequently Asked Questions, webinars and other guidance at the [Application Resources page](#).

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

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was created in the new federal transportation law, MAP-21 (P. L. 112-141), which combines three previously separate programs—Transportation Enhancements, the Recreational Trails program, and the Safe Routes to School program. Most, but not all eligible activities from these earlier programs have been preserved in the new program (Preliminary Engineering is *not* an allowable activity). Overall, funding has been reduced by about \$300 million compared to FY2012 apportionments, down to \$814 Million nationwide. TAP funding will comprise about 2 percent of total federal highway spending over the next year.

The State of Alabama will receive about \$16,670,000 in federal funding. This funding is all subject to a 20% match. \$1,700,000 will be set aside for the Recreational Trails program through ADECA. The large urban areas (with a population over 200,000) will have \$2,670,000 set aside. Of this, the **Mobile MPO will receive \$513,441 federal funds for the Mobile Urban Area**. The remaining \$12,300,000 will be administered and applied through ALDOT, and will be divided between Small Urban Areas (\$1,600,000), Rural Areas (\$3,200,000) and statewide (\$7,500,000) with one ALDOT application mentioned below.

Local Governments and other local or government entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than State agencies and metropolitan planning organizations) are eligible for TAP funding. School districts, Colleges and Universities, nonprofits, public land agencies, transit agencies, and Tribal governments are not eligible. Click [here](#) to view FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program interim guidance.

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:

1. Construction of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, transportation related trails, streetscapes (combination of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, and landscaping) and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
4. Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas.
5. Community improvement activities including Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising; Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; Vegetation management practices in transportation right-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and; Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
6. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to- Address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related

to highway construction or due to highway runoff.

7. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

*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

"Everybody has to cross the river".

For those of you that like brain exercises, this is a good one. Hope you like it. Click [HERE](#), then click on blue circle.

Follow the rules below.

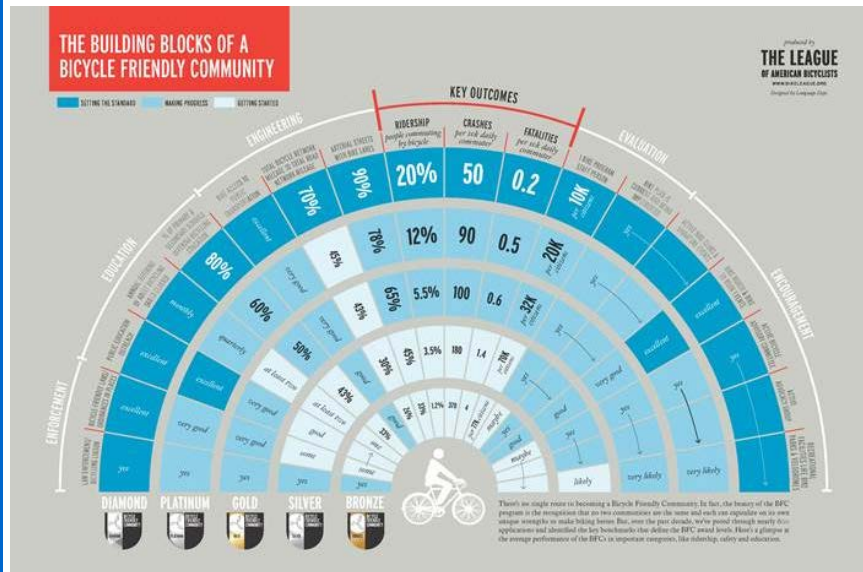
- Only two persons on the raft at a time.
- The father cannot stay with any of the daughters if the mother is not there.
- The mother cannot stay with any of the sons if the father is not there.
- The thief (striped shirt) cannot stay with any family member if the policeman is not there.
- Only the father, the mother and the policeman know how to operate the raft

To start, click on the big blue circle on the right.
To move the people click on them.
To move the raft, click on the pole on the opposite side of the river.

In the News

Infographic: What Makes a Bicycle Friendly Community?

The League of American bicyclists has created an infographic to help community identify just where they rank and what they need to accomplish in order to become a bicycle friendly community.



[Click here](#) to download the PDF (to print).

Now, the beauty of the BFA program is the fact that it's not one-size-fits-all. You're able to take into account the unique characteristics of each community.

Weekend closures announced for Bankhead Tunnel maintenance

The Bankhead Tunnel will be closed for the weekend starting at 9 p.m. Friday, according to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Weather permitting, the closure is scheduled to last until 5 a.m. on Monday, May 20, the department said in a press release. Workers will paint the tunnel's portals and walls and perform routine maintenance to the concrete during the closure. Motorists planning to cross the Mobile River over the weekend are asked to consider alternate routes and adjust travel times if necessary. Traffic will be detoured onto the Wallace Tunnel on Interstate 10.

FHWA Hosts Webinar on MAP-21 State Safety Data System Guidance: The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety and Office of Highway Policy Information will co-host a webinar on Tuesday May 21, 2013 from 2:00-3:30pm ET. This webinar will provide information on the [Guidance on State Safety Data Systems for MAP-21](#) and the August 7, 2012 [Memorandum on Geospatial Network for All Public Roads](#). This webinar will clarify the data capabilities States should have to support their Highway Safety Improvement Program under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) reauthorizing legislation. This webinar is free and you can register [HERE](#).

[Transportation Research](#)

New Safety Data Reports Released

Posted by Carrie Kissel, Associate Director, RPO America

The National Traffic Safety Highway Administration (NHTSA) has released three new fact sheets related to traffic fatalities, including 2012 fatality estimates, and 2011 data on bicycling and young drivers. The [Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities](#) (PDF) shows that 34,080 people died in 2012, an increase of 5.3 percent over 2011 but down significantly from the 43,510 fatalities recorded in 2005. Vehicle miles traveled also increased in 2012 by about .3 percent.

NHTSA's [Bicyclists and Other Cyclists Fact Sheet](#) (PDF) presents 2011 data showing that cycling fatalities as a share of all traffic crashes increased slightly, from 1.9 percent in 2010 to 2.1 percent in 2011. Of the 677 total cycling fatalities, 31 percent occurred in rural areas in 2011. The largest share occurred during 4 p.m. – 7:59 p.m. at 30 percent, with another 21 percent occurring from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The [Young Drivers Fact Sheet](#) (PDF) shows that the number of young driver fatalities decreased 48 percent from 2002 – 2011, to 1,987 fatalities in 2011. Drivers between ages 15 – 20 are 6 percent of all licensed drivers in the U.S., but made up ten percent of the fatalities in 2011.

In addition, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) has released the report [Motorcyclist Traffic Fatalities by State: 2012 Preliminary Data](#). GHSA estimates that motorcyclist traffic fatalities in the United States increased about 9 percent from 2011 to 2012. This increase may be in part due to a recovering economy that may make motorcycle purchases feasible, as well as high gasoline costs encouraging motorcycle trips to save fuel. The report also suggests a number of strategies to reduce motorcyclist fatalities.