



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, May 3, 2013

Volume 6, Number 5

In This Issue

- **MOBILE MPO UPDATES**
- **PROJECTS LET APRIL 26th**
- **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

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

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

Anthony Johnson
Transportation Planner
ajohnson@sarpc.org

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

We hope everyone has had a great week. There are a lot of grants available and the deadlines are quickly approaching so be sure to check out Funding Opportunities below. Several meetings coming up; the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has a meeting scheduled for **May 15th**, the TCC/CAC meets **May 22nd** and MPO Policy committee will be meeting on **June 5th**. Also, the future is ours? Please see *MPO Updates*.

We have a Facebook poll  in MPO Updates, please give us your thoughts. Today is the funding deadline for the ADA Compliant Transportation Enhancements funds, please see *Funding Opportunities*.



NEW TIGER Funds are announced! Projects have to be between \$10 million and \$200 million in Urban areas and over \$1 million in rural areas. TODAY AT 2:00 is a webinar on TIGER Guidance: please see *Funding Opportunities*.

May is here and you know what that means, its [National Bike Month](#). So oil those chains! Have a great weekend.

Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison
www.mobilempo.org
706-1CAR

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. The agenda items will go out in the first meeting notice in today's mail; please plan on attending if you are on these committees.

BPAC MEETING SCHEDULED

The Mobile MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet May 15, 2013 at noon in the board room of the GM&O building at the corner of Water Street and Beauregard Street. This will be a bring your own brown bag lunch meeting. If you have something you would like to suggest for discussing, please feel free to contact us.



Yay or Nay?

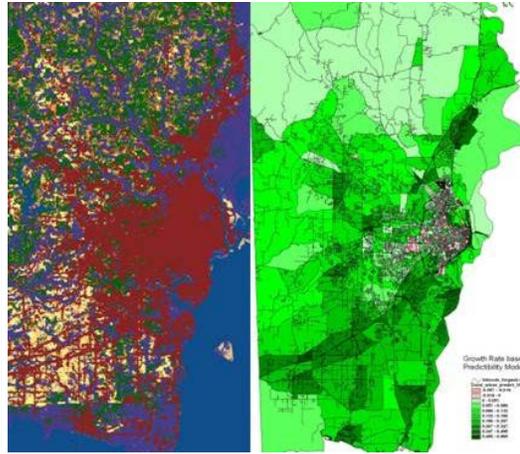
The Transportation Staff here at SARPC has been debating for some time to develop a Facebook page. We have looked at other MPOs across the country, and some urban areas with millions of people, have a couple dozen "likes". Yet on the other hand, it is a free way to disseminate information through social 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

THE FUTURE IS OURS....

Our preliminary results of the S.L.E.U.T.H. model are in. If you recall, our Travel Demand Forecast Model has been validated to 2010 base year traffic counts, and our gravity model has been calibrated to data collected from the Mobile Origin-Destination Cell Phone Study. It's time to project our socio-economic data (travel model input; households, employees, etc.) to rerun the model for the future year (year 2035) traffic volumes. We used the complicated S.L.E.U.T.H. urban predictability model to assist us with this, and we are one of only a handful of urban areas in the country to do this.

From archived aerial photographs, historical census data and remote sensing from archived satellite imagery, we were able to create “ a prediction” of what may be urban in the next 25 years. Imagine archived aerial photographs, stacked on top of one another, and creating a 3-dimensional urban trend analysis, allowing growth only on property that is possible to become urban (left photo). This gave each of our traffic analysis zones an individual growth rate (right photo), which some are zero (pink) because the zone is built out. We are currently tweaking the growth rates and will be meeting with each of our MPO members, planners and engineers to verify what we have done.



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 April 26th, 2013

BALDWIN COUNTY

- Constructing the Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, Bridge (Precast) and Seawall Replacement on SR-182 over Little Lagoon Pass (Lee Calloway Bridge) in Gulf Shores. Length 0.378 mi.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from the intersection of SR-16 (US-90) West and SR-59 North (MP 54.320) to 0.05 miles south of CR-55 (MP 55.811) in Loxley and on SR-59 from the intersection of SR-59 North and SR-16 (US-90) West (MP 27.830) to 0.07 miles south of Flowerwood Rd (MP 28.945) in Loxley. Length 2.606 mi.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-59 from 0.4 miles south of I-10 in Loxley to the junction of SR-3 (US-31) and 0.2 miles north on SR-3. Length 6.148 mi.

Legislative Updates

The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate were in recess and will return to pro forma session on TODAY Friday, May 3, 2013.

President Obama Taps Charlotte Mayor for Next U.S. DOT Secretary: Click [HERE](#) for more information on Mayor Foxx; [HERE](#) for House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster's (R-PA) statement; and [HERE](#) for updated information on NARC's website.

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](#).

U.S. DOT will host two more webinars to review the information contained in the notice of funding availability.

5/3/2013 2:00-3:00pm ET [TIGER 2013 Application Preparation Guidance Seminar](#)

5/6/2013 1:00-2:00pm ET [TIGER 2013 Benefit Cost Analysis Guidance Seminar](#)

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.

Transportation Enhancement Funding Announcement

Application Due: May 3, 2013

The Transportation Enhancement Program was not continued under the new transportation bill MAP-21. ALDOT has a small balance of TE funds for a few additional TE projects. It is ALDOT's desire to use this remaining TE Funds to correct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Deficiencies. Therefore, to utilize all of the State's TE funds, ALDOT is soliciting applications for a few additional projects for FY 2013. The deadline is May 3, 2013 and an application can be picked up at SARPC, or please call Mr. Kevin Harrison at SARPC(251)706-4635, or Mr. Cecil Colson at ALDOT (334)353-6403. The eligible projects under this particular application are for:

1. Streetscapes to achieve compliance with ADA guidelines. A streetscape can include items such as sidewalk replacement, improvement for ADA compliance, pedestrian lighting and landscaping.
 2. Projects to make sidewalks ADA Compliant, such as curb cuts.
-

Rural Area Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom (NF) Request for Grant Applications

The following information applies to public and private providers of public transportation that are not in the Mobile Urban Area. If you are unsure if you are eligible, just give us a call at SARPC and we will assist you.

For those eligible entities interested in applying for JARC and/or NF funds, the FY 2014 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) & New Freedom (NF) "Call for Projects" Announcement, Cover Letter, and Grant Application is available on the RPO website ([Here](#)). Applicants must submit grant applications to SARPC Transportation Planning by **5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2013**. Prior to submitting the completed grant applications, **all applicants must have submitted proposed budget(s) to ALDOT by 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2013**. This is a special requirement for the FY 2014 grant application process that is being imposed in order for ALDOT to facilitate the development and submission of its FY 2014 draft JARC and New Freedom grant applications to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by April 30, 2013. **Applicants will not be eligible for funding consideration if proposed budgets are not received by April 15, 2013.**

If there are questions, please contact Sharon Coats directly. Contact information is included below.

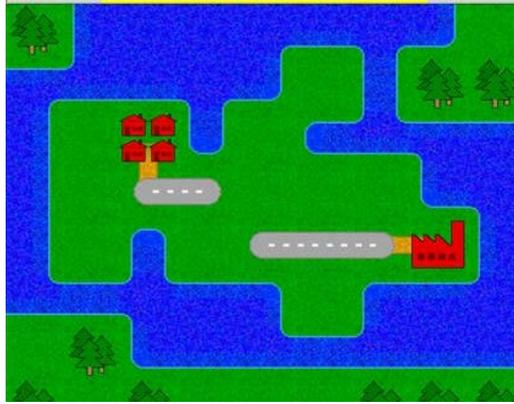
*Sharon Coats
ALDOT
1100 John Overton Drive
Montgomery, AL 36110
334 353-6443
coatss@dot.state.al.us*

Just For Fun

So what does it take to plan for traffic?

It takes money, and this game makes you budget your road projects. The point is getting employees from their homes to work and having enough money for infrastructure, and emergency vehicles. It's harder than you think!

[CLICK THE GAME:](#)



In the News

Top 5 states for bicycle friendliness? (Hint, Alabama doesn't make the cut)



By [Robert McClendon | rmcclendon@al.com](#)

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

on May 01, 2013 at 4:15 PM, updated May 01, 2013 at 4:22 PM



The most bicycle-friendly states in the country are Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Minnesota and Delaware, according to a report from the League of American Bicyclists. That sounds about right. All of those states have a reputation for attracting hip young professionals. So, where does Alabama rank? Low. Very low.

Alabama is the second-worst state in the country for cyclists, according to the report [\[HERE\]](#). Only North Dakota ranked lower than Alabama. The report scored each state in five categories of bicycle friendliness, with 1 being not friendly at all, and five being extremely friendly.

Legislation and enforcement
Policies and Programs
Infrastructure and Funding
Education and Encouragement
Evaluation and Planning

Alabama scored ones in every category except Policies and Programs, where it scored a two.

"It's frustrating," said Niklas Hallberg, a founding member of Mobilians on Bikes, an advocacy group in Mobile. "So many other parts of the country have seen the benefits, the economic benefits, the health benefits. They have just outpaced this area." Hallberg, an engineer, said that young professionals take things like bicycle friendliness into account as they look for a place to live. "To see a ranking like this makes me feel like there might be another place that might be more suitable for me and my family," he said.

Among Alabama cities, only Auburn is officially recognized by the league as a Bicycle Friendly Community, having been awarded a bronze level. Huntsville, which has recently taken strides to improve its cycling environment, has earned an honorable mention.

Still, things are not as bleak as they might seem, according to Stan Palla, director of the Alabama Bicycle Coalition, a statewide advocacy group. Palla became the group's first full-time employee in March, and he's been working with the state Department of Transportation to improve the state's cycling infrastructure and culture. "I think they are a willing partner, and I think we will see some improvements in the near future," he said. "It's not just about going green, it's about keeping the best and the brightest in our state." Rapid improvement is possible. Colorado, number two on this year's list, has jumped 20 places in only five years.

Transportation Research

The **Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes Committee** of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) released their Planning and Environment Group: [ADA20 Triennial Strategic Plan](#).

The **TRB** released the conference proceedings Web 10: [Using Census Data for Transportation Applications](#), which are summaries of an October 2011 conference that focused on the critical role of census data in a wide range of transportation planning applications.

The **U.S. National Traffic Safety Highway Administration** released, [2011 Bicyclists & Other Cyclists Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](#), a fact sheet that details the numbers of cyclists killed and injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2011.