



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday May 5th, 2017

Volume 22, Number 4

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There will be a Mobile TCC/CAC meeting on May 17th, at 10:00AM; please see (*Mobile MPO Updates*). The Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 Funds call for Projects have been announced (**please see *Funding Opportunities***). The Alabama Senate rejected a proposal to take millions in state road dollars out of the General Fund, AND Congress may have saved the TIGER Grants (**see *Legislative Updates***). If you "averaged" all of the yellow time on Airport Blvd, that would just be "mean"; AND you need a license? See **Just For Fun**. RUN THROUGH THE TUNNEL Tunnel Vision 5k is tomorrow morning, and what does the Huntsville Mayor say about Mobile's traffic? See **In The News**

Have a great weekend! And check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

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



www.mobilempo.org check us out on FACEBOOK

Mobile MPO Updates

TCC/CAC meeting May 17th, 10:00 AM, Mobile MPO meeting June 7th, 10:00 AM

There will be a TCC/CAC meeting on May 17th. The results of that meeting will go before the MPO on June 7th. There are two items amending and modifying the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). One is to Extend the Eastbound Bridge on SR 42 (US98) over Big Creek, and the other is to unfortunately delete a TAP project that the PE was never completed. Also, it is budget season, so we will be presenting the DRAFT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). As a line item in the FY 2018 UPWP will be a Feasibility Study for US 45. Further, I have received communication from two members of the City of Mobile City Council with requests for funding, this also may be a topic of discussion

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

The target start date or project engineers estimated amount has changed for the following:

Project : 100066779 (MC)
Federal aid number : 99-609-495-042-700
County : MOBILE

Project Description : BEAUTIFICATION OF BANKHEAD TUNNEL ON SR-42 TO INCLUDE NEW DECORATIVE LIGHTING, RELOCATION OF SEVERAL CABINETS AND CONDUITS INCLUDING ANY INCIDENTAL WORK NEEDED TO RESTORE THE HISTORIC APPEARANCE OF THE TUNNEL
Target start date : 5/15/2017
Engineers Estimate : \$250,000.00

Project : 100054972 (CN)
Federal aid number : EBF 0042 (511)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : EXTEND EASTBOUND BRIDGE ON SR-42 (US-98) OVER BIG CREEK EAST 1440'
Old Target start date : June 30, 2017
New Target start date : May 31, 2019

Project : 100054972 (CN)
Federal aid number : EBF 0042 (511)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : EXTEND EASTBOUND BRIDGE ON SR-42 (US-98) OVER BIG CREEK EAST 1440'
Old Engineers Estimate : \$4,121,204.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$10,366,689.77

Project : 100054972 (CN)
Federal aid number : EBF 0042 (511)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : EXTEND EASTBOUND BRIDGE ON SR-42 (US-98) OVER BIG CREEK EAST 1440'

Old Engineers Estimate : \$10,366,689.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$10,162,425.03

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

By July 1, 2017, ALDOT should have developed the statewide performance measures for safety. The Mobile MPO, and all MPO's including the Eastern Shore MPO, will have until February 27th, 2018 to either adopt ALDOT's methodology for performance measures, or adopt their own. There are five safety performance measures:

- number of fatalities
- rate of fatalities
- number of serious injuries
- rate of serious injuries
- number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries combined

The Mobile MPO will have to develop targets for these five performance measures (using ALDOT's methodology or our own) and create an annual *System Performance Report*, and then decide on whether we have met our targets or not. Statewide, if ALDOT does not meet the targets of the performance measures, they will lose the flexibility of their safety funding. At the MPO level, if we do not meet are targets, well, we must try harder.

Performance measures and targets must be specified for Safety (see above), Transit (ALDOT Multi-modal), Freight (ALDOT and MPO) and Highway (ALDOT contracted with Jeff Carroll of South Carolina). The LRTP and the TIP must be modified as it must be explained how each project in both documents are working towards achieving all performance measure targets.

3-C Agreement To Be Updated

To all members of the Mobile MPO, we have to update our 3-C agreement. This is the agreement between SARPC, ALDOT, the WAVE Transit, the eight Urban Area cities and Mobile County that actually creates the Mobile MPO. In order to execute this agreement, we will need a resolution from Mobile County and each city in the next month or so. If you are a new mayor, your staff is familiar with this as we did this last Spring. Because there is a new federal transportation act "the FAST ACT", the language has changed and we must update the agreement. We sent notifications to each MPO member. Please call Kevin if there are any questions.

Projects Within Region To Be Let April 28th, 2017

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- None at this time

MOBILE COUNTY

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-42 (US-98) from the Mississippi State Line to the junction of Snow Road west of Semmes. Length 10.479 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,717,581 to \$2,099,266 .

BALDWIN COUNTY

- For constructing the Intersection Improvements (Turn Lane Installation) on CR-13 at the intersection of Sehay Boulevard and Longue Vue Boulevard in Daphne. Length 0.227 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$558,416 to \$682,509 .
- For constructing the Intersection Improvements (Roundabout Installation) on CR-30 at the intersection of CR-13 in Fairhope. Length 0.394 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$835,082 to \$1,020,656 .

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

Alabama Senate keeps road money in General Fund, passes budget



By [Mike Cason | mcason@al.com](#)

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

on May 04, 2017 at 5:58 PM, updated May 04, 2017 at 8:51 PM

The Alabama Senate today rejected a proposal to take millions in state road dollars out of the General Fund, a move that

would have forced cuts to state agencies.

The Senate later passed the state budget by a vote of 23-4.

That sends it back to the House, which had passed a slightly different version earlier.

Sen. Paul Sanford, R-Madison proposed an amendment that would move \$63.5 million in road funds from the General Fund to the state Department of Transportation.

Sanford's amendment would have spread that reduction across all agencies that depend on the General Fund, cutting them by 3.4 percent.

The Senate rejected that by a vote of 25-7.

The Senate continued debate after rejecting Sanford's amendment and voted down two other amendments, including one that briefly sparked an angry exchange on the floor.

Sen. Phil Williams, R-Rainbow City, proposed moving a total of \$600,000 from two earmarks under the Tourism Department to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Those were \$300,000 for Barber Motorsports Park and \$300,000 for the World Games, which Birmingham is scheduled to host in 2021.

Williams' proposal drew a strong objection from Sen. Rodger Smitherman, D-Birmingham, who questioned why Williams targeted two expenditures from the Birmingham area.

Smitherman became visibly angry at one point, shouting at Williams, "I'm sick of it."

The Senate rejected the Williams amendment by a vote of 19-10.

The Legislature also voted down an amendment by Sen. Bill Holtzclaw, R-Madison, to delete the allocation of revenue that would be generated from a 5 percent increase in the markup on liquor under consideration by the Alcoholic Beverage and Control Board.

Holtzclaw said he objected to an unelected board having the authority to approve such an increase, saying that should be the responsibility of the Legislature.

Holtzclaw's amendment lost by a vote of 19-9. Continue [HERE](#)

Related articles [HERE](#)

Congress saves transportation programs from Trump's proposed cuts

BY [MELANIE ZANONA](#) - 05/01/17 11:30 AM EDT



© Getty

Congressional leaders unveiled a spending deal on Monday that would preserve funding for transportation programs that President Trump targeted for cuts.

The fiscal 2017 omnibus spending bill, which would keep the government running through September, would provide \$19.3 billion for the Department of Transportation (DOT). That figure is \$681 million above current levels and \$6.2 billion below the president's request, according to a summary sheet.

Trump's budget, released earlier this year, [would have slashed](#) the DOT budget by 13 percent, or \$2.4 billion.

The omnibus deal would also preserve current funding levels for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant program, which was set up by the Obama administration's 2009 economic stimulus package to provide an extra injection of cash for surface transportation projects.

Trump proposed entirely eliminating the grant program, which Republicans have unsuccessfully sought to cut in previous spending proposals. Congress appropriated the grants every year, but they were never authorized.

The administration's spending blueprint also would limit funding for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment program and end federal support for an Essential Air Service (EAS) subsidy program in rural communities.

But the congressional spending pact unveiled Monday would actually increase funding for the FTA program by \$236 million

and maintain funding for the EAS program.

"Transit ridership remains high, with over 10.5 billion trips per year ... but transit systems across the country are struggling to keep up with maintenance while also expanding their systems in order to meet current demand," a summary sheet says.

"These projects help ease commute times, save fuel, reduce emissions, and connect Americans to opportunities for work and services that they need every day."

The spending deal also points out some of the "harmful riders dropped during conference," including a provision to prohibit the Federal Railroad Administration from conducting oversight of the California high-speed rail project or reimbursing the state for incurred costs.

It also drops a provision that would have overturned state rules governing truck driver meal and rest breaks, which supporters said was necessary to avoid a messy patchwork of state laws.

Under the spending deal, the Federal Aviation Administration would get \$16.4 billion, including more than \$1 billion for the agency's NextGen modernization program.

The legislation also provides additional money for grants to implement Positive Train Control technology, crude-by-rail safety initiatives and automated vehicle technology.

Trump to 'consider' raising the gas tax (*but GOP flashes stop sign at it [HERE](#)*)

BY NAOMI JAGODA - 05/01/17 01:49 PM EDT



© Getty Images

President Trump on Monday said that he is open to raising the gas tax to help pay for infrastructure projects. In an interview with [Bloomberg News](#), Trump said he would "certainly consider" a gas tax hike "if we earmarked money toward the highways."

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer later stressed during a briefing that Trump did not endorse a gas tax increase. Instead, according to Spicer, Trump told Bloomberg that he would consider the request of a transportation group that met with him and expressed support for raising the gas tax.

Trump has made enacting a \$1 trillion infrastructure package one of his top priorities. The federal gas tax hasn't been increased since [Bill Clinton](#) was president, and there has been bipartisan opposition to raising it.

But some lawmakers have expressed an openness to raising the tax in recent years to boost infrastructure funding. A number of states have also increased their own gas taxes. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) said at an event hosted by The Hill in March that he supports "looking at everything" when it comes to finding revenue to pay for infrastructure. The top Democrat on the panel, Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, offered legislation in March to raise the gas tax by about 1 cent per year. Trump also told Bloomberg that he remains interested in a "reciprocal tax" on imports.

"If a country's charging us 52 percent and we're charging them nothing for the same product going back and forth? Nobody can fight it," he said.

Neither a gas tax increase nor a border-adjustment tax were included in the tax plan that the White House released last week. [The White House plan](#) would lower the top individual income rate from 39.6 percent to 35 percent and the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent. It also would eliminate deductions other than those for charitable giving and mortgage interest and do away with the estate tax and the alternative minimum tax. Trump told Bloomberg that he is willing to give up parts of his tax plan as part of negotiations with Congress but wouldn't provide any specifics.

He also said that he'd like tax cuts to be permanent, but reiterated that "we're doing a very big tax cut."

Governor Kay Ivey on the Gas Tax



TAXES AND REVENUE

The state's previous two governors-- Bentley and Gov. Bob Riley -- proposed large tax increases, mostly without success. Ivey supports a gas tax to fund road construction, but isn't convinced yet there's a need for other revenue measures.

"I think we've got a spending problem more than having a budget problem. We've got to learn how to spend less."

Ivey said she canceled plans to install a swimming pool at the gubernatorial residence at Fort Morgan that's being made useable through a refurbishment funded with BP oil spill funds.

"We don't need to spend money on a swimming pool. I just don't think it is a necessary expense. There again I'm trying to get a handle on spending. You got a whole Gulf of Mexico out there to swim in." [HERE](#)

White House: Trump still committed to \$1T infrastructure plan

BY MELANIE ZANONA - 05/01/17 04:29 PM EDT

The administration said Monday that President Trump remains committed to upgrading U.S. roads, bridges and airports, even though a rebuilding proposal was not released within his first 100 days in office. White House press secretary Sean Spicer said during the daily briefing that Trump "absolutely" still intends to unveil a \$1 trillion infrastructure package sometime this year.

"He's been working on that with both his economic and policy team, but this week we're a little busy with the [spending bill] and healthcare," Spicer said.

"It's clearly still up there on the priority list. Lets get through this week and then hopefully have some additional details moving forward."

Trump promised on the campaign trail to submit an infrastructure proposal to Congress within his first 100 days as president, but the timeline was pushed back as GOP leadership and the White House vowed to first tackle healthcare and tax reform.

In recent weeks, Trump had floated the idea of linking his rebuilding plan with other legislative priorities to attract more support for his tax overhaul or healthcare proposal, because he said infrastructure is "so popular" among Democrats.

But the administration introduced a tax plan last week that did not set aside money for infrastructure, as some had hoped, while the bill to repeal and replace ObamaCare has not been linked to the issue either. Congressional leaders predict that an infrastructure package will be released sometime this summer.

[50 YEARS OF US TRANSPORTATION CHECK IT OUT!](#)

Funding Opportunities

TAP Funds

Below is the call for projects for the **Mobile Urbanized Area TAP Funding**. This is different than the State TAP funding, which the application is generally due in December. If you are within the Mobile MPO (see [HERE](#)) you are eligible to apply. If not, you will have to wait for the State TAP application, which will be posted under this section of the Transportation Friday Newsletter.

Transportation Alternatives Program Funding (URBAN) *deadline June 2, 2017*

The Mobile MPO has announced the availability of the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The maximum amount that can be applied for per project with Mobile Urbanized TAP funds is \$200,000 (federal). Applicants are welcomed and encouraged to apply for funding for both fiscal years.

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 are due to the Transportation Planning Department of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) no later than 12:00 p.m., Friday June 2, 2017. [Electronic versions of the applications are available online](#) at mobilempo.org. Click the Mobile MPO tab and then the Transportation Alternatives tab. Project budgets should be itemized and completed by a Professional Engineer that is certified by the State of Alabama.

If you have any questions please call the SARPC Transportation Planning Department at (251) 433 6541

FTA 5310 Funds for the Mobile Urban Area *deadline June 2, 2017 no later than NOON*

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission is responsible for the management and administration of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Area Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Transportation program in the Mobile Urbanized Area. The goal of the 5310 Program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available. The FTA 5310 Program provides financial assistance for transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

This program provides grant funds for capital, mobility management, and operating expenses for:

- Public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable;
- Public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Public transportation projects that improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance on complementary paratransit; and
- Alternatives to public transportation projects that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities and with transportation.

SARPC will accept grant applications until June 2, 2017 at noon for Fiscal Year 2018 Mobile Urban Area 5310 funds. Please read the guidelines and application before attempting to complete it. The guidelines and application can be found online at <http://mobilempo.org/5310.html>.

Technical assistance is available on an as needed basis. If you questions or to request technical assistance, please contact Monica Williamson at (251)706-4613 or email mwilliamson@sarpc.org.

FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

New funding is available from the Federal Highway Administration's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program to encourage the transportation community to adopt proven innovations. [Funding](#) or the AID Demonstration program, launched in 2014 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was continued by the 2015 [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act](#). Since AID Demonstration was introduced, FHWA has provided more than \$43 million for 61 awards.

Under the program, funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects that use proven innovations in any project phase, including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through Grants.gov, the federal government's website for information on funding opportunities. For more information on the AID Demonstration program, contact [Ewa Flom](#) of the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation.

The FHWA continues the Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The AID Demonstration provides incentive funding for any project activities eligible for assistance under title 23, U.S.C. in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment, and construction that address the TIDP goals. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published on September 1, 2016 (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21063>) requests grant applications and provides selection criteria, application requirements, and technical assistance with Grants.gov during the grant solicitation period.

Link to Additional Information: [FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation Grants page](#)

Industrial Access Road and Bridge

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) and the project sponsor (city or county) must maintain the completed facility unless the facility consists of turn lanes, crossovers, etc., that are located on state highways. Industrial access funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs.

Prior to the date the qualifying (new or expanding) project is "placed in service," the sponsoring entity or its local development agency must notify the Alabama Department of Commerce of its intent to claim the incentives under Section 41-9-202.1, Code of Alabama 1975. Effective October 9, 2008, the Industrial Access Road and Bridge Corporation application submittal should include the notification acknowledgment letter from the Secretary of Commerce. For more info, see [HERE](#).

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available click [HERE](#) or type www.grants.gov in your browser.

Just For Fun

This week's Just For Fun, is a true story, and ridiculous. So Just For Fun, do not try to solve for $T=D/S$ when it comes to calculating practical yellow time, especially when a city's revenue generator is at stake!!!

Yellow-Light Crusader Fined for Doing Math Without a License



Mats Jarlstrom acknowledges that he is unusually passionate about traffic signals — and that his zeal is not particularly appreciated by Oregon officials.

His crusade to make traffic lights remain yellow longer — which began after his wife received a red-light camera ticket — has drawn some interest among transportation specialists and the media. But among the power brokers in his hometown, Beaverton, it has elicited ridicule and exasperation.

“They literally laughed at me at City Hall,” Mr. Jarlstrom recalled of a visit there in 2013, when he tried to share his ideas with city counselors and the police chief.

Worse still was getting hit recently with a \$500 fine for engaging in the “practice of engineering” without a license while pressing his cause. So last week, Mr. Jarlstrom filed a civil rights lawsuit in federal court against the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying, charging the state’s licensing panel with violating his First Amendment rights.

“I was working with simple mathematics and applying it to the motion of a vehicle and explaining my research,” said Mr. Jarlstrom, 56. “By doing so, they declared I was illegal.”

The lawsuit is the latest and perhaps most novel shot in the continuing campaign against the proliferation of state licensing laws that can require costly training and fees before people can work. Mr. Jarlstrom is being represented by the Institute for Justice, a libertarian organization partly funded by the billionaire brothers and activists Charles G. and David H. Koch.

Conservatives are not the only ones worried that willy-nilly licensing requirements for occupations from hair braiding to florists are constricting employment and economic growth. The Obama administration and labor economists across the political spectrum have also criticized what they see as unnecessary and expensive work restrictions.

Most of the lawsuits brought by the institute against state licensing boards argue that they are unconstitutionally interfering with individuals’ right to earn a living. They complain that the boards are more interested in keeping out competition than protecting consumers against inept practitioners.

What is unusual about Mr. Jarlstrom’s case is that it does not involve any commercial pursuits, advertising or other moneymaking efforts. Instead, he accuses the board members in his suit of interfering with free speech.

“These boards have become the new censors,” said Wesley Hottot, an Institute for Justice lawyer who is representing Mr. Jarlstrom. “They think that the First Amendment does not apply to them.” Continue [HERE](#)

In the News

Northbound I-65 at exit 15 to be closed Saturday evening, Sunday morning



Work on I-65 at exit 15 will require a short detour on the evening of Saturday, May 6, 2017. (Courtesy of Gulf Equipment)

By [Lawrence Specker](#) | lspecker@al.com Press-Register

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

on May 05, 2017 at 10:32 AM, updated May 05, 2017 at 10:51 AM

Interstate 65 at exit 15 will be completely closed to northbound traffic for a period from Saturday evening into Sunday morning, requiring a short detour across Celeste Road.

According to information provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, plans call for the closure to last from 11 p.m. Saturday, May 6, until Sunday, May 7.

Southbound traffic will not be affected by the work, which is part of a larger ongoing project at the exchange. Northbound traffic will be routed along the off-ramp for Celeste Road, then across the road to the northbound on-ramp back onto the interstate. Celeste Road will be closed for about 15 minutes at a time to facilitate I-65 traffic flow.

According to ALDOT, the closure will clear the way for workers to set concrete girders over the northbound lanes of I-65. It's one step in a \$6.1 million bridge replacement project to be completed by summer 2018.

"Law enforcement, flagmen and additional traffic control devices will be utilized for safety and information purposes," according to an ALDOT statemnt. "Drivers are encouraged to use safe speeds and extra caution when traveling through the work zone."

Somebody's got to step up,' Tommy Battle says of his run for governor

BY [LEE ROOP](#)

lroop@al.com



Article [HERE](#)

Excerpt:

Mobile just won a new Walmart international distribution center, Battle said. Goods will arrive by ship and be trucked to other distribution centers and eventually stores.

"What does that do to I-65, which is already over capacity, when we add all those trucks to I-65?" he asked. "What does it do to I-10 where Mobile already has a problem? We've got to take on those challenges."

Tour de Bay brings bicycle racing to downtown Mobile May 6

By [Lawrence Specker](#)



The Tour de France doesn't start until July 1, but this year's Tour de Bay will bring some close-quarters racing to downtown Mobile on May 6, followed by recreational riding on May 7.

As its full title indicates, the 2017 Tour de Bay Criterium and Fondo Ride actually consists of two events. The Criterium is a USA Cycling-sanctioned competition featuring a series of races taking place between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. Racers will compete on a closed course using streets in the western portion of the Dauphin Street entertainment district, with the start-finish line in front of Wintzell's Oyster House. The event serves as the state criterium championship; entry fee for competitors is \$25 for the first race and \$5 for each additional race.

Spectators are welcome, and there is no admission fee to watch the event. A post-race event will feature a performance by Infant Richard & The Delta Stones behind O'Daly's Irish Pub.

The second event is a recreational ride starting at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 7, at Bienville Square. Riders will have two options: A 22-mile fun ride and a 60-kilometer fondo ride. The entry fee is \$25, which includes food and drink vouchers for a post-race event at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Tour de Bay is an annual fundraiser benefiting Team Share the Road, a nonprofit organization that works to educate and promote safe bicycling and pedestrian traffic. According to organizers, proceeds from the event help the group to supply helmets to children in need and to provide safety seminars, among other activities. The event is supported by the Mobile Sports Authority.

Full registration and volunteer information can be found at www.tourdebaymobile.com.

Take a jog through the Bankhead Tunnel Tomorrow!!!



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lions-club-tunnel-vision-5k-registration-30301428388>



The City of Mobile will host a formal ceremony launching the three-year birthday celebration.

Mobile, AL Celebration Kickoff

Downtown Mobile, Mardi Gras Park // Cooper Riverside Park

Friday, MAY 5, 2017 6:00 – 10:00 P.M.

104 S Royal Street, Mobile, AL 36022

[Watch the Livestream](#)

On Friday, May 5, 2017 the city of Mobile will raise the first flag for the commemoration of Alabama's 200th birthday—and you're invited!

The launch will begin at 6 PM with a formal ceremony to be followed by musical entertainment and free admission to many of the city's historic sites, including the History Museum of Mobile and the Explorem. Mobile's new Mardi Gras Park is the hub of activities, which include a performance by the Mobile Symphony and fresh produce at the farm-to-table Mardi Gras Market. The evening will wind up with a fireworks display over the Mobile River at approximately 8 PM. Food vendors and

musical entertainment will continue until 10 PM.

Special invitations are being issued to representatives of France, Spain and England, as well as The Governor and Alabama's federal and state congressional delegation. But this is a celebration for all Alabamians!

Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson says, Mobile is known as the city "born to celebrate" for good reason. "The first Mardi Gras happened in Mobile," he notes, "and we hosted the launch of the state's sesquicentennial."

"There is no better place to kick off this celebration, and the city is poised to make it as memorable, diverse and celebratory as we know how."

In addition to the activities in Mardi Gras Park and tours of historic sites, visitors can take advantage of specials in the downtown shops and restaurants and an exhibition of work by artist William Christenberry at the Mobile Museum of Art.

UPDATE: RADCLIFF RD Closure Postponed

May 01, 2017

Due to the amount of rainfall received yesterday and the chance of rain Thursday, the Radcliff Rd. closure has been postponed until Monday, May 8. Radcliff Rd. from U.S. 43 to Celeste Rd. will be closed for approximately a week for widening, resurfacing and drainage work. Signage will note the detour.

FACT SHEET: City of Mobile Presents the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan

April 25, 2017

"The Capital Improvement Plan has enabled us to attack the estimated \$250 million backlog of infrastructure projects and position Mobile for a new era of growth and a higher quality of life. Our commitment remains that we will listen to our citizens as we identify projects and that we will be transparent with every dollar we spend. The City Council and I hear every day how much our citizens appreciate the improvements in our sidewalks, streets and parks. I am proud of our progress but there's still a lot of work to do. As we move forward with the 2018 CIP, please know that we welcome citizen engagement as we build a better future for our city. Mobile is undergoing a transformation, and the best is still yet to come." -- Mayor Stimpson

City Action:

The Mobile City Council unanimously approved the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan during Tuesday's regular Council meeting. Moving forward, the Administration is extending its planning horizon from a one-year view to a 5 to 10 year view – a best practice learned from other cities with successful capital programs. For the 2019 – 2024 planning period, the City will be developing a citywide "Program of Projects" in several major categories such as Traffic and Congestion Management, Roadway Reconstruction and Resurfacing, Stormwater and Drainage and Parks and Greenways. The work will continue to touch every area of Mobile, but the longer term view will allow for better alignment with partners such as Mobile County, so the City can leverage the CIP with their Pay as You Go program, or with the potential RESTORE money that will be released to this area for specific projects and programs.

Citywide Streets Assessment

- Completes a citywide roadway condition assessment.
- Prioritizes repairs based on current road condition.
- Develops predictable resurfacing cycles based on level of use.

Parks and Youth

- Addresses critical maintenance and repair needs in parks including drinking fountains, tables, grills, bleachers and athletic fields.
- Establishes new amenities, including a NFL Play60 playground in Trimmier Park and an outdoor pavilion in James Seals Park.
- Implements Parks ADA Accessibility Plan.

Three Mile Creek Greenway Trail

- Continues effort to create a 12 mile multi-modal pathway, connecting Langan Park to Downtown Mobile.
- Leverages additional funding (ex. RESTORE, CDBG, private-sector donations) for trail design and construction.
- Constructs and expands additional trails such as the Crepe Myrtle Trail.

Government Street Signal System Improvement

- Partner with the Metropolitan Planning Organization and ALDOT.
- Improves traffic flow along Government Street from Broad St. to the Bankhead Tunnel.

Reconstruction Designs

- St. Louis Street
- Texas Street (Ann St. to Broad St.)
- Glenwood Street (Airport Blvd. to Old Government St.)

Sidewalks

- Repairs existing sidewalks in addition to installing new sidewalks.
- Recent and upcoming areas of new sidewalk installation include:
 - Michael Blvd. (completed)
 - McGregor Ave. (under construction)
 - Navco Rd. (design work to begin in 2018)

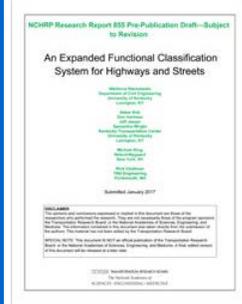
Snapshot of 2016-2018 Capital Improvement Program:

- Roadway Resurfacing, Striping and Reconstruction - \$14,934,118
- Stormwater Management and Drainage Projects - \$13,374,000

- Parks and Recreation Facility Repairs and Improvements - \$12,590,728
- Sidewalk Repair and New Installations - \$5,086,071
- Traffic and Signal System Improvements - \$5,304,061
- Facility Repairs and Improvements - \$4,893,001
- Assessments, Program Management, and Contingencies - \$4,543,021
- MAWSS Joint Projects - \$1,350,000
- Bridge, Culvert, and Guardrail Repair - \$925,000

Transportation Research

An Expanded Functional Classification System for Highways and Streets



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An Expanded Functional Classification System for Highways and Streets

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has released a pre-publication, non-edited version of Research Report 855: An Expanded Functional Classification System for Highways and Streets. This report builds upon preliminary engineering of a design project, including developing the purpose and need. In particular, it provides additional contexts beyond urban and rural, facilitates accommodation of modes other than personal vehicles and adds overlays for transit and freight. Two case studies illustrating application of the expanded system to actual projects are included.

Project: [Project Information](#)

DOI: [10.17226/24775](#)

This Summary Last Modified On: 4/28/2017

Fostering Innovation in Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Pooled Fund Study

Call for participants ends May 31

Transportation agencies across the country are seeking ways to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility. However, existing research programs that advance innovation, such as the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, cannot meet the growing needs for pedestrian and bicyclist research. This Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) study will supplement existing research venues and fill an important missing gap by emphasizing short turnaround practical research on issues immediately relevant to practitioners. It will address national goals and priorities identified through input from local, state, and national partners in FHWA's Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation. The pooled fund will provide a mechanism for federal, state, regional, and local transportation agencies; academic institutions; foundations; private firms; and other stakeholders to collaboratively fund and implement pedestrian and bicycle research.

New FHWA Courses Available

A new FHWA course, [MAP-21 Transportation Performance Management Overview \(Including FAST Act Updates\)](#) is now available through the National Highway Institute. The one-day instructor-led course, FHWA-NHI-138004, provides an overview of TPM provisions of MAP-21 and the FAST Act; describes the responsibilities that agencies—federal state, MPOs, RTPOs, and transit—have in delivering these requirements; highlights the importance of data in meeting performance management provisions; and shares noteworthy practices. The course is highly recommended for those interested in taking more detailed system-specific TPM implementation training. Practitioners may also be interested in [Transportation Performance Management Awareness – Federal Aid Version](#). This web-based course, FHWA-NHI-138001, provides an introduction to performance management, explains the critical role that the planning process plays in implementing a performance management program, and addresses what performance management means to FHWA.

BTS' National Transportation Statistics Updated

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) last Friday updated [National Transportation Statistics](#) (NTS) – a web-only reference guide to national-level transportation data. NTS, updated quarterly, includes a wide range of national transportation information. NTS consists of more than 260 tables of national data of which 36 were updated today. This quarter's updates are [Transportation System](#) (System Mileage Within the United States, U.S. Oil and Gas Pipeline Mileage, Condition of U.S. Bridges, U.S. Vehicle-Miles and U.S. Passenger-Miles); [Safety](#) (Transportation Fatalities by Mode, Injured Persons by Transportation Mode, Motor Vehicle Safety Data, Passenger Car Occupant Safety Data, Fatalities by Highest Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) in Highway Crashes); [Economy](#) (U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Attributed to For-Hire Transportation Services, Price Trends of Gasoline v. Other Consumer Goods and Services and Average Passenger Revenue per Passenger-Mile); and [Energy and the Environment](#) (Gasoline Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Sales, Energy Intensity of Passenger Cars, Other 2-Axle 4-Tire Vehicles, and Motorcycles, Average Fuel Efficiency of U.S. Passenger Cars and Light

Trucks and Estimated National Emissions of six pollutants). The next quarterly update is scheduled for July 2017. [NTS](#) contents are available on the [BTS](#) website.

Upcoming Webinars to Focus on Multimodal Networks

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center is leading two webinars during the month of May that will focus on measuring, visualizing and developing multimodal transportation networks.

Incorporating Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

1:00-2:30 pm Eastern Time

[PBIC's May 10 webinar](#) will explore opportunities for bicycle network developing through regular resurfacing programs. With limited funds available to implement bicycle plans, communities are challenged to take advantage of ongoing maintenance and resurfacing efforts to support bicycle network connectivity development. This webinar will provide participants with a strategy for integrating bicycle facilities into their routine resurfacing programs, specifically through the use of Road Diets. Peter Lagerwey and Jeremy Chrzan from Toole Design Group will lead this session, which is based on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guide [Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects](#).

Measuring and Visualizing Multimodal Networks

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

1:00-2:30 pm Eastern Time

[The May 17 session](#) will document strategies agencies can use to measure and visualize their nonmotorized transportation networks. Eliot Rose of ICF and Dan Goodman of FHWA will share early findings and examples from a guidebook that FHWA is producing to help transportation agencies select connectivity measures based on the data and technical tools available, the scale of analysis, and point in the planning process at which measures are applied. Eli Glazier of Toole Design Group will share the results of an effort to document the variety of ways communities choose to visually represent their bicycle networks, drawing from FHWA's [Bike Network Mapping Idea Book](#).

New ADA Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Compliance App

Download it Today



<http://www.vueworks.com/sidewalks-and-curb-ramps-application/>

- Simple to Use
- Download from Apple Store or Google Play
- Collect information at your pace
- Gathers ADA Compliance inventory and condition information
- Location is automatically collected in GIS

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.