



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, October 17, 2014

Volume 12, Number 3

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Origin Destination Study Using Cell Phones

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Intelligent Transportation System Diversion Route Planning Study

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It's a slow news week in terms of transportation, with the exception of gas prices are going down- and that is good news. We are finalizing the contract for *Non-Motorized Mobility Study*, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. A 1,000 cars a day, and that is a high volume facility? That is *Just for Fun*.

Have a great weekend!

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



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

Mobile MPO Updates

Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile

Toole Design Group (TDG) out of Washington D.C. was selected by a consultant selection committee to conduct the Non-Motorized Mobility Study for Downtown Mobile for the Mobile MPO. The study has an extensive Scope of Work and work should begin sometime in November. The focus of the Study is on non-motorized issues that we have in Downtown Mobile. Toole Design Group has conducted several of these around the country and authored several AASHTO and federal manuals on the subject. The Tasks of the Scope of Work include:

- Task One -Project Coordination
- Task Two- Existing Conditions
- Task Three-Pubic and Stakeholder Input
- Task Four-System Appraisal and Evaluation
 - ADA Assessment
 - Downtown Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Recommendations
- Task Five-Water Street Corridor Study
 - Truck Traffic Evaluation
 - Downtown Design Workshop
 - Water Street Design Vetting
- Task Six-Traffic Data Collection and Analysis
 - Data Collection
 - Existing Conditions Analysis
 - Future Conditions Analysis
 - Summary Memorandum
- Task Seven- Draft Report
- Task Eight-Final Report
- Task Nine-Optional Downtown Streetscape Design Guide.

The consultant will have a year to finalize the study. An important component is the Design workshop, of which Toole will come down for several days and solicit extensive public outreach. The Water Street Design Vetting and Truck Traffic Evaluation will allow the consultant to produce recommendations in terms of how to get pedestrians safely from downtown to the waterfront, and the implication of prohibiting heavy trucks "through" on Water Street. We will keep you posted on this important study.

Mobile Urban Area FTA 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Update

Several weeks ago, we gave you an update on the status of the FTA 5310 grant as we are now the designated recipient of these funds. Because of the new fiscal year, FTA closed out 2014 and by next week we will be ready to continue the

approval process. Once this happens, we will be able to begin the procurement process for those awarded FTA 5310 vehicles and operating assistance. We will keep you posted.

Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge Information Site



The I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening project is a proposal to increase the capacity of I-10 by constructing a new six-lane bridge with 215 feet of Air Draft Clearance (ADC) across the Mobile River and widening the existing I-10 bridges across Mobile Bay from four to eight lanes.

The proposed project would be located in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

The official comment period for the proposed Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening Draft Environmental Impact Statement is [HERE](#).

Please take a moment to fill out a comment form, due by 5 pm on November 7. You may include additional pages but you must fill out and submit the comment form as well.

[COMMENT FORM](#)

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the Mobile MPO study area is complete and is a rather large document. This TDP summarizes the existing Wave Transit system and provides a series of phased recommendations that comprise the ten-year TDP. The chapters of the TDP include:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Market Analysis
- Chapter 3 – Existing Transit Services
- Chapter 4 – Transit Standards
- Chapter 5 – Transit Improvement Program Summary
- Chapter 6 – Phased Transit Improvements
- Chapter 7 – Public Participation
- Chapter 8 – Evaluation of Existing Routes
- Chapter 9 – FTA Section 5311 Program

The TDP is going to be the focus of the Transit Element of the *Destination 2040* Long Range Transportation Plan, and will be adopted as part of LRTP. The document is over 300 pages and 75 mb on disk. If you would like a copy of the TDP, just let us know, copies are available.

DESTINATION 2040

The MPO Staff is continuing to develop the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan titled Destination 2040. The objective of the plan is to identify, to the maximum extent feasible, the multi-modal transportation improvements which will be needed in the Mobile urban area between now and the year 2040 in order to maintain an acceptable level of mobility. 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](#).

Projects Within Region Let September 26th, 2014

Baldwin County

- for constructing the Roadway Extension (Grade, Drain, Base, Pave, and Signals) on Pride Drive from SR-59 (Gulf Shores Parkway) to the intersection of CR-20 and Roadway Improvements on CR-1186 (Juniper Street) from the junction of CR-20 to just north of the Pride Drive Extension in Foley. Length 2.527 mi.
- for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on CR-20 from the intersection of South Hickory Street to the intersection of SR-59 in Foley. Length 0.996 mi.

[What's Under Construction?](#)

Legislative Updates

Senator Boxer Wants Lame Duck Action on Transportation:

Though Congress recently extended the most recent transportation authorization bill through the end of May 2015, likely pushing action off for the new Congress that will be seated next year, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) recently sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) urging action well in advance of this new deadline. She would prefer action during the post-election session of Congress that will occur in December. Click [HERE](#) for the Letter.

Americans (Barely) Support Federal Gas Tax Increase For Better Roads:

A recent survey commissioned by AAA found that Americans generally believe the federal government should be spending more on transportation infrastructure. More than two-thirds (68%) believe the federal government should be spending more on roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. Only slightly more than half (52%) of survey participants, however, would be willing to pay more in gas tax to make these improvements a reality. The federal gas tax hasn't been raised since 1993. The AAA survey found that 51% would be "significantly" or "somewhat" more likely to vote for a member of Congress who supports an increase, while only 19% said they would be less likely to vote for a Congressional representative if they supported an increase in the federal gas tax. Click [HERE](#)

Funding Opportunities

Senior Transportation Grant Opportunity

Proposals Due: November 7

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) is seeking applications for a new Ladders of Opportunity Grant Program – Connecting Seniors to Public Transportation. To support successful aging of older adults, this grant program was created to provide funding to communities to develop and test interventions designed to encourage and facilitate increased access and usage of public transportation and mobility options. Each funded project will be required to partner with one of several national initiatives that support aging in place and currently operate in numerous local communities nationwide. Grants will be awarded to 5 communities at a maximum of \$20,000 each for approximately 5 months (late December 2014- May 31, 2015)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

DRA Workforce Development Capacity Building & Technical Assistance Fund

Round 2 Submissions Close: August 25 – November 4

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced that it will establish a competitive, technical assistance and capacity building investment program, which will allow rural counties/parishes and states to develop a connected workforce development system at the local level. DRA will make funds available as a first step in economic development which is needed for growth in the Delta region. Click [HERE](#) for application instructions.

New! NOFA for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program

Proposal Deadline: November 3

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making \$19.98 million in funding available for its Pilot Program for TOD Planning. This program helps support FTA's mission of improving public transportation for America's communities by providing funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning with a transit capital investment that will seek funding through FTA's *Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Program*. Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Grants.gov website by midnight Eastern Time on November 3, 2014. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

USDA – Grants for Increased Economic Opportunity and Improved Quality of Life in Rural Areas

Deadline: November 12

On August 13, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a press release announcing the availability of nearly \$6 million in grants to qualified organizations under the *Rural Community Development Initiative*. These grants will be offered to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community. Submissions must be made to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

Just For Fun

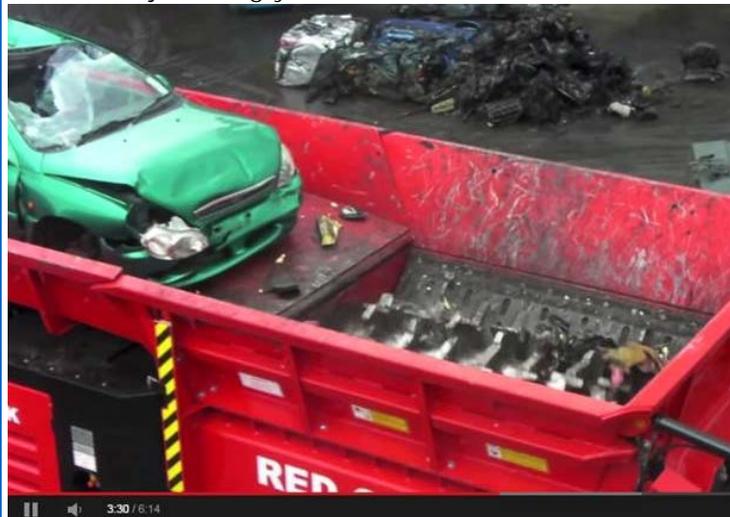
With millions of vehicles on our roadways, it is somewhat interesting to see what eventually happens to them. This five story auto shredder in Germany, can not only shred a thousand cars a day, but divides the ferrous and non-ferrous materials for recycling. Pretty impressive.....

Ctrl + Click to shred

German shredder recycles 1,000 cars a day



This one is just hungry!!!! Ctrl + click to the shred



In the News

Gas prices fall to lowest average since 2011

By Laura Barron-Lopez - 10/15/14 01:36 PM EDT

The average price of a gallon of gasoline is at its lowest level in the U.S. since 2011, according to AAA.

The auto group said on Wednesday that the current average of \$3.17 is roughly 17 cents per gallon cheaper than a year ago.

Additionally, AAA said, gas prices are "falling at the fastest rate since October 2012," and prices have dropped 51 cents per gallon since July of this year.

One-third of all gas stations in the U.S. are selling gas for less than \$3, and 10 states are currently charging less than \$3 per gallon.

That means drivers are spending roughly \$5 to \$15 less to fill up their tanks than they were in early July.

Scout your route: ALDOT updates road project on Twitter, Mobile Bay Ferry back in

service

Angela Levins | alevins@al.com By Angela Levins | alevins@al.com
Email the author | Follow on Twitter
on October 14, 2014 at 5:30 AM, updated October 14, 2014 at 5:32 AM

MOBILE, Ala. -- Weather permitting the Causeway ramp shut down by a fiery accident could reopen in about two weeks.

ALDOT is updating the progress of the project on their Twitter account @ALDOTMobileArea. Friday's post announced the ramp received a new deck.

The ramp was damaged when a tanker truck hit the guardrail on July 31. The driver escaped with minor injuries.

The Mobile Bay Ferry is running again. They posted details on their Facebook page Monday afternoon.

Post by Mobile Bay Ferry.

Below are other road projects underway in Mobile and Baldwin Counties:

Mobile:

Roundabout: The intersection of Three Notch Road at Dawes Lane and Dawes Lane Extension remains closed. The contractor anticipates being able to reopen the road in the first week of November.

Satchel Paige Drive: Satchel Paige Drive between Government and Bolling Brothers Blvd. is closed to traffic. The road is being widened to a four-lane divided road. Work is expected to take about three months. The road project is part of the McGowin Park Shopping Center construction.

ALDOT Mobile County:

I-10: Work is underway on the interstate 10 ramp leading to Battleship Parkway that was damaged in a fiery accident on July 31. ALDOT says work is moving along smoothly and the ramp could be opened to traffic up to three weeks from now.

I-10: Resurfacing and bridge work from Halls Mill Creek to the west end of the George C. Wallace Tunnel. Crews are working on eastbound inside lanes this week and retrofitting guardrail at the DIP ramps, where drivers should expect nighttime closures. Work scheduled to be complete by next summer. Drivers can expect lane closures with minimal or no delays Sunday to Thursday from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m.

U.S. 90: From Halls Mill to Pine Hill Drive. Drainage work ongoing throughout project. Lane closures will be at night. Drainage repairs could temporarily detour traffic at times. Work is expected to be complete by December.

Welcome Center: The Welcome Center at the Alabama/Mississippi line is shut down until at least Spring 2016. Delays and lane closures are possible. AL.com is working to get more information on the project.

ALDOT Baldwin County:

I-10: CR 68 connector to Baldwin Beach Express. Work is about 90-93 percent complete. Drivers may see an occasional lane closure on CR 83 for completing remaining work.

AL 181: From U.S. 31 to south of U.S. 90. Resurfacing work is completed. Delays should be minimal as crews wrap up the project. Work should be complete by October.

Little Lagoon Pass bridge remains under construction. ALDOT reports that the work is about 50 percent complete. There is a detour bridge next to the Little Lagoon Pass bridge. It's expected to be in place until the end of 2014. Expect minimal traffic delays.

The City of Fairhope invites you to a...
Town Hall Meeting

We need you to guide
our community's growth...

Come give input and opinions
on the future plans for Fairhope!

October 20, 2014
Homestead Village at 5:30pm

October 21, 2014
Fairhope Elementary School at 5:30pm

October 23, 2014
Fairhope Intermediate School at 5:30pm

Questions?
Contact Jonathan Smith at (251)928-8003



Transportation Research

Traffic Signal Systems 2014: Volume 2

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2439 consists of nine papers that explore design guidelines and conditions that warrant deployment of fully actuated coordination; high-resolution event-based data at diamond interchanges; graphical performance measures for practitioners to triage split failure trouble calls; intersection behavior improvements through delay-based left-turn phase initiation; and a sorting model of optimization order in traffic signal planning.

This issue also examines the estimation of vehicles in the dilemma zone and application to fixed-time coordinated signal optimization; optimal intersection operation with median U-turn; coupled linear programming approaches for decentralized control of urban traffic; and use of event-based traffic data in generating time-space diagrams for evaluating signal coordination.

FHWA releases new BIKESAFE guide as part of DOT's effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released its new Bicycle Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System (BIKESAFE). This resource helps support the U.S. Department of Transportation's new [pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative](#).

BIKESAFE is an online guide for implementing countermeasures to improve the safety and mobility of bicyclists. It provides practitioners with information and tools to review and select engineering and roadway infrastructure improvements to reduce bicyclist injuries.

BIKESAFE is comprised of four sections: A guide of basic information, specific countermeasure details, case studies, and an expert system tool for countermeasure selection, as well as links to dozens of other helpful web resources.

Guide: This section helps practitioners better understand the issues facing bicyclists, how to analyze crashes, and how to implement new treatments.

Countermeasures: The Countermeasures section includes a comprehensive list of 46 engineering, education, and enforcement countermeasure options, as well as details of each countermeasure, including its description, purpose, considerations, safety effect, and cost.

Case Studies: There are 34 case studies, or success stories, that document one or more of the countermeasures that have been implemented, along with the background of the problems, bicycle safety solutions selected, and the results of the treatments.

Selection Tool: The expert countermeasure selection system allows users to input the basic safety problem and site conditions. The expert system will propose a "short list" of candidate treatment options that likely would be suited to address the specific bicyclist safety problem for that situation.

This online version of BIKESAFE updates an eight-year-old version and is now available as an interactive tool, usable on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. BIKESAFE can be found at <http://www.pedbikesafe.org/BIKESAFE>.

Webinar (October 22, 2014)-Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program

The FHWA Office of Human Environment is sponsoring a webinar on the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program.

Representatives from each of the four [Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program](#) pilot communities will discuss the strategies they used to promote bicycle and pedestrian projects and the lessons learned. The Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program was established in SAFETEA-LU [Section 1807](#) and provided over \$25 million each to four communities ([Columbia, MO](#); [Marin County, CA](#); [Minneapolis Area, MN](#); [Sheboygan County, WI](#)) to demonstrate how walking and bicycling infrastructure and programs can increase rates of walking and bicycling.

Webinar Presenters:

Gabe Rousseau, FHWA Office of Safety

Dan Goodman, FHWA Office of Human Environment

Dan Dawson, Marin County Department of Public Works

Hilary Reeves, Communications Director, Minnesota Transit for Livable Communities

Emily Vetting, Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department

Ted Curtis, City of Columbia

Webinar Information:

Date: October 22, 2014

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

LINK TO REGISTER FOR THE WEB CONFERENCE:

https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=27822

***Once registered, participants will receive an email with instructions on how to access the webcast.**

CDC Report on Cost of Car Crashes

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the 2.5 million people who visit emergency rooms following car crashes each year cost the economy more than \$50 billion. In the report, the CDC urges states to enact and enforce seat belt laws and sobriety checkpoints, and to push the use of booster seats for children. Click [HERE](#) for the report.
