



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, February 1, 2013

Volume 5, Number 5

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Recently Completed Planning Studies

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 plans for an ATRIP announcement next week and applications are now available for FTA Urban Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds through the WAVE Transit, Please see *Mobile MPO Update*. Also, it looks like we will be having a March meeting of the Mobile MPO to take care of "processes" associated with MAP-21 and some new funding categories. More on that in the coming weeks. Want to know how to raise the 20% match now required for Safe Routes To School? Please check out *Funding Opportunities*. There are several news items in *In the News*, including the **new SARPC Structure** and an interesting SHRP2 webinar in *Transportation Research*. Have a great weekend, hello February and happy Mardi Gras!

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

Mobile MPO Updates

UPDATE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATRIP PROJECTS

Governor Robert Bentley's Office expects to make an announcement by the middle of next week on the latest round of projects selected for funding under the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program. This will be the largest round of ATRIP funding to date. The ATRIP program, as well as the anticipated Rural Assistance Match Program, will be featured next week in the Governor's State of the State Address. The State of the State Address will be broadcast statewide by local TV news stations at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5.

Call for Projects

Mobile Transit Management d/b/a The Wave Transit System (Mobile, Alabama) announces a Call for Projects to all agencies that provide transit services in the Mobile, Alabama Urbanized Area. Applicants must be eligible to receive FTA 5316- Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) as defined in the Mobile Urban Area's Program Management Plan. 5316- JARC funding is available for Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012. The Program Management Plan and Application will be available beginning Thursday, January 31, 2013, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at GM&O Transportation Center-The Wave Transit System or South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), both located at 110 Beauregard Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602 or visit www.thewavetransit.com or www.mobilempo.org to download a copy.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE is scheduled for February 13, 2013, 2:00 p.m. at The Wave Transit System (Conference Room), 110 Beauregard Street, Suite 104, Mobile, Alabama 36602.

APPLICATION DEADLINE February 22, 2013, 10:00a.m.

Project Schedule:

Call for Projects January 31, 2013

Available for Pick-up January 31, 2013

Pre-Bid Conference February 13, 2013 (2:00 p.m.)

Application Deadline / Bid Opening February 22, 2013 (10:00 a.m.)

Selection of Project (s) February 26-29, 2013

Advertisement of Program of Projects March 6-21, 2013

Recommendation to MPO / Final Approval TBA (by MPO)

For Additional Information Contact Mr. Gerald E. Alfred, Director of Planning & Capital Projects at 251.338.0100 or galfred@thewavetransit.com.

galfred@thewavetransit.com.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) are encouraged to apply.

Projects Within Region Let February 22, 2013

MOBILE COUNTY

for constructing the Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave on Broad Street from Michigan Avenue to 15th Street west of I-10 in Mobile. Length 0.982 mi.

Legislative Updates

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces That He Will Not Serve for a Second Term

As reported this week, Secretary Ray LaHood announced that he will step down at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Under his leadership, the Department created a central role in negotiating a doubling of the fuel economy of the nation's automobiles by 2025. Additionally, Secretary LaHood also led efforts to reduce distracted driving and was responsible for managing the \$48 billion in transportation investments that were part of the 2009 stimulus (PL 111-5), including the popular TIGER program. Early rumors are that Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, former Chairman of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim Oberstar, among others,

may be the next to be nominated to lead the Department. Click [HERE](#) for Secretary LaHood's statement.

Rendell rules out serving Obama in Transportation post

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D) is taking himself out of the running to replace departing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Rendell is among a long list of [rumored candidates](#) who are being mentioned as potential replacements for LaHood, who announced his [retirement](#) earlier this week. But Rendell told a newspaper in his home state that he doubted he would be Obama's pick for the DOT job.

Delayed auto pollution rules land at White House for review

The White House has begun a review of delayed Environmental Protection Agency rules that will require lower pollution from gasoline and vehicles.

EPA, which had earlier planned to finalize the regulations in 2012, [sent draft rules to the White House](#) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review on Tuesday.

Environmental and public health groups have strongly pressed for the so-called Tier 3 vehicle and fuel standards to curb smog-forming and particulate-matter pollution. One advocate called for quick publication of the proposed rules in order to put them on track to be finalized in 2013. "This is a crucial plan to cut smog levels nationwide. Every car on the road would immediately pollute less with lower-sulfur gasoline. OMB must not delay this important rule. It needs to be proposed ASAP and put in final form before the end of the year," said Frank O'Donnell of Clean Air Watch.

But the rules have drawn pushback from refining industry groups. For instance, last year American Petroleum Institute CEO Jack Gerard accused EPA of failing to justify plans to toughen vehicle and fuel emissions rules. He alleged that EPA is pushing ahead with tougher sulfur rules "without regard to the impacts on fuel prices."

Funding Opportunities

Safe Routes Hosts Free MAP-21 Matching Funds Webinar

On Thursday, February 7, 2013, from 2:00-3:00 pm ET, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership is hosting the free webinar, *Matching Funds for MAP-21: How states and communities are pulling together match funding for MAP-21 grant applications*. This webinar will focus on how Safe Routes to School applicants are now raising the newly required 20 percent matching funds for safe routes related project costs. Click [HERE](#) to register.

FHWA Solicitation for INVEST Implementation Projects

The [INVEST self-evaluation tool](#), a sustainability working group, and the creation of a Sustainable Pavements Program are among the efforts underway at FHWA to help State and local agencies document and improve the sustainability of the Nation's roadways. For years, FHWA has supported research, development, and implementation efforts at the forefront of the sustainability movement. The sustainable highways initiative supports the various activities conducted across FHWA to facilitate balanced decision-making among environmental, economic, and social values—the triple bottom line of sustainability.

In the summer of 2010, FHWA convened a sustainability working group to build capacity and encourage communication and coordination on sustainability concepts and practices within the agency. The group consists of engineers, scientists, planners, and economists with expertise in planning, design, construction, pavement, storm water management, natural resources, and livability. It meets regularly to coordinate activities, foster increased application of sustainability principles, and provide guidance to FHWA on developing best practices and establishing standardized sustainability measures.

Multiple awards of approximately \$25,000 to \$150,000 are anticipated, though projects may be larger or smaller depending on the context, scope, and approach. By Federal statute, a 100% non-Federal match (50-50 cost share) is required. In-kind contributions such as staffing can be counted towards the match requirement.

Each INVEST implementation project should result in a final report that details the work performed, parties involved, roles and responsibilities, issues encountered, lessons learned, sustainability improvements identified, sustainability improvements implemented, analyses of costs and benefits of implementing particular sustainability best practices, recommendations for future action, and recommendations on improving INVEST and adding to the state of the practice. The final report should be in a form that is sharable with other agencies, and may be posted to the FHWA website. <http://www.sustainablehighways.dot.gov/>

Update on the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

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. 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 \$531,431 federal funds. The remaining

\$12,300,000 will be administered through ALDOT and will be divided between Small Urban Areas (\$1,600,000), Rural Areas (\$3,200,000) and statewide (\$7,500,000).

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.

The application process for these funds has not yet been developed. Notification will be forthcoming once we know more. Click [here](#) to view FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program interim guidance.

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.
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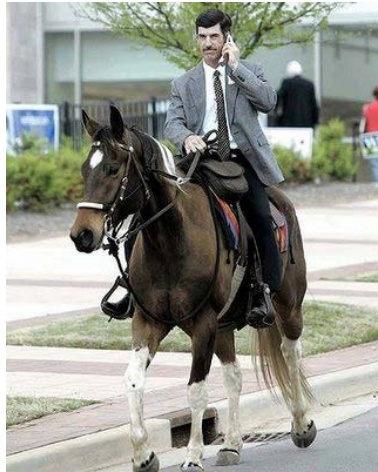
Bicycle Friendly America Program

The Bicycle Friendly America program provides incentives, hands-on assistance, and award recognition for communities, universities and businesses that actively support bicycling, and ranks states annually based on their level of bike-friendliness. Across the U.S., the interest in bicycling is skyrocketing-- and it's easy to see why. A bike is a ticket to health, mobility, freedom and fun. Bicycling isn't just a way to get from one place to another; it's an avenue to a better life. And when communities, businesses and universities get on board, great things happen. How do you capture and capitalize on the tremendous benefits of biking?

[Download the new Bicycle Friendly America Brochure](#) and click the links on the top right of the page to learn more about each of the BFA programs.

Just For Fun

Did you know?



Code of Alabama

Section 32-5A-5

Persons riding animals or driving animal-drawn vehicles.

Every person riding an animal or driving any animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except those provisions of this chapter, which by their very nature can have no application.

(Acts 1980, No. 80-434, p. 604, §1-104.)[\[HERE\]](#)

In the News

NEW STRUCTURE OF SOUTH ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Background. In January of 2012, during the annual meeting of the SARPC Full Commission, a committee was formed to consider, and possibly develop, a more efficient form of governance for SARPC. The purpose being to better provide a means by which SARPC and its programs can be more responsive to the needs of its member governments. The Chair for this committee was Mayor Charles Murphy, Mayor of Robertsdale and SARPC Vice-Chair. The committee approached the purpose with due diligence, meeting on four occasions.
2. The final agreed upon structure is a Board of Directors which was recommended to a quorum of the Full Commission on January 23, 2013, for consideration is as follows:
 - A County Commissioner from each member county appointed at the discretion of each County Commission.
 - The mayor of each large city member in each county. (State statute defines a large city as one having more than 10,000 in population based on the most recent decennial census.)
 - One mayor from the small city category from each member county to represent these small cities in each county. The selected mayor from each county shall be appointed by the respective small city members from each county.
 - An economic development representative appointed by each County Commission.
 - A citizen member appointed by each County Commission
 - Four citizen members not holding an elective office appointed at large by the elected members of the Board of Directors
 - The Alabama Education Board District 1 or appointee
 - The 1st Congressional District of Alabama Representative
3. The quorum of the Full Commission voted to accept and approve the recommendation of the Committee. Additionally, the quorum voted to accept and adopt an amendment to the SARPC By-Laws which allows for the newly adopted governance structure. Further action of the quorum stated that the existing governance structure would remain in effect until April 1, 2013, in order that the newly designated Board of Directors could be populated. Additionally, the quorum stipulated that the newly populated Board of Directors undergo a daylong session to acquaint themselves with their mission and responsibilities. This is to be accomplished in the March, 2013 time frame.

If there are any questions pertaining to the above, please call Chris Miller, (251)706-4667.

Interstate 10 resurfaced in Baldwin County from US 59 to Wilcox Road starting Sunday

As part of a \$12.1 million resurfacing project, the Alabama Department of Transportation will begin closing lanes on Interstate 10 on Sunday, Feb. 3. The paving will take place between Ala. 59 and the Baldwin County 64/Wilcox Road and will require eastbound and westbound lane closures beginning at 11 p.m. each Sunday and ending by 6 a.m. each Thursday for roughly the next 5 weeks, according to a highway department news release. The project will begin on the eastbound outside lane first and then the westbound outside lane will be resurfaced. After those lanes are done, all other work requiring a lane closure will be performed at night. The overall project is expected to be completed in October.

According to the release, the contractor, Mobile Asphalt Company LLC of Mobile, will work around the clock to expedite the work and has an incentive to finish on time. "The contract includes a \$650 per hour incentive bonus to the contractor for expeditiously completing the resurfacing of the outside lanes in an effort to minimize impacts to the travelling public," the release states. "The contract also includes a penalty of \$2000 per hour for each hour the contract maintains a lane closure outside the Thursday 6 a.m. curfew." The highway department encourages motorists to adjust driving times as needed and use extreme caution in the work zone.

[\[HERE\]](#)

Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce

Learn about the Alabama Department of Transportation's priorities for the year when the [Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce](#) presents an Eggs N' Issues Breakfast on Feb. 19.



The event is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at the Daphne United Methodist Church Community Life Center. Vince Calametti of ALDOT will also speak on the Interstate 10 bridge. Cost to attend is \$10, which includes a hot breakfast. Registration is required. To make reservations, call 251-928-6387 or 251-621-8222. [\[HERE\]](#)

Toll Bridge in P'cola?

Florida transportation officials had a press conference Thursday at 3 p.m. in Pensacola, and many locals feared it will be to announce a toll on the Pensacola Bay Bridge, which stretches from Pensacola to Gulf Breeze on U.S. 98 [\[HERE\]](#). As it turns out there will be **NO TOLL** for the Pensacola bridge so residents of Gulf Breeze, Fla. can breathe a little easier today, as officials from the Florida Department of Transportation pledged to fund a \$595 million replacement project for the Pensacola Bay Bridge without resorting to a toll, and to begin construction within two years.

Prichard Traffic Control

A new traffic program is up and running in Prichard to cut down on what's being called a serious speeding problem in the city. Officers say they didn't have the man power to appropriately enforce traffic violations. So the city struck a deal with a firm called iTraffic the company spent \$250-Thousand for two dedicated traffic officers with new cars and new equipment. In return the company will take a percentage from each ticket written in Prichard. In the 15 days since the program launched. There has already been a significant jump in citations. iTraffic officials say at full operation this program can generate about \$2 million dollars a year for the city, and they hope to add an additional four officers to the traffic unit. [\[HERE\]](#)

Alabama Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (ALSITE) 2013 Spring Meeting

When: Thursday, March 7, 2013

Where: Anniston Museum of Natural History

The meeting location is the Auditorium at the Anniston Museum of Natural History in Anniston. Early Registration ends Friday, February 22. The links will be posted on the front page of the [ALSITE website](#)

Transportation Research

Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) Webinars announced

FHWA is now entering the implementation phase and needs your participation. FHWA will join with our partners at AASHTO and TRB to hold three focus area-specific web conferences for FHWA, and state and local transportation partners. These sessions will reveal more details about the products ready to implement and the criteria for participation.

We hope you can join us at the product-specific sessions of your choosing as noted below. We encourage you to join with others in your office when you connect to the session to make the most efficient use of available web conferencing lines. Please note that since the external product-specific sessions require registration. The registration information is included below, and you will receive connection information upon completing your registration.

1) Title: (SR500) SHRP2 Implementation – **Capacity Focus Area (Planning & Environment)**

Date/Time: 2/4/2013 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

Registration Link for participants: http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=25673

2) Title: (SR500) SHRP2 Implementation – **Reliability Focus Area (Operations, Design & Construction)**

Date/Time: 2/7/2013 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Registration Link for participants: http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=25674

3) Title: (SR500) SHRP2 Implementation – **Renewal Focus Area (Bridges)**

Date/Time: 2/8/2013 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

Registration Link for participants:

http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=25691

Speed Management: A Manual for Local Rural Road Owners

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwas010413spmgmt/

Manual: *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*

The FHWA manual provides information on how to address speeding-related crashes on local rural roads on which approximately one-third of all fatal crashes on U.S. roadways occur. The manual explains the need for implementation of a comprehensive Speed Management Program that addresses all factors that influence speeding through engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services.

Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning for Healthy Communities

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health_in_transportation/resources/mpohealthywhitepaper.cfm

White Paper: *Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*

The FHWA report develops a framework for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to use to successfully consider health throughout the transportation planning process. The report demonstrates how health can effectively be incorporated in metropolitan transportation planning through four case studies for the Nashville, Seattle, Sacramento, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

