



## In This Issue

- **MOBILE MPO UPDATES**
- **PROJECTS LET FEBRUARY 22**
- **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.

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We hope everyone has had a great week. Congratulations to Mayor Sam Jones and the City of Mobile for the Triumph you accomplished this week. Our forecasting methodology of using satellite imagery has hit a hiccup this week; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. There are quite a few items in *In The News* including a Brownsfield/Economic Development Conference announced, and check out the Russian Fly Trap in *Just For Fun*. Have a great weekend!

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

## Mobile MPO Updates

### Climate Change Workgroup

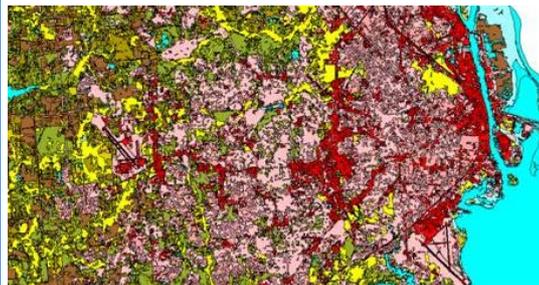
Please mark your calendars for March 6, 10:00 a.m. in the SARPC Training room for a meeting of the Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup. If you recall, this is an ongoing FHWA study utilizing input from the Mobile MPO Climate Change Workgroup; the meeting is open to the public. The federal team will be here from all parts of the country to receive input on the recent work that they have done. They are wrapping up the vulnerability assessment and would like to discuss the draft results, and also to select assets that will undergo the detailed engineering assessment. Please plan on attending.

### Projections continue...

We hit some pitfalls this week with our methodology to predict what will be urban in the next 25 years. If you recall, we are using [remote sensing](#) to help us predict the future urban landscape via the SLEUTH model. For examples of SLEUTH see [\[HERE\]](#) and [\[HERE\]](#).

The USGS acquires, processes, archives, and distributes Landsat and other satellite and airborne remotely sensed data products to scientists, policy makers, and educators worldwide. These data are acquired by both civilian satellites and aircraft and are used to study a wide range of natural hazards, global environmental change, economic development and conservation issues. Today, the USGS operates and manages the Landsat 5 and 7 satellite missions and works closely with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to define and implement future satellite missions.

Although this data is very handy in the determination of what is developable (forest/barren), some vacant properties in midtown are actually large groves of live oaks! There are a lot of other areas we are questioning. Below, red is established urban, green is forest, brown is agricultural, and yellow is to be investigated as it is either estuary or woodland. We are still working on how to treat this, and most likely will do a zone by zone analysis.



### 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](http://www.thewavetransit.com) or [www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org) to download a copy.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE was held on February 13, 2013, 2:00 p.m. at The Wave Transit System (Conference Room), 110 Beauregard Street, Suite 104, Mobile, Alabama 36602. All communication from now until deadline must be in writing.

**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](mailto:galfred@thewavetransit.com).  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) are encouraged to apply.

## Projects Within Region Let February 22, 2013

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### 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

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### U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Establishes National Freight Advisory Committee

*DOT Announces Proposal to Establish 'National Freight Network'*

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the establishment of a National Freight Advisory Committee to provide recommendations aimed at improving the national freight transportation system. A strong freight transportation system is critical to the nation's economy and essential for helping meet President Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports by 2015. [\[HERE\]](#)

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### New House Transportation Head Defends U.S. Highway Role

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman [Bill Shuster](#) used his first hearing to head off fellow Republicans who support paring the U.S. highway program and sending more money to the states.

The Pennsylvania congressman said the U.S. interstate highway system Republican President [Dwight Eisenhower](#) started in the 1950s "allowed massive economic growth for two generations."

"An efficient national transportation network allows businesses to lower their costs," said Shuster, who took charge of the transportation panel in the new Congress that began last month. "It allows American businesses to be competitive in a global marketplace."

Congress is implementing a two-year plan for building highways, bridges and mass transit, and Shuster has said a top priority for his committee is finding enough money to pay for more. He may face opposition from some Republicans who oppose higher taxes, favor a smaller federal government and say states can build highways more quickly and for less money.

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### House T&I Holds First Infrastructure Hearing of 2013

Wednesday the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) hosted a hearing that addressed [The Federal Role in Infrastructure](#). In this hearing, several committee members stated their support for greater autonomy for state and local transportation officials to build projects without excessive federal regulation; they also recognized the federal role in repairing, upgrading and expanding transportation systems in the country. Additionally, several members expressed support for increasing the amount of money spent on infrastructure. Chairman Shuster's [press release](#) summarized the highlights of the hearing, while Ranking Member Rahall's [press release](#) reinforced his support for the retention of a strong federal role in infrastructure.

## Funding Opportunities

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### 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/>

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#### **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.

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#### **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

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#### **The Russian Fly Trap...**

The Human Fly Trap, brought to you by the Russian Department of Transportation... One would think that is obvious to not walk across a wet street, in front of big huge orange paver trucks.



## In the News

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### **Brownfields/Economic Development Conference, May 15-17, 2013**

See the information below on an upcoming Brownfields/Economic Development conference sponsored by EPA specifically for the State of Alabama. The National Brownfields Conference is the largest event in the nation that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a brownfield is a property that has a presence, or potential presence, of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, thus creating complications during its expansion, redevelopment, or reuse. [EPA's Brownfields Program](#) is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse these properties. [\[HERE\]](#)

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### **City of Chickasaw Bill Brooks Park Tour**

"Walk on the Board Walks" Great way to welcome Spring. Light Lunch will be served. Please call for reservations.

\$2.00 per person

Tuesday, March 19

Meet at Bill Brooks Park at 10:00am

Call 452-6464 for transportation

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### **Mobile Council Approves Contracts for Several Public Services Projects**

At their regular council meeting this week, the Mobile City Council approved several contracts for public services and engineering projects. The projects are located throughout the city, including Trinity Gardens, Spring Hill, and the Bankhead Tunnel.

The installation of a roundabout was approved at the tricky intersection of McGregor Avenue and Museum Drive, just off of Spring Hill Avenue. The project, which also includes improvements at intersections on Overlook Road, Howells Ferry Road and Cody Road, is being paid for by the county's Pay-As-You-Go Program. Projects in the Pay-As-You-Go Program are approved by voters.

Improvements to the city's stormwater drainage system are on their way with the approval of a \$186,000.00 design contract with Neel-Schafer, Inc. Cost on the construction of the city-wide improvements to concrete ditches will be in the \$1.6 to 2 million range. A similar contract was approved for design work for concrete and guardrail improvements throughout the city. The \$110,000 contract went to Burk-Kleinpeter. A final engineering contract went to ECS Consulting Engineers, Inc. for city-wide pipe repairs.

The State of Alabama will be improving the service road which connects the Bankhead Tunnel with Dunlap Drive, home of one of Mobile's top employers, Austal Shipbuilding. While this is an Alabama Department of Transportation job, the agreement needed to be made since they are accessing the city's right-of-way.

Finally, a contract was approved for field drainage improvements at Trinity Gardens Park. The project is being paid for by federal Community Development Block Grant funds. The work is contingent upon an environmental review, which is taking place right now.

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### **ATRIP Awards announced**

Linking roads to economic development, Gov. Robert Bentley on Monday announced 302 new road projects in Alabama. Cumulative price tag? More than \$397 million. The projects are part of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, or ATRIP. Bentley last year announced a plan to borrow up to \$300 million annually for three years, with the bonds backed by the annual federal appropriations the state expects to receive for transportation projects.

"When companies build new facilities, they look for areas with good roads and bridges. ATRIP is giving them what they need," Bentley said in a written release announcing the projects. "The more companies that build and expand in Alabama, the more jobs we're able to create." The first round of ATRIP funding was announced last year. This week's list includes projects in 44 counties. Bentley's office said that thus far the program as a whole has sent money to 61 of Alabama's 67 counties.

Cities and counties statewide submit projects for possible funding through the program. The proposals are evaluated by the state Department of Transportation, then Bentley and that committee -- ALDOT Director John Cooper, Lt. Governor Kay Ivey, Sen. Paul Bussman, Rep. Mac McCutcheon, Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan and retired county engineers Herb Huner and Henry Hawkins -- decide what projects are funded.

| <b>Projects Identified for Baldwin County</b>      | <b>Local</b> | <b>ATRIP</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Additional turn lanes & signals at US-98 and CR-65 | \$524,600    | \$498,400    | \$1,023,000  |
| Intersection improvements at CR-64 and CR-13       | \$885,000    | \$540,000    | \$1,425,000  |
| Resurface CR-20 from SR-59 to S. Hickory St        | \$266,000    | \$1,065,000  | \$1,331,000  |
| Robertsdale Ext. of Wilters from CR-83 to SR-59    | \$228,380    | \$913,522    | \$1,141,902  |
| Foley Ext Pride Dr from SR-59 to CR-20 etc         | \$4,463,570  | \$12,129,554 | \$16,593,124 |

| <b>Projects Identified for Escambia County</b>                             | <b>Local</b> | <b>ATRIP</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Resurface CR-5 from US-31 to CR-27   | \$115,037    | \$460,148    | \$575,185    |
| Widen and resurface CR-12 from CR-1 to CR-27                               | \$159,460    | \$637,839    | \$797,299    |
| Resurface Pea ridge Rd from Brewton CL to SR-41                            | \$121,680    | \$486,719    | \$608,399    |
| Resurface CR-6 from SR-113 to Old Hwy 31                                   | \$198,493    | \$793,973    | \$992,467    |
| Resurface CR-22 from the East Brewton c/l to US-29                         | \$188,399    | \$753,595    | \$941,994    |
| Atmore Resurface Medical Park Dr/MLK Dr from State Line Road to Carver Ave | \$147,461    | \$589,845    | \$737,306    |
| Resurface CR-55 from FL s/l to SR-41                                       | \$188,401    | \$753,604    | \$942,005    |
| East Brewton Resurface Dailey Street from E RR Street to Shoffner Street   | \$69,196     | \$192,905    | \$262,101    |
| East Brewton Resurface Shoffner Street from SR-29 to City Limit            | \$60,163     | \$167,733    | \$227,896    |
| East Brewton Resurface Dailey St from SR-29 to East Railroad Street        | \$24,627     | \$68,670     | \$93,297     |

| <b>Projects Identified for Mobile County</b>                      | <b>Local</b> | <b>ATRIP</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Resurface CR-96 (Coy Smith Hwy) Resurface from School St to US-43 | \$1,268,113  | \$3,984,453  | \$5,252,567  |

[\[HERE\]](#)

#### Mark your calendars

If you are a board member of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the annual meeting has been set for March 21-22 at the Grand Hotel; please mark your calendars. Something soon should be going out from SARPC pertaining to that meeting. This was mentioned in last week's newsletter that 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 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Alabama Representative

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Chris Miller, 433-6541.

## Transportation Research

#### 2012 Annual Urban Mobility Report

<http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>

Research Report: *Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)*

The 2012 Urban Mobility Report builds on previous Urban Mobility Reports with an improved methodology and expanded coverage of the nation's urban congestion problems and solutions. The website contains links to information on long-term congestion trends, the most recent congestion comparisons and a description of many congestion improvement strategies.

#### 4 Reasons the U.S. Trails the World in Road Safety

Americans pay a great deal of money for their roads — from taxes on their gasoline to parts of their general income — but they don't get a whole lot of road safety in return. [A report \[PDE\]](#) from the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, released last month, compared road fatality statistics in the United States with those in Sweden, the Netherlands,

and the United Kingdom. Guess which per capita fatality rate was about three times greater than the others.

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#### **Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning for Healthy Communities**

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health\\_in\\_transportation/resources/mpohealthywhitepaper.cfm](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.

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#### **U.S. Research and Innovative Technology Administration Pocket Guide**

The **U.S. Research and Innovative Technology Administration** released its [2013 Pocket Guide to Transportation](#). A report that provides data on the U.S. transportation system and highlights trends in safety, economic competitiveness, and environmental sustainability

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