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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. As a reminder, we will not be in the office on Monday and Tuesday of next week due to the Mardi Gras festivities in downtown Mobile. There is a Climate Change Workgroup meeting announced on March 6, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. There is a good bit of local transportation news this week, including: City of Mobile Roundabouts, the Governor releasing the ATRIPS announcements and big congratulations goes out to Dr. Bert Eichold for being Mobilian of the year; Please see *In The News*. Also, check out the shockwave in this week's *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.

Bike Sharing Concept demonstration held in Downtown Mobile

The Downtown Mobile Alliance, working in conjunction with Mobilians on Bikes introduced the Mobile City Council to the concept of Bike Sharing this past Tuesday. A demonstration project was set up at Government Plaza. A bike rental station or kiosk was set up in the atrium with several bikes that were available to take for a ride. Basically these kiosks would be set up around downtown, a participant would swipe a card at a kiosk and take a bike for a short trip, then return the bike to a kiosk. There would be a fee based on the time the bike was in use, or the participant could pay an annual membership fee. The Downtown Mobile Alliance is planning to conduct a feasibility study for the project. There is an article and a poll online in the Press Register [here](#).

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.

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

House T&I Announces Hearing on Federal Role in Infrastructure: The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) announced its first hearing to examine the federal role in America's infrastructure. The hearing will be [webcast](#) and take place on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 11:00am.

Chairman Boxer and Colleagues Call for Greater Public Health Focus in Next EPA Administrator: Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), joined 15 colleagues on a [letter](#) to President Obama urging him to nominate a leader with strong public health credentials as the next Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The signatories include: Chairman Boxer, Senate Majority Leader Durbin (D-IL), Chairman Wyden (D-OR) of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chairman Sanders (I_VT) of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Chairman Feinstein (D-CA) of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Chairman Stabenow (D-MI) of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Menendez (D-NJ), Senator Schatz (D-HI), Senator Murphy (D-CT), Senator Gillibrand (D-NY), Senator Hirono (D-HI), Senator Merkley (D-OR), Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ), Senator Whitehouse (D-RI), Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Senator Cardin (D-MD).

Senate EPW Committee Holds Hearing on Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund: Last week, the U.S. Senate EPW Committee held a [hearing](#) to examine the state of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and receive testimony. Citing the important role that America's ports and water infrastructure play in the economic competitiveness of the nation, the Chairman held this hearing in advance of proposed legislative action intended to address the state of America's port and water infrastructure.

"America is one big pothole"

Outgoing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood lamented the amount of infrastructure spending that was approved by Congress during his tenure at the Department of Transportation (DOT) on Wednesday. "America is one big pothole right now," LaHood said in an interview on "The Diane Rehm Show" on National Public Radio. [\[HERE\]](#)

Clyburn slams brakes on Cabinet talk

Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) said Wednesday evening that he is not interested in joining President Obama's Cabinet, despite a push from the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to have him considered for Transportation secretary. The CBC was pushing Obama consider Clyburn to replace outgoing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood as Obama has been under pressure to appoint more women and minorities to Cabinet position. [\[HERE\]](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation Updates Environmental Review Process to Cut Red Tape and Move Critical Transit Projects Ahead More Quickly and Efficiently

In keeping with President Obama's emphasis on cutting government red tape to speed up federal decisions on vital, job creating transportation infrastructure projects, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced important revisions – the first in more than 25 years – to expedite the environmental review process that all proposed transit projects seeking federal funds must undergo as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). [\[HERE\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

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.
-

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

Here is a fascinating study that is the science of a traffic jam. Traffic that grinds to a halt and then restarts for no apparent reason is one of the biggest causes of frustration for drivers, especially on the BAYWAY! Now a team of Japanese researchers has recreated the phenomenon on a test-track for the first time.

The mathematical theory behind these so-called "shockwave" jams was developed more than 15 years ago using models that show jams appear from nowhere on roads carrying their maximum capacity of free-flowing traffic - typically triggered by a single driver slowing down.

After that first vehicle brakes, the driver behind must also slow, and a shockwave jam of bunching cars appears, travelling backwards through the traffic. The theory has frequently been modeled in computer simulations, and seems to fit with observations of real traffic, but has never been recreated experimentally until now. The shockwave of the traffic jams moves backwards at about 20 km/hr, or 12 mph which is about the speed in actual traffic situations.



In the News

Foley Street Inventory

The city of Foley has mapped and evaluated all of its 145 miles of streets as part of a digital inventory process meant to guide future resurfacing projects. Overall, 52 miles of roadway were found to be in need of repair with an anticipated cost of \$7.4 million, according to a study conducted by Volkert & Associates. Knowing full well that \$7 million was a budget buster, Volkert representative Jay Dickson told the Foley City Council during its Jan. 22 work session that a priorities list -- with the city broken down into quadrants -- was formed to help decide which streets need to get done first. [\[HERE\]](#)

City of Mobile Roundabouts

The City of Mobile's first roundabout project got underway Tuesday after the Mobile City Council unanimously approved an engineering contract to begin its work.

The council endorsed an \$83,500 contract with Volkert Inc., for survey, roadway design, drainage, utility relocation coordination, geotechnical investigations, lighting, and landscaping work at Museum Drive and McGregor Avenue. Also included in that contract is for similar engineering work at Howells Ferry, Cody and Overlook roads. [\[HERE\]](#)

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.

Projects Identified for Baldwin County

	Local	ATRIP	Total
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

Projects Identified for Escambia County

	Local	ATRIP	Total
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

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

[\[HERE\]](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Bert

Dr. Bernard Eichold – the Mobile County Health Department’s long-time public health officer – has been named the 2012 Mobilian of the Year by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club. Dr. Eichold has been a long time participatory citizen commenting on the MPO process, and we appreciate and congratulate him. [\[HERE\]](#)

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 1st Congressional District of Alabama Representative

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

Transportation Research

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 \[PDF\]](#) 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.

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.
