



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 15, 2013

Volume 5, Number 11

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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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South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

We hope everyone has had a great week. The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met this week, as well as the Mobile MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, please see *Mobile MPO Updates*. **ALDOT has announced and released the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funding Applications**, please see *Funding Opportunities*. We have also developed the process for the TAP funding for the Mobile MPO's apportioned amount which is currently under review; please see *Mobile MPO Updates*.

There was supposed to be a public meeting concerning the Draft EIS for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge this month; that meeting is postponed until further notice. With that thought in mind, there are some interesting bridge designs throughout the world in the *Just For Fun* Section. There is quite a bit of transportation activity going on in Baldwin County, the SARPC annual meeting is next week, please see *In The News*, and there is a webinar announced on the [Guidebook on the Highway Capacity Manual \(HCM\) Analysis of Active Transportation and Demand Management \(ATDM\) Strategies](#); please see *Transportation Research*.

Finally, [safe travels](#) to our Mobile County Commissioners and some of our City of Mobile elected officials. Thank you for being leaders, and going to Germany to build relations prior to the April 8th ground breaking of the AirBus facility and promoting the South Alabama region to be a potential aviation epicenter.

Have a great weekend.

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

Mobile MPO Updates

Mobile MPO TCC/CAC

The Mobile MPO Technical Coordinating Committee/Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) met Wednesday, March 13th, and accomplished quite a few items. We have rebalanced the STP Attributable Funding schedule by postponing the McFarland Road, Old Pascagoula Road to Three Notch Road (New Alignment) Preliminary Engineering Project from FY2015 to FY2016. The utilities on Schillinger Road from US 98 to Howells Ferry Road increased in cost recently by almost \$600,000. We now have positive balance in our schedule of funds by moving the McFarland Road Project.

Also, we discussed the possibility of the Mobile MPO, through the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), being the designated recipient for FTA 5310 funds. The Transportation funding bill MAP-21 combined the FTA 5310 funds for the elderly and disabled with the FTA 5317 funds that were used for those transit projects that go above and beyond the requirements of ADA. Unfortunately, although the two funding categories were combined, the allocated amount was not; the amount is \$154,235 annual federal dollars. The Mobile MPO will administer the FTA 5310 funds once the Governor makes the official determination (MPO action will be needed to make the request).

Not only will SARPC staff be administering the FTA 5310, but the Mobile Urban Area Transportation Alternative Programs (TAP) funds also. The Mobile Urban Area will receive \$513,441 annual federal dollars through the TAP program (please see *Funding Opportunities* below). These TAP funds are the previously Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails and the Transportation Enhancements programs. [Please review](#) the TAP process that we reviewed with the TCC/CAC, and BPAC (below). The deadline for the Mobile MPO TAP funds **AND** ALDOT's TAP funds is June 28th. If you need help, please let us know.

Also, the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Document ([please review](#)) was briefly reviewed with everyone.

Recommendations from the TCC/CAC March 13th meeting will go before the MPO Policy Board at the March 27th MPO meeting. If there are any questions regarding any of these matters, we are here for you, M-F, 8-5.

Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meets

The Mobile MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met this past Wednesday. The meeting was well attended and there were several new faces in the crowd. Three new members were recognized. Jeff DeQuattro with Mobilians on Bikes (MOB) and the MOB Cooperative, Ben Brenner with MOB, and Katherine Pitman with Leadership Mobile and Mobile United.

Items on the agenda included a review of the Mobile MPO's Draft Transportation Alternatives Program Instructions and Guidelines, Ranking Procedures and Application, all of which are available for review [here](#). This is an exciting development because it will give the MPO area a dedicated funding source for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Mobile MPO is scheduled to receive \$513,441 annually in federal funds to be matched locally with \$128,360. Also discussed at the meeting was the Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge regarding including a bike/ped facility on the bridge vs. mitigation activities that would connect Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Public meetings for the bridge should take place this summer. Anyone interested in this subject should attend the meetings and sign up to speak in the public forum. Once the venue for these public meeting is set, we will post them in our newsletter.

Also discussed were pedestrian crossing improvements at major intersections in downtown Mobile, including Catherine at Government, Broad at Government, Royal at Government, Spring Hill at Broad, and Water at Beauregard. The consensus was that at a minimum, there should be better pavement markings to indicate to drivers where pedestrians cross with wide painted bars and signs reminding drivers to yield to pedestrians at these intersections. A very good resource for guidance on improving pedestrian accessibility is online at www.walkinginfo.org. This site includes several guidance documents and there are several good webinars available [here](#). One in particular that sparked this discussion is available [here](#).

The committee also discussed several upcoming road projects and whether or not they would include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This list of project included:

From ALDOT:

The two Mobile County projects that were let with shoulder widening for bicyclists are listed below. Both projects let on 12/7/12.

- STPAA-HSIP-0188(502), SR 188 from CR 19 to SR 193 (shoulder widening from 2' to 4' for bicyclists only from Hemley Rd to SR 193)
- STPAA-HSIP-0193(504), SR 193 from North End of Dauphin Island Bridge to Laurendine/Rangeline Rd intersection (shoulder widening from 2' to 4' for bicyclists only from north end of Heron Bay Bridge to SR 188; also had shoulder paving from 0' to 2' from Fowl River to Laurendine Rd)

Possible Mobile County projects for next fiscal year are listed below; however, next fiscal year's resurfacing program has not been finalized at this time.

- US 45 from CR 63 to Washington County line (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)
- US 45 from SR 158 to CR 63 (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)
- SR 213 from US 45 to SR 158 (not in Mobile Co. Bike & Ped Master Plan)

ALDOT 9th Division Consultant Management projects

- IM-AL06(900), West Tunnel Interchange (Bike lanes on Water St to New Jackson to Civic Center Dr with 10' Multi-Use path to Canal and Sidewalks throughout project minus through the interchange)

From the City of Mobile:

- Broad Street from 15th Street to I-10 will have sidewalks and an extra wide shoulder to accommodate cyclists
- Aerospace Drive in the Brookley Complex, will have sidewalks
- Airbus Way in the Brookley Complex, will have sidewalks
- Ann Street from Douglas to the rail road, will have a bike lane and sidewalks

The meeting concluded with a discussion of recent reported crashes that involved cyclists or pedestrians and what could be done, if anything, to avoid a recurrence. The particulars of this discussion will be available in the meeting minutes, which will be forthcoming.

Projects Within Region Let March 29, 2013

MOBILE COUNTY

- Constructing the Sidewalks on Cleveland Road, 1st Avenue, and Pine Street for Saraland Elementary School in the city of Saraland.

BALDWIN COUNTY

- Constructing the Sidewalks on 7th Street, 2nd Avenue, and 1st Street in the town of Silverhill.
- Constructing the Widening (Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave) on SR-181 from south of CR-48 to south of CR-30 in Fairhope. Length 1.188 mi.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Constructing the Bridge Painting on SR-3 (US-31) over CSX Railroad, BIN 013567 in Canoe.
- Constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on South Presley Street from SR-21 to SR-3 (US-31) in Atmore. Length 1.777 mi.

Legislative Updates

Senate Restores MAP-21 Transportation Funding Levels Cut by House

The Senate restored the transportation funding that was cut last week by the House in the House's proposed continuing resolution to fund the federal government through September. The Senate amendment to the continuing resolution would maintain the funding levels dictated by MAP-21, the two-year, \$109 billion transportation funding bill signed last summer by President Obama.

The House slashed \$117 million in transportation funding from the MAP-21 authorization and \$555 million in funding for such highway safety programs as state grants to curb drunk and distracted driving. Meanwhile, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), chairman of the House Budget Committee, unveiled his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget on Tuesday that would end funding for high-speed rail, among other cuts. [\[HERE\]](#)

Top Senate Democrats and Republicans Monday night released a catchall government funding bill that denies President Barack Obama new money for implementing signature first-term accomplishments like new regulations on Wall Street and his expansion of government health care subsidies but provides modest additional funding for domestic priorities like health research and highway projects. [\[HERE\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

Applications now Available for 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 (Preliminary Engineering is *not* an allowable activity). 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 and applied through ALDOT, and will be divided between Small Urban Areas (\$1,600,000), Rural Areas (\$3,200,000) and statewide (\$7,500,000) with one ALDOT application mentioned below.

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. Click [here](#) to view FHWA's Transportation Alternatives Program interim guidance.

ALDOT TAP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 28th

ALDOT has announced the release of their application process; applications are due to the State by June 28th. Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for the TAP funding, and the Alabama Department of Transportation has mailed the application to each city and county in the SARPC region. ALDOT TAP Applications are only available at ALDOT. If you are a city or county and have not received an application, please let us or ALDOT know. Mr. Cecil Colson is the program manager for the TAP funds; his phone number is (334)353-6403.

MOBILE MPO APPLICATION PROCESS UNDER REVIEW

The DRAFT application process for the Mobile MPO TAP funds is **available for review** [\[HERE\]](#). Once the Mobile MPO adopts the Mobile MPO TAP application process, we will make the applications available.

*If you are a city within the Mobile MPO or Mobile County, and have a project in mind, it is possible to apply for the Mobile MPO TAP funds, **AND** the ALDOT Statewide TAP funds. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

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.

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/>

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 are 18 pretty incredible bridges, some of them are fantastic pedestrian bridges...



In the News

Re-Imagined Bankhead Tunnel

Drivers may notice a change in the coming months while driving through the Bankhead Tunnel from Baldwin County to downtown Mobile. A beautification project slated to start this year has re-imagined the westbound entrance to the Bankhead Tunnel to showcase the upper Gulf Coast's only major public university. [\[HERE\]](#)



A good bit of transportation news going on in Baldwin County...

1. Construction may start in the next six months on a walking and biking path in Lillian.

A path will be added to County Road 99 from U.S. 98 to North Spanish Cove Drive. There also will be a path on South 7th Street from County Road 99 to the Lillian boat launch. "This will be good for Lillian," Baldwin County Commissioner Skip Gruber said. Grant funding of \$195,984 along with matching county funds of \$39,196 will be used to pay for the project.

The project has been a priority for the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization, but it has been on hold due to a lack of funding, said Cal Markert, Baldwin County's engineer. The community of Lillian could not provide the 20 percent match for the project, which is required by federal aid guidelines. Baldwin County agreed to provide the funds.

Additional funding available to the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization also is helping fund the project, Markert said.

2. The Baldwin County Commission is planning to overhaul the county's strategic plan.

The plan was last updated in 2006. Its purpose is to set a 10-year vision for the county and set goals for the county to reach during that period. "I have read... some of the projections in there," Commissioner Robert James said. "Let's try to get them back to the real world and achievable goals." A preliminary meeting to discuss the plan is set for 8 a.m. Thursday at the Baldwin County Emergency Management building in Robertsdale.

Another meeting related to the plan is set for 1 p.m. March 26 so commissioners can discuss the county's population growth with Rob Hale of MarketGraphics. The meeting also will be at the county's emergency management building.

3. A ceremony to celebrate the construction of the [Baldwin Beach Express](#) and an interchange is set for 10 a.m. Friday.

The event will be near the construction at U.S. 90 and Baldwin Beach Express. Among the people expected at the ceremony are Gov. Robert Bentley and former governors Fob James and Bob Riley.



The four-lane highway between Interstate 10 and the Foley Beach Express is expected to ease traffic on U.S. 59 and make travel to Baldwin County beaches easier. Construction of the project is not complete. Officials also believe the highway will attract industry to the county because it will provide easy access to Interstate 10. Baldwin County's long-term goal is to extend the highway from I-10 to Interstate 65 near the South Alabama Megasite. Funding is not available for that portion of road.



On March 25 at noon the [South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce](#) will hold another Leadership Series event at the Foley Civic Center with John Cooper.

Cooper is the Department of Transportation director and will provide members with updates critical to transportation routes in Baldwin and Mobile Counties. The doors and catered lunch buffet will open at 11:30 and the program starts at noon. Tickets purchased before March 22 are \$12 each or \$15 each if purchased at a later date.

For more information on the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce visit www.southbaldwinchamber.com or call 251-943-3291.

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.

EVERYDAY COUNTS

Below are Virtual Summits set up in Alabama, **please save the dates and times** (All times Central). There will be more to follow on Registration.

Ø **April 4 from 8:30 to 10 AM**
Summit

Traffic Incident Responder - Train the Trainer Virtual

Ø **April 10 from 11:30 AM to 3 PM**
Virtual Summit

Implementing Quality Environmental Documentation

Ø **April 11 from 11:30 AM to 3 PM**
times are central)

High Friction Surface Treatments Virtual Summit is (all

The latest initiatives that will soon be presented are *Traffic Incident Responder - Train the Trainer*, *Implementing Quality Environmental Documentation*, and *High Friction Surface Treatments*. On separate dates in April each of these initiatives will be explained via a free virtual summit available for attendance at four locations across Alabama. Flyers that briefly explain these three EDC 2 initiatives are attached for your information.

The *Traffic Incident Responder - Train the Trainer* Virtual Summit is on April 4 from 8:30 to 10 AM; the *Implementing Quality Environmental Documentation* Virtual Summit is on April 10 from 11:30 AM to 3 PM, and the *High Friction Surface Treatments* Virtual Summit is on April 11 from 11:30 AM to 3 PM (all times are central). Below I have listed the locations where each summit will be available. Next week I will send a follow-up email with instructions regarding

how to register for these virtual summits. Please share this information with your employees, peers and others who will be interested in attending these events to learn more about these initiatives.

Available locations for each class marked by "X"	Traffic Incident Responder Train the Trainer	Implementing Quality Environmental Documentation	High Friction Surface Treatments
ALDOT Central Office, Conference room A, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36130	X	X	X
ALDOT 1st Division, Auditorium, 23445 U.S. Highway 431, Guntersville, AL 35976	X	X	X
ALDOT 3rd Division, Training Room, 1020 Bankhead Hwy West, Birmingham, AL 35202	X	X	
ALDOT 9th Division, Training Room, 1701 I-65 West Service Road North, Mobile, AL 36618	X	X	X
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, 2 20th Street North, Suite 1200, Birmingham, AL 35203			X

Transportation Research

Webinar Announcement

FHWA Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM) Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Analysis Guide

March 27, 2013

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT (10:00AM – 11:30 AM PDT)

Required Step: To attend this webinar, you need to pre-register beforehand at:

https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=25922

LINK TO JOIN THE WEB CONFERENCE

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/sr500activetransdemandmngmt/>

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER TO ACCESS AUDIO PORTION

Phone #: **800-683-4564**

Passcode: **424573**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is sponsoring a free 90 minute webinar on the upcoming [Guidebook on the Highway Capacity Manual \(HCM\) Analysis of Active Transportation and Demand Management \(ATDM\) Strategies](#).

The guide addresses the analysis of operational strategies under varying demand and capacity conditions. It is intended to assist engineers and planners in the evaluation of ATDM investment options. For more information on this Guide, go to: <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12047/index.htm#toc>.

The intended participants of the webinars are transportation planners and traffic operations professionals from public agencies and the private sector, who are familiar with, manage, or regularly apply HCM analyses to transportation facility investments and environmental impact analyses.

Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to the ATDM HCM Analysis Guide and Context with other FHWA Initiatives
- The ATDM Analysis Framework
- Overview

- Measures of Effectiveness
- Scenario Generation
- Designing an ATDM Program
- Testing an ATDM Program
- Example Applications
- Interpretation of Results
- Next Steps: Upcoming Workshop Schedule

Instructors:

Rick Dowling, Kittelson & Associates, Inc., 510-433-8089, rdowling@kittelson.com
Richard Margiotta, Cambridge Systematics, 865-670-8516, rmargiotta@camsys.com

LINK TO JOIN THE WEB CONFERENCE

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/sr500activetransdemandmngmt/>

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER TO ACCESS AUDIO PORTION

Phone #: 800-683-4564

Passcode: 424573

The Federal Transit Administration released the recording of their recent webinar on [New Categorical Exclusions](#) authorized by the recently enacted federal transportation law.

Also, on February 28th, Vincent Valdes, Acting Associate Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration's new Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO), discussed the safety provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the progress that TSO is making to implement MAP-21.

In case you were unable to participate, a recording of FTA's MAP-21 Safety webinar has been posted here: <http://youtu.be/wnapUgjXQEU>

For more information on FTA's Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO) office please visit <http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso.html>

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transportation Research Record (TRR) published [Planning 2012](#). This compendium of research summarizes 15 papers concerned with aspects of transportation planning.

TRB also published [Travel Behavior 2012, Volume 1](#) in its Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, which contains 14 papers that address aspects of travel behavior.
