

# South Alabama Regional Planning Commission



Rural Planning Organization (RPO)  
**DRAFT** Fiscal Year 2022 Work Program



To Be Adopted: September 23, 2021

# South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

**DRAFT**

## Work Program

*Fiscal Year 2022*

This document is posted on the Internet at

<http://www.mobilempo.org/>

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*This Work Program is prepared for the rural areas of Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties in Alabama by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, as staff to the RPO. Excluded are those portions of Baldwin and Mobile Counties which are in Metropolitan Planning Organization Study Areas.*

*This Work Program was financed in part by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Alabama Department of Transportation, and local governments, and prepared for the RPO by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, in partial fulfillment of Task 4 of the FY-2021 RPO Work Program and requirements set forth in 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 4, 2015).*

## **Member Governments of the South Alabama Rural Planning Organization**

Baldwin County Commission	Town of Elberta
Escambia County Commission	City of Citronelle
Mobile County Commission	City of Brewton
City of Gulf Shores	City of East Brewton
Town of Summerdale	Town of Flomaton
City of Bay Minette	City of Atmore
Town of Magnolia Springs	Town of Riverview
City of Foley	Town of Pollard
Town of Perdido Beach	Town of Dauphin Island
Alabama Department of Transportation	Town of Mount Vernon
MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians	Poarch Band of Creek Indians

# Resolution

**South Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)  
adopting the Fiscal Year 2022 Work Program as prepared  
by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC)**

**WHEREAS**, the South Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) was established to serve as the decision-making body and to provide guidance in conducting the non-metropolitan cooperative planning process, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, for portions or all of Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties in Alabama, as established in 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 4, 2015); and

**WHEREAS**, the RPO is interested in the continued development of the non-metropolitan cooperative transportation planning process as described in 23 CFR 450.210(b) through on-going public involvement and data collection of the rural transportation needs and issues of the citizens in the aforementioned counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), serving as staff to the RPO is required to provide guidance to local governments in conducting the non-metropolitan planning process as a cooperative effort with the Alabama Department of Transportation as established in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking June 13, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, SARPC has prepared an FY 2022 Work Program outlining the tasks necessary to accomplish the goals of the cooperative planning process and the Rural Planning Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the RPO work Program has been duly reviewed, discussed, and approved by the RPO; now

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2021 that the South Alabama Rural Planning Organization does hereby adopt and endorse the FY 2022 Work Program as the guide for tasks to be completed for the cooperative planning process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest:

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**South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
Rural Planning Organization (RPO)  
Work Program for Fiscal Year 2022**

**1.0 Rural Planning Organization Work Program Description**

**1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the work tasks that will be performed by the Transportation Planning Department of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) in fiscal year 2022 pertaining to the Rural Planning Organization. The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission will continue the previous efforts to conduct a rural transportation planning process in the rural areas of Baldwin County, Escambia County and Mobile County. The planning process will be sponsored by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC).

**1.2 Goals**

The goals of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Rural Planning Organization are 1) a well managed rural transportation planning process; 2) an effective transportation committee structure with a well-informed public who actively participates in the rural transportation planning process; 3) a comprehensive data library and distribution source; and 4) reports that are useful to the Alabama Department of Transportation and the local governments.

**1.3 Title VI in the Work Program**

The South Alabama Rural Planning Organization is committed to ensuring public participation in the development of all transportation plans and programs. It is the goal of the RPO that the transportation planning process will be accessible, transparent, and inclusive. The RPO is and will be compliant with all Title VI programs, processes, and procedures including, but not limited to, 42 USC 2000d.

**1.4 Format**

The work program is divided into five tasks. The tasks outline the transportation planning work that will be performed by the staff at South Alabama Regional Planning Commission in fiscal year 2022. The description of each task includes the objective, methodology, products, staffing, schedule, and budget information. The final section of the document includes financial tables that summarize the work program budget.

## **2.0 Work Program**

### **2.1 Task 1 – Administration and Management**

#### Objective

To effectively manage the rural transportation planning process

#### Previous Work

1. The SARPC RPO managed the transportation planning process.
2. The SARPC RPO employees maintained timesheets.
3. The SARPC RPO prepared and submitted invoices as required by ALDOT.
4. The SARPC RPO prepared semi-annual progress reports.
5. The SARPC RPO did not acquire any new computer hardware, software, maintenance agreements, and other necessary equipment, etc. during the past fiscal year.
6. The SARPC RPO staff participated in ALDOT approved training virtually using Microsoft Teams. There was no out of state travel due to the quarantine.
7. SARPC RPO staff did participate in a feasibility study for a demand response transit system for the rural areas of Mobile County. The study concluded that although there is a need for such a system, there is no sustainable means of funding such a program nor is there a willingness on the part of the local agencies to support such a program at this time.
8. The SARPC RPO staff amended the RPO Public Involvement Procedures to account for virtual online meetings and document dissemination when necessary.

#### Proposed Work

1. The SARPC RPO will manage the transportation planning process.
2. The SARPC RPO employees will maintain timesheets.
3. The SARPC RPO will prepare and submit invoices as required by ALDOT.
4. The SARPC RPO will prepare semi-annual progress reports.
5. The SARPC RPO will acquire new computer hardware, software, maintenance agreements, and other necessary equipment, etc. as conditions and program needs dictate.
6. The SARPC RPO staff will participate in ALDOT approved training as needed. Out of state travel will be approved by ALDOT.

#### Products

1. A well-managed transportation planning process.
2. Employee timesheets.
3. Monthly invoice reports.
4. Semi-annual progress reports.
5. A quick, efficient, and flexible transportation planning tool for the RPO area.

Staffing

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

Schedule

FY 2022 End of Year Progress Report due date: December 1, 2022

Financial Responsibility for Fiscal Year 2022

State	\$25,000
Local	<u>\$ 6,250</u>
Total	\$31,250



## **2.2 Task 2 – Committee and Public Service**

### Objective

To inform the public and effectively conduct open committee meetings

### Previous Work

1. The SARPC RPO updated committee, media, and special interest group mailing lists.
2. The SARPC RPO prepared and distributed meeting notices for the committee meetings.
3. The SARPC RPO updated the Public Participation Procedures to account for virtual meetings due to quarantine, natural disasters, and other such unavoidable disruptions.
4. The SARPC RPO held a committee meeting on September 23, 2021, and advertised the meetings as prescribed in the SARPC RPO Public Participation Procedures.
5. The SARPC RPO took minutes at the committee meeting, and maintained records of all public involvement meetings.
6. The SARPC RPO provided assistance to ALDOT by facilitating the public involvement process for ALDOT's draft Public Involvement Plan for Statewide Transportation Planning.
7. The SARPPC RPO provided a summary of the process used to facilitate ALDOT's public involvement process for their draft Public Involvement Plan and the comments received.

### Proposed Work

1. The SARPC RPO will develop and maintain committee, media, and special interest group mailing lists.
2. The SARPC RPO will prepare and distribute meeting notices for the committee meetings.
3. The SARPC RPO will prepare and maintain Public Participation Procedures mirroring the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Public Participation Procedures.
4. The SARPC RPO will hold the committee meetings, and advertise as prescribed in the SARPC RPO Public Participation Procedures. In the event that the meetings go into lunch time hour, a frugal lunch will be provided.
5. The SARPC RPO will take minutes at the committee, meetings, and maintain records of all public involvement meetings.
6. The SARPC RPO will hold public involvement meetings as warranted by the SARPC RPO Public Participation Procedures.
7. The SARPC RPO will assist in the coordination of ADA Transition Plan activities among local governments, the state, and FHWA, as needed.

This work item will be strictly for coordination purposes only (such as disseminating information), not for writing of the transition plans.

Products

1. Committee mailing lists, including media and special interests groups.
2. SARPC RPO Public Participation Procedures.
3. Timely meeting notices in accordance with SARPC public participation procedures.
4. Well-organized committee meetings.
5. Well-written minutes of the committee meetings.
6. A record of public involvement.
7. A well informed committee.
8. A well informed public.

Staffing

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

Schedule

None

Financial Responsibility for Fiscal Year 2022

State	\$10,000
Local	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
Total	\$12,500

## **2.3 Task 3 – Public Involvement for Statewide Long Range Transportation Planning (SLRTP) Process**

### Objective

To assist the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) in hosting public meetings for the Statewide Long Range Transportation Planning (LRTP) Process.

### Previous Work

None – This is a new task.

### Proposed Work

1. The SARPC RPO will advertise the State LRTP public involvement meeting(s).
2. The SARPC RPO will organize the State LRTP public involvement meeting event(s), reaching out to appropriate personnel.

### Products

1. Timely meeting notices in accordance with SARPC public participation procedures.
2. Well-organized public involvement meeting(s).
3. A record of public involvement.
4. A well informed committee.
5. A well informed public.

### Staffing

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

### Schedule

To be determined by ALDOT

### Financial Responsibility for Fiscal Year 2022

State	\$ 4,500
Local	<u>\$ 1,125</u>
Total	\$ 5,625

## 2.4 Task 4 – Data Management

### Objective

To gather, maintain, and distribute data related to the transportation planning process.

### Previous Work

The SARPC RPO staff updated the RPO Transportation Plan and developed GIS shapefiles of all proposed projects identified in the plan.

### Proposed Work

1. The SARPC RPO will gather the necessary data to conduct the committee meetings and produce the transportation planning documents.
2. The SARPC RPO will maintain the transportation data within databases, spreadsheets, and Geographic Information System (GIS) files.
3. The SARPC RPO will acquire new data sets as conditions and program needs dictate.
4. The SARPC RPO will distribute the transportation data as required by the RPO transportation planning process and by request.

### Products

1. An organized method for researching and collecting transportation data.
2. Transportation databases, spreadsheets, and GIS files.
3. An organized distribution system for transportation data.

### Staffing

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

### Schedule

None

### Financial Responsibility for Fiscal Year 2022

State	\$ 10,000
Local	\$ 2,500
Total	\$ 12,500

## 2.5 Task 5 – Reports

### Objective

To prepare transportation planning progress reports for committees and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

### Previous Work

1. The SARPC RPO staff developed the draft and final Fiscal Year 2022 Work Program.
2. The SARPC RPO staff updated the RPO Transportation Plan and list of safety needs for the RPO area.

### Proposed Work

1. The SARPC RPO will prepare a document that summarizes the transportation needs of the region based on input received from the committees and the general public.
2. The SARPC RPO will prepare a Fiscal Year 2023 Work Program that summarizes the upcoming fiscal year's rural transportation planning process.
3. The SARPC RPO will prepare a list of safety suggestions based on input gathered during the rural transportation planning process.

### Products

1. A document that summarizes the transportation needs of the region.
2. The Draft and Final Fiscal Year 2023 Work Program.
3. Safety Needs List of Projects.

### Staffing

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

### Schedule

Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Work Program due August 2022

Final Fiscal Year 2023 Work Program due date: October 1, 2022

Transportation Plan and Safety Needs List of Projects due date: October, 2022

### Financial Responsibility for Fiscal Year 2022

State	\$ 5,500
Local	\$ 1,375
Total	\$ 6,875

**South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
Rural Planning Organization  
Work Program Budget  
Fiscal Year 2022**

<b>Task</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Local Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
1 Administration and Management	\$ 25,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 31,250
2 Committee and Public Service	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,500
3 Public Involvement for State LRTP	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,125	\$ 5,625
4 Data Management	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,500
5 Reports	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,375	\$ 6,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$13,750</b>	<b>\$ 68,750</b>