



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, November 1, 2019

Volume 32, Number 5

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Tom Piper

In The News, did you know that federal law authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to regulate standard time zone boundaries and Daylight Savings Time? **The DOT says FALL BACK**. Also *In The News*, \$50 Million to Improve Access and Mobility for All Americans is announced by Transportation Sec. Chao and ALDOT has a new Diverging Diamond Interchange brochure for 181. The US Senate advances a fiscal year 2020 transportation funding measure in *Legislative Updates*, and in *Mobile MPO Updates*, the Mobile Area Transit Feasibility Study had its kick off. This week's *Just For Fun* is...Grim.

Check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

www.mobilempo.org  Check us out on FACEBOOK

SARPC Transportation Video, this is what we do [HERE](#)

Want to know what other SARPC departments do?

[Planning and Community Development](#)

[Area Agency on Aging](#)

[Employment and Economic Development](#)

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

Mobile MPO Updates

Yesterday marked the kickoff of the *MOBILE AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY*



In August of 2019, a consultant selection committee selected VIA Mobility to perform the study. VIA Mobility has partnered with local group Goodwin, Mills, and Cawood as a sub consultant. The consultants were given notice to proceed last week, and the kick off was yesterday. [HERE](#) is Via's presentation from the kick-off.

There is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time, and if you would like to be part of this study, please call Kevin Harrison for details.



Envision2045 is multi-modal in scope, encompassing long-range plans for highway, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian networks. Regional growth, economic development, and accessibility within the study area along with environmental concerns necessitate that the long-range plan addresses not only improved vehicular travel but also improvements to alternative modes. Preservation of the existing transportation system coupled with enhancement of all modal choices will contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life in the region.

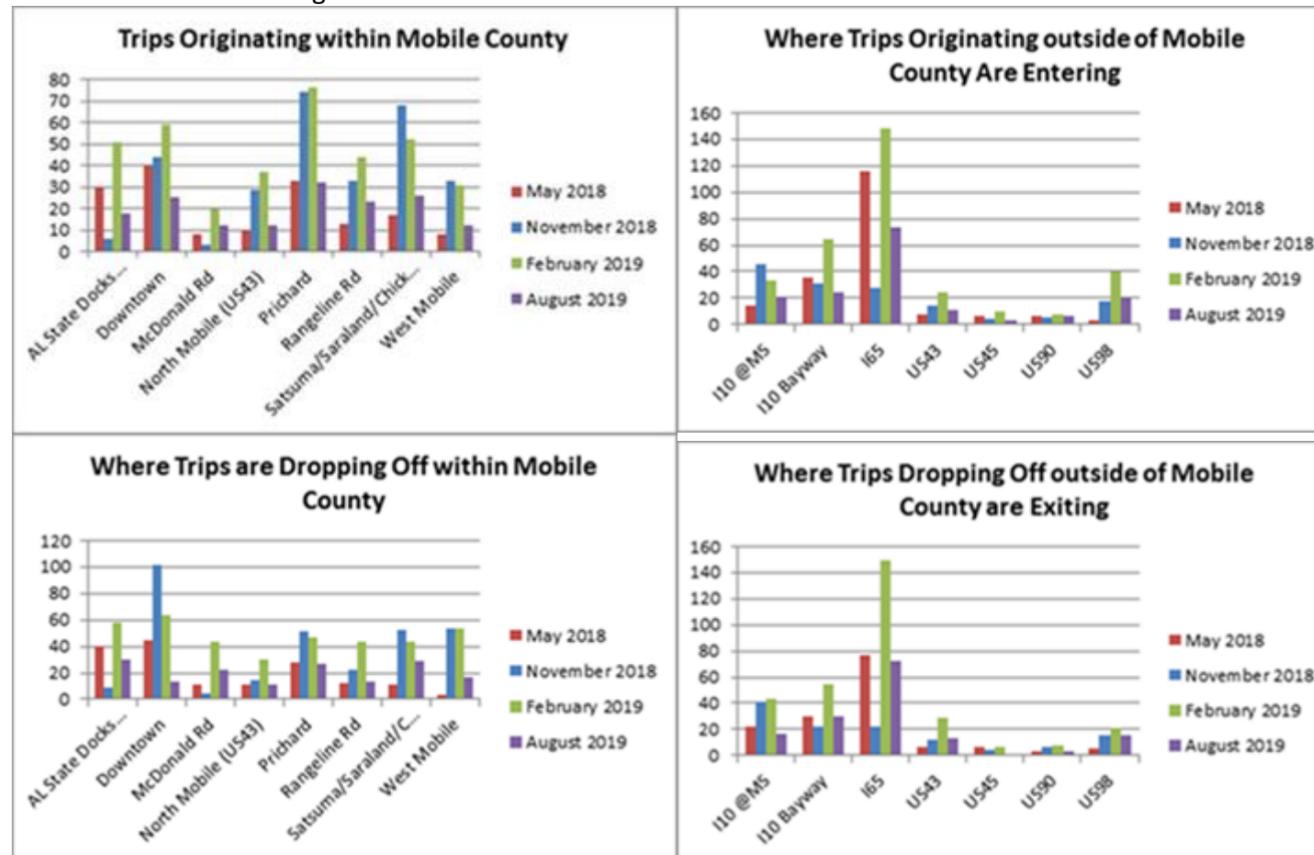
The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission(SARPC) invites decision makers, stakeholders, and members of the general public to participate in the development of the plan. SARPC is seeking feedback on transportation major infrastructure projects, initiatives and policies. Transportation priorities such as congestion, freight, transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian, and other transportation modes will be addressed in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Your comments help SARPC's planners to develop a wide-ranging, action-oriented transportation plan. The Envision2045 plan being developed will also serve as a basis for allocating limited federal money aimed at roadways, bridges, and public transportation facilities. The comment period on the early participate online survey is closed; however, there will be several more opportunities for the public to comment on the plan in the near future.

Please contact Kevin Harrison at kharrison@sarpc.org with any questions or requests for further information.

FREIGHT DATA

APM Terminals has provided us with their fourth quarterly survey report. Just as last quarter, for two days APM Terminals had on-board tablets for drivers to answer a series of questions in terms of where they came from and where they are going. APM Terminals will continue to gather this information quarterly for our benefit of validating truck data for the travel demand forecasting model.



[FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM \(TIP\) NOW ONLINE](#)

The TIP represents a four year program (2020-2023) for improvements in the various transportation systems located within the Mobile study area as identified in the Mobile MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the twenty-five year plan for the Mobile Urban area [Destination 2040](#). The LRTP establishes the transportation programs that are needed to meet travel demand by the study year and study area. LRTP projects that become funded are moved into the TIP and submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), where they are programmed into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For MPO projects, TIP project selection is based on priorities established by MPO member governments and the availability of funds through the Surface Transportation Attributable program. For other projects, ALDOT has discretion of project funding based on availability of funds from various types of funding categories. Most often, projects in the TIP are derived from the LRTP. The TIP guides ALDOT in its annual allocation of funds for transportation improvements and becomes a part of the STIP.

ArcGIS Online is now being utilized by MPO staff to map all federally funded surface transportation projects within our area. Check it out [HERE](#).

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

<http://mobileriverbridge.com/>

About the project:

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project would reduce congestion on I-10 in South Alabama through the addition of additional capacity: a new six-lane bridge over the Mobile River, full replacement of the existing Bayway with an eight-lane structure, and redevelopment of seven interchanges. The project would run from Virginia Street in Mobile to the US 90/98 interchange in Baldwin County. Information in the project is available at www.MobileRiverBridge.com.

The Alabama Department of Transportation on August 28, 2019 ceased project development efforts on the proposed Mobile River Bridge & Bayway.

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

The target start date, plan status, or project engineers estimated amount has changed for the following:

Project : 100060154 (CN)

Federal aid number : NHF 0158 (505)

County : MOBILE

Project Description : SR-158 EXTENSION LOTT ROAD OVERPASS AND JUG HANDLE. GRADE, DRAIN, BASE, PAVE, AND BRIDGE (EB SEABURY CREEK TRIBUTARY AND PARTIAL LOTT ROAD)

Old Engineers Estimate : \$20,000,000.00

New Engineers Estimate : \$25,161,676.80

Project : 100046895 Federal aid number : STPMB 7550 (601) County : MOBILE

Project Description : CR-656 (ZEIGLER BLVD) ADD LANES FROM CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) TO CR-429 (CODY RD)

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Current Funding : \$11,319,808.00 Requested Funding : \$9,088,794.00

Project : 100046892 Federal aid number : STPMB 7550 (601) County : MOBILE

Project Description : CR-656 (ZEIGLER BLVD) ADD LANES FROM CR-372 (SCHILLINGER RD) TO CR-429 (CODY RD)

Urban Area : 067 MOBILE

Current Funding : \$1,360,000.00 Requested Funding : \$1,500,600.00

South Alabama RPO Updates

Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Meeting

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) had a meeting of the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Committee last Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Baldwin County Central Annex at 22251 Palmer Street in Robertsedale, Alabama.

Items discussed were current and future transportation projects in the rural areas of our region by the ALDOT Southwest Regional Office.

Other items on the agenda included:

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

- Review and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020 Work Program (available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)
- Updating the RPO Transportation Plan with Project List (attached and available for review online at <http://www.mobilempo.org/RPODocuments.html>)

Projects in Region Let November 8th, 2019

MOBILE COUNTY

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-213 (Shelton Beach Road) from the junction of SR-158 to the junction of SR-13 (US-43) in Saraland. Length 2.452 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$641,964 to \$784,623

- For constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on Dunlap Drive over Pinto Pass in Mobile. Length 0.085 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,447,445 to \$1,769,100 .

BALDWIN COUNTY

None at this time

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

None at this time

[What's Under Construction?](#) [Project Status](#)

Legislative Updates

Shelby spearheads first major FY2020 appropriations package to Senate passage

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on Thursday applauded the chamber's passage of the first appropriations minibuss for Fiscal Year 2020, saying the legislative package contains big wins for Alabama.

This came following the Senate passing its substitute to H.R. 3055, a package of FY2020 domestic spending bills which includes measures for the Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies; Interior, Environment and Related Agencies; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies.

In a statement, Shelby said, "Today's passage of this appropriations package will allow for funding of important priorities for the state of Alabama and our nation."

"This package prioritizes significant resources for the American people – whether it is improving our infrastructure and housing industry, ensuring our state's role as a leader in space exploration, or supporting our farmers and rural communities," he advised. "I am proud we were able to pass this measure, allowing the Senate the opportunity to now move to our robust defense package and fund our military."

The package passed by an impressive bipartisan vote of 84-9. It included support for various priorities within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice and Transportation, as well as NASA.

All four of the appropriations bills included in the package were passed by Shelby's committee with unanimous support.

Detailed information on each of the bills can be found [here](#).

Sean Ross is the editor of Yellowhammer News. You can follow him on Twitter [@sean_yhn](#)

Senate Advances Fiscal 2020 Transportation Funding Measure



Getty Images

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The Senate on Oct. 31 voted 84-9 to advance legislation that would fund federal transportation programs through fiscal 2020.

The bill would provide \$74.3 billion for programs across the federal transportation system, as well as provide for housing assistance and community development. The legislation would specifically provide \$1 billion for infrastructure grants, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration would receive \$679 million.

Additionally, under the bill the Federal Aviation Administration would receive \$17.7 billion, the Federal Railroad Administration would receive \$2.8 billion, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration would receive \$972 million.

The transportation legislation was made part of a package that included legislation that would fund programs during the same time period at agencies within the Commerce, Agriculture, Interior, and Housing and Urban Development departments.

The House has advanced its versions of fiscal 2020 legislation. Federal government funding authority expires Nov. 21. Congressional funding leaders have yet to indicate when they intend to reconcile differences in their bills.

Speaking to reporters on Capitol Hill on Oct. 29, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) suggested President Donald Trump could choose to allow a shutdown for the purpose of a “diversion” from impeachment proceedings in the House. A total shutdown of the federal apparatus in fiscal 2020 has not been publicly endorsed by the president recently.

The House on Oct. 31 voted 232-196 to pass a resolution outlining procedures designed to guide its impeachment proceedings of Trump.

House advances four transportation bills from Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

BY [MELINA DRUGA](#) | OCTOBER 30, 2019 | [FEATURED](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives advanced four bills Monday aimed at strengthening the nation’s infrastructure.



The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure previously approved the bills.

“I am pleased that several bipartisan Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bills were passed on the House floor today,” Peter DeFazio (D-OR), committee chairman, said. “In particular, my Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund legislation is a much-needed win for coastal communities, and I encourage the Senate to take up this and the other bills as soon as possible.”

H.R. 1306, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, was introduced in February by Reps. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA). It amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to allow federal agencies, in the wake of disasters, to streamline and consolidate information collection and Preliminary Damage Assessments.

H.R. 1775, the Notice to Airmen Improvement Act of 2019, was introduced in March by Reps. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Pete Stauber (R-MN). The bill requires the Federal Aviation Administration to create a task force composed of representatives from airlines, general and business aviation, aviation safety and behavioral experts, and labor unions.

The task force would review Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) policies and regulations along with existing methods for presenting to pilots with NOTAMs. The task force also will determine the best practices for organizing and presenting flight-operations information to pilots as efficiently as possible.

Funding Opportunities

AASHTO Releases a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Enhancement and Support of AASHTOWare Bridge Design & Rating

October 21, 2019

A Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit competitive proposals for professional services to complete the development and delivery of the first release of the planned modernized AASHTOWare Bridge Design-Rating system (BrDR 7.0) and to provide ongoing maintenance, support, and enhancements to the AASHTOWare Bridge Design-Rating products.

A project to deliver a modernized version of the AASHTOWare Bridge Design-Rating software was initiated in July 2016. The goals of the original BrDR modernization effort were to redesign the overall system architecture, update the analysis modules and the product's user interface utilizing up-to-date development processes, tools, and programming languages. The BrDR Modernization Project was scoped to deliver the modernized analysis engine (completed and released in October 2018 as part BrDR 6.8.3), and the fully modernized BrDR software with the modernized user interface in a separate release, during a second phase of the project.

The user interface slated for delivery in phase two as part of BrDR 7.0, encompasses all of the bridge design, analysis and rating capabilities in the current product release, and will permit configuration options to meet the user's needs and familiarity with the software. Completion of the software envisioned as part of the modernization project (currently partially-developed) will represent delivery of the fully modernized BrDR system that will include both the modernized user interface, and the previously released modernized analysis engine. As stated, work on the fully modernized BrDR software that includes the updated user interface is partially complete. AASHTO estimated that design activities are 95% complete, development activities 70% complete, and software testing activities 10% complete.

AASHTO seeks a contractor to complete the remaining development tasks for phase two (BrDR 7.0), support the delivery of BrDR 7.0 to the end-user community, and provide maintenance, support, and enhancement services for the last two legacy versions of BrDR (6.8.3 and 6.8.4) as well as BrDR 7.0, once delivered.

Due to the confidential information disclosed in the RFP, a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) must be signed and emailed to Judy Skeen Tarwater at jtarwater@ashto.org to obtain a copy of the RFP document. For a copy of the Non-Disclosure Agreement, please [click this link](#).

Please note, all proposals are due by November 25, 4:00 pm ET. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Skeen Tarwater at jtarwater@ashto.org.

Opportunity Zones

EDA's Opportunity Zone Web Page

EDA now has an [EDA Opportunity Zone Web page](#) for economic development stakeholders and others to use as a resource to further help foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas across the United States.

Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning 2019 Notice of Funding

Date Posted: 9/18/2019 Date Closed: 11/18/2019

Opportunity ID:

FTA-2019-010-TPE

Grant Program:

[Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning – Section 20005\(b\)](#)

Opportunity Announcement TXT:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-09-18/html/2019-20192.htm>

Opportunity Announcement PDF:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-09-18/pdf/2019-20192.pdf>

Details:

09/18/2019. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of approximately \$19.19 million in Pilot Program for TOD Planning funding to support comprehensive planning associated with new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement projects. FTA may award amounts ranging from \$250,000 to \$2,000,000. Synopses and full announcement are posted on Grants.gov site as opportunity [FTA-2019-010-TPE](#). Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Grants.gov website by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 18, 2019.

Summary: The Pilot Program for TOD Planning provides funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning in new fixed guideway and core capacity transit project corridors. As required by statute, any comprehensive planning funded through the pilot program must examine ways to improve economic development and ridership, foster multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improve transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, engage the private sector, identify infrastructure needs, and enable mixed-use development near transit stations. The statute also requires that the planning work be associated with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit project as defined in Federal transit statute (49 USC 5309(a); also see the NOFO for the definitions).

Consistent with statutory direction, FTA is seeking comprehensive planning projects covering an entire transit capital project corridor, rather than proposals that involve planning for individual station areas or only a small section of the corridor. To ensure that planning work reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community and results in concrete, specific deliverables and outcomes, FTA is requiring that transit project sponsors partner with entities with land use planning authority in the transit project corridor.

[Section 5307, 5310, and 5311: Using Non-DOT Funds for Local Match](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) has worked with the [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) to clarify the ability of grantees to use Older Americans Act Title IIIB Supportive Services Funds to match Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. These FTA programs include Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Section 5307), Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities (Section 5310), and Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311). This information has been publicized [HERE](#)

FTA Providing \$19.2M In Comprehensive Planning Grants (deadline November 18th)

The Federal Transit Administration is making \$19.2 million in grant funding available to support “comprehensive planning” for public transit projects by encouraging ridership, improving transit access, or supporting economic and mixed-use development near public transportation projects.

The agency issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) on September 18 for that grant money, noting that applicants must be an FTA grantee; either a project sponsor of an eligible transit project or an entity with land use planning authority in the project corridor. The deadline for grant applications is November 18.

“Convenient and safe access to public transportation for all is a priority for FTA,” said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams [in a statement](#) – adding that these grants are being offered through the agency’s [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development](#) or TOD planning.

“This program is an excellent opportunity for communities to plan transit-oriented development that improves mobility for citizens and captures the value associated with new transit projects,” she said.

Last year, FTA said it awarded \$16.6 million in grants to 20 organizations for such comprehensive planning efforts, such as making zoning changes to encourage development along a proposed bus rapid transit line in Indianapolis and conducting an analysis of multi-modal access to stations along a proposed light rail line in Maryland.

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available visit www.grants.gov.

Just For Fun (THIS IS SATIRE, AND JUST FOR FUN)

Yesterday (Halloween) was All Hallows Eve, today is All Saints Day, and tomorrow is All Souls Day. California has recently seen its share of tragic situations, with wildfires, etc. As a reminder of tomorrow’s celebration of All Souls Day, the Grim Reaper has appeared in California, looming over the Golden Gate Bridge. [HERE](#) is the video.



In the News

Daylight Saving Time Ends This Weekend

It's almost time to fall back!

NOVEMBER 1, 2019



GREG HEWITT



It's almost time to fall back!

Daylight saving time ends this Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 a.m. And yes, this is the one where you gain an hour of sleep.

Don't forget to set any clocks that aren't on a smart device behind one hour before heading to bed on Saturday night, and get ready to have your microwave or oven display the wrong time for the next eight months because you don't want to break out the instruction manual.

The practice of Daylight Saving Time celebrates its 101st this year.

It was first enacted by the federal government as a way to save coal (by adjusting clocks to accommodate for more daytime, thus needing less energy for light) during World War I in the spring of 1918, and was only meant to exist during wartime. The practice was technically ended later that same year, but many regions continued to follow it, until eventually the government put the measure back in place in 1966.

The next major change came in 2007, when the Department of Transportation (DOT), which is surprisingly in charge of the practice, expanded daylight saving time to officially encompass about eight months of the year.

The DOT was assigned the responsibility because the switch affects so many modes of transportation. The agency continues to observe the twice-yearly time swap because it reportedly saves energy, cuts down on traffic accidents and reduces crime.

Individual states have the final say on if they participate, though. Hawaii and most of Arizona do not — the latter because it receives so much sunlight already. The islands of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands abstain as well.

According to USA Today, 26 states are considering making daylight saving time permanent, starting with Florida, but this change would require approval by Congress.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington have approved legislation to make DST permanent, but still need government approval.

Texas, on the other hand, is considering forgoing DST all together and using standard time year round.

Research varies as to whether or not the practice actually satisfies its reasonings — as it turns out, it's not actually saving as much energy as intended, especially with the advent of air conditioning — but at the very least, the extra hour encourages more time outside. And whether you spend that working out or sipping cocktails on the patio, a little more sunshine is never a bad thing.

Even Chip Gaines weighed in on the clock drama during a recent spring forward.

"I didn't know #DaylightSavingTime was so controversial...I love it. All the things I love to do, or have to do, but now with an extra hour of sunlight," the HGTV star tweeted.

So until your state can come to a conclusion about whether to abolish spring forward and fall back, enjoy your extra hour of sleep until next year.

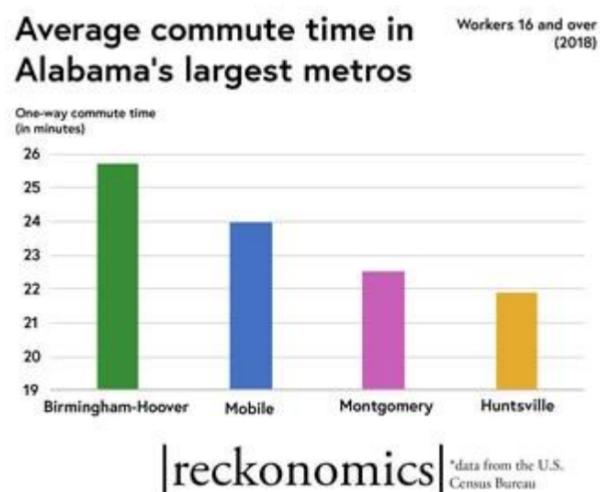
See how long the average commute is where you live in Alabama

Updated Oct 31, 8:42 AM; Posted Oct 31, 7:00 AM

By [Ramsey Archibald | rarchibald@al.com](#)

Depending on where you live, your commute to work might make you want to pull your hair out. Some places in Alabama have an average round trip commute of over an hour. Other areas have significantly shorter commutes.

Of Alabama's four big metro areas, Birmingham-Hoover has the longest commute, according to recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Birmingham area workers take an average of nearly 26 minutes to get to work. That's longer than Tampa, Fla., and Denver, Colo.



Birmingham-Hoover leads the way in commute times for Alabama's largest metro areas | graphic by Ramsey Archibald

Mobile ranks second among the Big Four with an average one-way commute time of around 24 minutes, around the same amount of time it takes for commuters in Minneapolis-St. Paul to get to work.

Montgomery is down around 22.5 minutes, roughly the same average commute time as Chattanooga.

Huntsville has the lowest commute time of the Big Four metros in Alabama, just under 22 minutes. It's around the same as Oklahoma City and Milwaukee.

As with any averages, some workers will get to work much faster, while others will take significantly longer.

Alabama's fastest growing small metro is also the one with the longest commute. Workers in Daphne-Fairhope-Foley average longer than 26 minutes to get to work. That ranks 330th out of 370 national metros with data tracked by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2018. It's in the same neighborhood as Dallas-Fort Worth, Baton Rouge and Nashville.

In Birmingham, the average commute time is inflated by the sheer size of the metro. Seven counties make up the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Area, and five of them are among the 13 Alabama counties with the longest commute times. Continue [HERE](#)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Nearly \$50 Million to Improve Access and Mobility for All Americans

Secretary Chao hosts summit to showcase progress on enabling transportation solutions for all

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced nearly \$50 million in new initiatives to expand access to transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income. At the [Access and Mobility for All Summit](#), Secretary Chao announced her intent to fund new programs to develop and deploy innovations in technology and further interagency partnerships to improve mobility. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers also participated in the event.

“The purpose of this \$50 million new initiative is to identify ways to provide more efficient, affordable, and accessible transportation services for people with disabilities, older adults and other underserved communities that often face greater challenges in accessing essential services,” said Secretary Chao.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) assembled leaders from industry, academia, nonprofits, and government to participate in panel discussions and breakout sessions focused on interagency coordination, advanced vehicle technologies, and innovations in mobility services.

“We are focused on streamlining the multiple steps involved in traveling between locations into a smooth and seamless trip,” said Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, who moderated a panel.

As part of her keynote address, Secretary Chao announced:

A planned Complete Trip Deployment solicitation, which will make up to \$40 million available to enable communities to showcase innovative business partnerships, technologies, and practices that promote independent mobility for all. “Complete Trip” means that a user can get from point A to point B seamlessly, regardless of the number of modes, transfers, and connections.

A planned Inclusive Design Challenge, which will make up to \$5 million in cash prizes available to innovators who design solutions to enable accessible automated vehicles. USDOT aims to increase availability and decrease cost of aftermarket modifiers that improve accessibility of vehicles today and spark development for future automated vehicles.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity for FTA's FY 2020 Mobility for All Pilot Program. The program seeks to improve mobility options and access to community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. The \$3.5 million initiative will fund projects that enhance transportation connections to jobs, education, and health services.

Over the past three years, USDOT increased investment in accessibility-related research by approximately 50 percent. These new investments demonstrate the Department's continued commitment to innovations that enhance access and mobility for all.

Also today, the USDOT and 10 other federal agencies approved the strategic plan for the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\)](#), an interagency partnership to coordinate the efforts of federal agencies funding transportation services for targeted populations. The strategic plan includes goals to improve access to jobs, health care, education, and community services by eliminating government duplication of services, reducing regulatory burden, increasing access to cost-effective transportation services, and ensuring that transportation services are centered on the citizens who depend

on them as a lifeline to community participation. The strategic plan will help provide better transportation outcomes through the coordination of more than 130 government-wide programs.

City council approves ALDOT grant program application



By **Andrew Garner**

[Email the author](#)

Published 9:26 am Thursday, October 31, 2019

The Atmore City Council adopted a resolution for Civil Southeast LLC to apply to the Alabama Department of Transportation for the Rebuild Alabama Act's annual grant program at its meeting on Monday.

The annual grant program is like the ATRIP program, Mayor Jim Staff said.

ATRIP is an ALDOT administered federal aid highway program that funds up to 80 percent of the construction of important roadway projects.

In other business, the council:

- announced the city's annual Veteran's Day program, which will be held on Tues., Nov. 12, after the city council meeting in council chambers; and,
- announced the Brownsfields Workshop, which will be held on Thurs., Nov. 14, from 5-7 p.m. at Atmore City Hall. The workshop is an informational meeting to allow businesses to see if they qualify under the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

Additionally, Councilwoman Susan Smith recognized Councilman Webb Nall, who retired from Pepsi Bottling Co. after 52 years on Tuesday.

Nall said during the meeting that even though it has 52 years, it didn't feel like it.

"I've seen a lot of changes involved in the drink industry," Nall said.



ALDOT Southwest Region

Diverging Diamond Interchange at I-10/SR-181 in Malbis

Project Began
March 2019

Anticipated Completion
Spring 2020

This Diverging Diamond Interchange is designed to improve the traffic flow efficiency and safety of the interchange by reducing the number of conflict points and signal phases and by eliminating left-hand turns across free-flowing traffic. Please note that project completion dates are susceptible to change due to weather delays or unforeseen utility conflicts. Please obey all traffic control devices and digital message boards in the work zone which relay pertinent project information such as lane closures and traffic pattern shifts.

Major Milestones

The bulleted items below are more noticeable parts of the project and do not have to be completed in order. Other utility, drainage, and construction work not listed here will be performed simultaneously along with these items. The final wearing surface and permanent stripe and markings are added upon the completion of the project.

- Widen and pave the I-10 eastbound off-ramp onto SR-181(Ramp B) **Complete**
- Widen and pave the I-10 eastbound on-ramp from SR-181(Ramp C) **In Progress**
- Widen and pave the I-10 westbound on-ramp from SR-181(Ramp A) **In Progress**
- Widen and pave the I-10 westbound off-ramp onto SR-181(Ramp D)
- Install drainage structures and pipe along US-90 **In Progress**
- Widen and pave SR-181 from US-90 to the Eastern Shore Blvd
- Shift traffic into diverging diamond configuration using temporary signals
- Install permanent traffic signals at I-10



Ramp B Widened & Paved w/ temp. stripe



Paving Ramp C



Excavation & Borrow Placement/Ramp A

[View and download the Diverging Diamond Interchange navigational video and brochure online at https://rp.dot.state.al.us/I10_SR181/](https://rp.dot.state.al.us/I10_SR181/)

Stay Connected

For construction updates, follow ALDOT Southwest Region on the following social media platforms:

Twitter:
@ALDOTMobileArea

Online:
<https://rp.dot.state.al.us/SR180/>

Transportation Research

UAH, ALDOT team up to offer free highway construction training

POSTED 12:28 PM, OCTOBER 31, 2019, BY [BOBBY STILWELL](#)



HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – The University of Alabama in Huntsville is partnering with the Alabama Department of Transportation to host free training in highway construction.

The training program will give anyone interested the chance to obtain credentials for NCCER Heavy Highway Construction Level 1.

UAH said trends show road investments will continue trending upward, meaning there will be a high demand for skilled workers with necessary skills and credentials to build highways. NCCER's program is targeted toward minorities, women, veterans, and disadvantaged individuals looking to launch a career in highway construction. Those in the class will be able to test for the nationally recognized NCCER credentials and have opportunities to advance into ALDOT's full time on-the-job training program.

Classes begin Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the Calhoun-Huntsville campus. The class has two components: First, participants will attend classes from 8 a.m.-noon on Mondays and Wednesdays at Calhoun's Huntsville Campus. This component runs throughout all of November and December 2019.

In 2020, classes move to evenings two times each week and one Saturday each month through July. For additional information and to register, visit the program's [website](#).

2020 Alabama Recreational Trails Conference

SAVE THE DATE

February 5-7, 2020
Gulf State Park and Lodge
21196 E Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores, AL 36542

A fun and informative event with mobile workshops and speakers from across Alabama and the United States presenting sessions on the latest trends and ideas in creating recreational trails that are inclusive, accessible, and connected to enhance quality of life and economic development in our state!

Registration announcement coming soon!

Right of Way Acquisition and the Uniform Act

This comprehensive workshop begins with an introduction to the Federal-aid right of way process and the fundamentals of complying with the Uniform Act, Federal Highway regulations, and any State laws, regulations or requirements. Participants will walk away with a strong understanding of the Uniform Act.

This workshop should be of interest to local government employees and consultants who work in the transportation decision making process and who acquire or manage real estate for federally funded transportation projects. This includes local government officials interested in participating in federally funded projects with real property acquisitions, local government management, and staff involved in the Federal-aid real property acquisition process and newcomers to the right of way profession.

Participants completing this seminar will receive 0.60 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The cost for this seminar is \$125.00 per person.

Payment may be made online, by phone (800-446-0382), or fax (334-844-5715) if paying with Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or government agency purchase order. Registrants are reminded that registration is not complete until payment is made.

[Brochure for Right of Way Acquisition and the Uniform Act](#)

Printable registration form [here](#).

ALDOT Sponsored HSIP Spreadsheet Training, November 12th and 13th, Computer Lab 1, Montgomery

All – The ALDOT Traffic and Safety Operations Section, Design Bureau, administers the State Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). This program is open to both Counties and Municipalities to apply for roadway safety funding. As part of

the application process, a spreadsheet is required to be submitted with the application which contains both the location safety countermeasure(s) chosen, and a benefit/ cost ratio based on the costs of the chosen countermeasures. The Traffic and Safety Operations Section is offering free training on the use of the spreadsheet on November 12th and 13th in Montgomery. The class will be three hours long; two identical classes will be taught each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The class schedule for the 12th and 13th will be 8:00 am to 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Attached for your review is the class agenda.

The class will involve hands – on training with the software. Attendees will not be required to bring any computer equipment to the class.

Since there are a limited number of spots available, each organization will only be allowed to send one staff member to the training. If you or a member of your staff would like to attend the training, please notify Mr. Manson by November 1st.

See Below. Notify Mr. Manson at contact info below if interested.

Brad Lindsey, P.E.
Deputy State Local Transportation Engineer
Alabama Department of Transportation
(334) 242-6728, phone
lindseyb@dot.state.al.us

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.