



Transportation Friday

Friday, February 3, 2012

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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

We hope everyone has had a great week. There is a lot of movement in Congress concerning our next transportation funding bill. The House has drafted the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012, and the Senate is proposing MAP-21. Please see Legislative Updates below for more details.

Also, TIGER 4 has been announced. This is a continuation of the TIGER funding series. Please see the funding opportunities below.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us. Also, if you know of anyone that is not getting the Transportation Friday just let us know, and tell us what you think!

Have a great weekend! Happy Mardi Gras!

Kevin Harrison, Tom Piper, and Monica Williamson

MPO Updates

Not only has staff been in Montgomery this week for training with the travel demand forecasting software Voyager, but we are continuing work on several projects: the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) priorities, the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) transit services for the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Origin Destination Study, and others. Please be on the lookout next week for a TCC/CAC meeting announcement.

CLIMATE CHANGE

As most of you know, Mobile was selected to be the pilot MPO for FHWA's Climate Change Study. The team has been working hard and has just finished the draft of

The Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure

The Gulf Coast Study, Phase 2

Climate Variability and

Change in Mobile, Alabama

Final Report, Task 2

projects will be happening in your area.

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This is a very lengthy document with a ton of information. If you would like a copy, please contact Kevin. The Federal Team will be here in March to meet with those of you on the Climate Change Workgroup. Your participation is appreciated.

Projects Let in January

Projects funded with Federal STP Any Area funds from ALDOT.

1. Planing, Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on 4 miles of SR-17 (US-45) from SR-42 (US-98) to I-65 in Prichard, to be resurfaced.
2. Planing, Resurfacing and Temporary Traffic Stripe on SR-59 from SR-287 in Bay Minette to CR-21 (Bryant Landing Road) in Stockton. Length 9.147 mi.
3. Planing, Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31) from the Bay Minette south city limit (MP 17.491) to south of the town square (MP 20.941). Length 3.274 m

Funding Opportunities

TIGER 4

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the USDOT's National Infrastructure Investments was published in yesterday's Federal Register. The notice and additional information are available at <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/>. Questions on the Notice may be directed to TIGERGrants@dot.gov, or by calling 202-366-0301.

- On November 18, 2011, the President signed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 112-055, Nov. 18, 2011) (FY 2012 Appropriations Act). The FY 2012 (FY12) Appropriations Act appropriated \$500 million to be awarded by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments. This appropriation is similar, but not identical to the appropriation for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program authorized and implemented pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).
 - As with the TIGER and TIGER II programs, the FY11 TIGER programs, funds for the FY12 TIGER program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or region.
 - Like the FY11 Appropriations Act, the FY12 Act **does not** provide any funding for projects solely for the planning, preparation, or design of capital projects (TIGER Planning Grants); however, these activities may be eligible to the extent that they are part of an overall construction project that receives TIGER Discretionary Grants funding.
 - For the FY12 program, DOT will make up to \$100 million available for

high speed and intercity passenger rail projects in this round of funding.

Funding and Types of Awards:

- The FY 2012 Appropriations Act specifies that TIGER Discretionary Grants may be not less than \$10 million and not greater than \$200 million.
 - TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used for up to 80 percent of the cost
- For projects located in rural areas, the minimum TIGER Discretionary Grant size is \$1 million.
 - Not less than \$120 million of the funds provided for TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used for projects located in rural areas
- - DOT is generally defining “rural area” as any area not in an urbanized area, as such term is defined by the Census Bureau
 - For projects located in rural areas the FY 2012 Appropriation Act does not require matching funds
- Up to \$175 million of the \$500 million available for TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used to pay the subsidy and administrative costs of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).
- Pursuant to the FY12 Appropriations Act, no more than 25 percent of the funds made available for TIGER Discretionary Grants, or (\$125 million) may be awarded to projects in a single State.

There are a number of important deadlines in the Notice.

- Pre-applications: The pre-application system will open on or before February 13, 2012.
- Deadline for Pre-Applications February 20, 2012
- Application System Opens: February 22, 2012
- Deadline for Applications: March 19, 2012

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT

Choice Neighborhoods grants transforms distressed neighborhoods and public and assisted projects into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods by linking housing improvements with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation, and access to jobs. On January 10, 2012, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announced \$110 million for this year’s Implementation Grant Competition

They invite you to join them to discuss the FY2012 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Competition during a conference call this Monday, February 6 at 2:15pm EST. The call will be hosted by Sandra Henriquez, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Carol Galante, Acting FHA Commissioner

and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing, and the Choice Neighborhoods Team.

To participate in this call, please assist us with the following:

- Please [click here to RSVP](#) for the call. All those who RSVP will receive a reminder email and call materials.
- Prior to the call, please [click here to send us your questions](#). We will address as many questions as possible during the call.
- Please dial 1-800-683-4564 and enter the password (785643) followed by # when prompted.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING (SRTS)

Schools and communities can submit SRTS funding proposals to the Alabama Department of Transportation that address roadway and safety issues such as congestion within school zones and inadequate pedestrian facilities by designing on-street improvements to make traveling to school safer.

To apply for funding, contact ALDOT at 334-353-6446. The application deadline for 2012 school year is March 31, 2012

Legislative Updates

Surface Transportation Bills Moving Ahead

The House and Senate are moving full steam ahead on completing multi-year reauthorization bills for the nation's federal surface transportation programs for highways, freight, transit, safety and other related issues.

As part of the SAFETEA-LU rewrite process, the Senate is pursuing a two-year, \$109 billion package (S. 1813) that maintains most programs at current levels plus inflation. In the Senate, the Environment and Public Works Committee handles the highway title, the Banking Committee has oversight of the transit title, and the Commerce Committee is responsible for safety and research.

- [Senate MAP-21 Highway Committee Summary](#)
- [Senate MAP-21 Highway Title \(S. 1813\)](#)
- [Senate MAP-21 Highway Title – Manager's Amendment](#)
- [Senate MAP-21 Highway Title – En Bloc Amendments](#)
- [Senate Banking Transit Title](#)
- [Senate Banking Transit Committee Summary](#)

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is pushing a \$262.9 billion, five-year bill, known as the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 (H.R. 7). The SAFETEA-LU law provided \$286.6 billion over six years, averaging \$47.7 billion per year over the FY2004-2009 period. The House Republican proposal would average a total of \$52.6 billion per year during the FY2012-2016 period while the Senate EPW bill totals around \$54 billion each year.

- [Text of House Reauthorization Bill \(H.R. 7\)](#)
 - [Committee Summary of House Bill \(H.R. 7\)](#)
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