



# Transportation Friday

Friday, January 27, 2012

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## In This Issue

- **MPO UPDATES**  
-Tuscaloosa News  
Articles: Bill May  
Threaten  
Infrastructure  
Planning and  
Editorial on MAP-21
- **PROJECTS TO BE LET**
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**  
-Safe Routes to  
School  
-Industrial Access
- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**
- **IN THE NEWS**  
-Bicycling and  
Walking to Work  
-Abogo – Mapping  
Tool  
-Census Information
- **LOCAL NEWS**  
-ALDOT Notice

## Recently Completed Planning Studies

Mobile County  
Comprehensive Bicycle  
and Pedestrian Plan

Intelligent Transportation  
System Diversion Route  
Planning Study

We hope everyone has had a great week. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us. Also, if you know of anyone that is not getting the Transportation Friday let us know, and tell us what you think!

Have a great weekend!

Kevin Harrison, Tom Piper, and Monica Williamson

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## MPO Updates

The following two links are to articles that were in the Tuscaloosa News recently. The articles are a response to the proposed bill: MAP-21 and how MPO could be affected.

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20120122/NEWS/120129954?p=1&tc=pg>

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20120122/NEWS/120129980>

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## Projects Planned to be let this month

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

Click Here to see when and where federal and state projects will be happening in your area.

### Contact Us

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## Funding Opportunities

### 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

### ALABAMA INDUSTRIAL ACCESS ROAD AND BRIDGE PROGRAM

Administered through ALDOT, the Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. Funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs. The application submittal should include a notification acknowledgment letter from the director of the Alabama Development Office. The application period is open twice a year. The current deadline is January 27<sup>th</sup> 2012. The application and instructions can be found here:

<http://www.dot.state.al.us/adweb/Industrial%20Access.htm>

## Legislative Updates

There are 65 days left before the 8th extension of the federal surface transportation authorization, SAFETEA-LU, expires on March 31, 2012.

Only two of the Senate oversight committees have approved their sections of the bill. On November 9, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), which has jurisdiction over the highway title, unanimously approved "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century," or "MAP-21" (S. 1813), a two-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. On December 14, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved the safety and motor carrier title during a highly partisan meeting. The Senate Banking and Finance Committees are rumored to be introducing and acting on their legislation as early as next week.

The text of the House version of the next transportation funding bill may be released next week, and three committees in the House of Representatives are expected to take action next week

The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to vote on their portion of the legislation on February 1, 2012. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Chairman Mica laid out a plan to link infrastructure investments with expanded oil and gas drilling. The legislation is anticipated to be called the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" (will be H.R. 7) and is expected to include the text of a surface transportation authorization as well as several energy-production measures.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has indicated that they will introduce their legislation today, Friday, January 27, 2012 and vote on it in committee on February 2, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the proposed House T&I legislation.

The House Ways and Means Committee will vote on their revenue titles on February 3, 2012.

There are also rumors surfacing that revenues for the bill could be tied to health care policy changes. The House Republican Leadership had originally planned to pass a surface bill by the end of 2011. Currently, it is expected that the House will schedule time to consider the entire transportation authorization and the revenue recommendations during the week of February 13, 2012.

To view a legislative fact sheet on surface transportation reauthorization, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for more in-depth information.

Also, Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY, 4) introduced H.R. 3780 to amend the federal tax code to allow for the establishment of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). RIIZs would allow businesses or individuals in a community to contribute tax-deductible funds towards the construction or maintenance of public infrastructure – defined as surface transportation, water, waste water and storm water – if that infrastructure is part of an approved regional plan. This effort was led by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments in conjunction with NARC.

#### **AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT**

The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act is a \$260 Billion, 5 year bill. A summary of the bill leaked out Monday (see below), and here are five big proposed changes:

- Authorizes “current” funding levels for Highway, Transit and Highway Safety programs (original plan in 2010 proposed a significant cut)
- Consolidates or eliminates nearly 70 programs that are duplicative or not in the federal interest (including cutting Amtrak)
- Permits, but no longer requires, states to spend highway funds on non-highway projects and activities such as bike-ped facilities.
- Incentivizes states to build upon the existing State Infrastructure Bank program
- Speeds project delivery by allowing federal agencies to review projects concurrently instead of sequentially, establishes hard deadlines for federal agencies to decide on permits and project approvals, and delegates project approval authority to states.

<http://www.transportationissuesdaily.com/federal-transportation-bill-moving-in-house/>

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## In the News

**Alabama in last place! 50<sup>th</sup> in Bicycling and Walking to Work.**

**Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2012 Benchmarking Report**

[http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/memberservices/2012\\_benchmarking\\_report/](http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/memberservices/2012_benchmarking_report/)

Technical Report: *Alliance for Biking and Walking*

The report is a compilation and analysis of data on bicycling and

walking in all 50 states and 51 cities. The data cover bicycling and walking levels and demographics, bicycle and pedestrian safety, funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, written policies on bicycling and walking, bicycle infrastructure, bike-transit integration, bicycling and walking education and encouragement activities, public health indicators, and the economic impact of bicycling and walking. Link is to a report summary; the full report is large (24 MB) and can be downloaded or purchased.

**Abogo: Transportation Costs Made Transparent**

<http://abogo.cnt.org/>

Website Tool: *The Center for Neighborhood Technology*

Abogo is an interactive mapping tool that presents average commute-to-work costs per household, both in dollars and CO2 emissions, by Census tract. The tool uses neighborhood density, connectivity to rapid transit and average commute times in its calculations.

**CENSUS DATA**

For the latest information on when census data will be released, please click on the following link:

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb12-13.html>

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