



# Transportation Friday

Friday, January 20, 2012

Volume 1, Number 3

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It is with great sadness that the former Director of Planning at SAPRC Mr. George Nettles has passed away, and is being laid to rest today. George retired 10 years ago, and was an integral part of the history of the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. Our prayers are with his family today.

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, just let us know.

Have a great weekend!

Kevin Harrison, Tom Piper, and Monica Williamson

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## MPO Updates

### TIP PRIORITIES

At our last MPO meeting, we were given the task by our Chairman to look into the possibilities of including maintenance type projects being funding with MPO Attributable funds. We have created a "TIP SUB-Committee" which met this week and we deliberated for a couple hours on this topic. We are looking forward to presenting it to the TCC/CAC at the next meeting; which is not scheduled yet.

### JARC-DHR

As we mentioned in a previous e-newsletter, SARPC has been selected to broker transit trips in Mobile County for those individuals that meet the requirements of this DHR project. Generally, the requirement is outside of the WAVE Transit area for low-income folks that need work related transportation. This is funding through JARC (50%

## 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  
projects will be happening  
in your area.

## Contact Us

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federal funds), while DHR is the matching sponsor (50%). This week we had the pre-bid conference for the Request for Proposals as we are currently bidding this out, and look forward to getting people to work.

## OD STUDY

AirSage has begun collecting data from Verizon for our Origin- Destination Study, and we are excited to get this project finally moving. By collecting this data, we will be able to generate matrices of aggregated zonal trip patterns for the Mobile Urban area. This has been done once in the United States to the Census Tract level, but never to the detail we are conducting it. There is a lot of data we are expecting from this study, and we will keep you posted.

## NON-ATTAINMENT STATUS UPDATE

**EPA Agrees to Finalize Nonattainment Designations for the 2008 Ozone Standards by May 2012.** Under a settlement agreement filed in Federal District Court in Arizona on December 12, 2011, the EPA has agreed to finalize the nonattainment designations under the 2008 Ozone NAAQS by the end of May, 2012. The settlement agreement is subject to public comment and must be approved by a Federal judge before it becomes effective. As part of the designation process, the EPA sent their recommended nonattainment counties to the states on December 9, 2011. These recommendations were based on either 2008-2010 or 2009-2011 data depending on availability, and list 43 areas in 26 states plus the District of Columbia as not meeting the standards. No area in Alabama is above the 75 parts per billion standard, which is good news. Our current 2009-2011 numbers are 70 and 73 parts per billion for the Mobile monitors, and 71 parts per billion for the monitor in Fairhope. Additional information about the December 9, 2011 recommendations is available on [EPA's website](#).

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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

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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>

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## Legislative Updates

WASHINGTON, DC (January 18, 2012) – on Wednesday, 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.

Congressman Davis said, “Improving our failing and out of date infrastructure is imperative to our long-term economic growth. With federal, State and local budgets already stretched thin, creative solutions are needed to maintain and improve our infrastructure. RIIZs are a local and regional tool to incentivize private sector investment, move infrastructure projects forward and enable additional job creation.”

“We commend Congressman Davis for his leadership in the introduction of the RIIZ legislation,” said Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Board President Edwin Humphrey. “RIIZs represent a remarkably innovative financing measure that will assist local and regional entities in meeting their growing infrastructure needs.”

"This commonsense legislation supports much needed investment in local infrastructure through a grassroots effort that upholds proven processes, reinforces local decision-making, underscores the benefits of regional planning, and engages the public and the business community," said Mayor Ron Morrison, National City, CA and President, National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). "We thank Congressman Davis for his commitment to improving the safety, economy and future for urban and rural communities alike and look forward to ensuring RIIZs are an available tool for local governments."

The RIIZ concept, spearheaded by OKI working with NARC, has been endorsed by a variety of organizations throughout the country that represent more than 100 million individuals including local governments, regional planning organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, council of governments, regional development districts, chambers of commerce, and national associations.

Additional information on RIIZs can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

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## In the News

**U.S. DOT Secretary LaHood spoke to the U.S. Conference of Mayors** 80th Winter Meeting in Washington, DC this week to convey the need to rebuild the nation and economy. The Secretary stressed the role of the TIGER program, high-speed rail and regulatory reform as ways that U.S. DOT has taken the lead to help get the economy moving again. In addition, he called on Congress to pass an FAA and surface transportation reauthorization quickly, to put Americans back to work. Click [HERE](#) for Secretary LaHood's speech.

**FHWA's Office of Safety** has launched [Proven Safety Countermeasures](#), a **new website** that includes links to detailed descriptions, related research studies, and evaluations of nine research-proven countermeasures. **The nine countermeasures highlighted on the site address crashes that occur in the focus areas of intersections, pedestrians, and roadway departure.**

**FHWA** released the January 2012 edition of [Successes in Stewardship](#), which **highlights current environmental streamlining practices** from around the U.S., including an analysis of linking safety and NEPA.

### **FHWA Releases Publication on NEPA, Safety**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Transportation Safety Planning Working Group (TSPWG) have released [Integrating Road Safety into NEPA Analysis: Practitioner's Primer](#). The document presents practitioners with concepts for including meaningful analysis of project safety issues and for taking advantage of the latest tools, research, and techniques for improving road safety. The primer is designed to provide information for both NEPA practitioners who want to learn more about addressing safety and safety practitioners who want to learn how safety considerations can be incorporated in the NEPA process.

[View the report here.](#)

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## Local News

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) announces the opportunity to hold a Public Involvement Meeting for Project No. BR-0213(501). This project involves the replacement of the current bridge on SR-213 over Norton Creek. The existing route (SR-213) will be temporarily closed and all traffic will be routed to SR-158 and US-43 during construction. No additional right of way will be required for this project.

Any citizen may request a public meeting by writing to:  
Mr. Vincent E. Calametti, P.E., Division Engineer  
Alabama Department of Transportation  
1701 I-65 West Service Road N  
Mobile, Alabama 36618-1109

Requests for information need to be received by 3 weeks.  
NOTICE PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18, 2012.