

# East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

May 2019 Issue

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## Calhoun Area MPO Updates

### ○ Motorcycle Safety



**May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.** This May, NHTSA wants to ensure that all vehicle drivers *Get Up to Speed on Motorcycles*. This new campaign helps motorists understand standard motorcycle driving behaviors and learn how to drive safely around

motorcycles on our roadways. Safe riding practices and cooperation from all road users will help reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways. It's especially important for motorists to understand the safety challenges faced by motorcyclists, such as size and visibility, and motorcycle riding practices like downshifting and weaving to know how to anticipate and respond to them. By raising motorists' awareness, both drivers and riders will be safer sharing the road. For more information, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov).

### ○ Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Update



A final draft was submitted to ALDOT for review on April 9, 2019. The plan is anticipated to be finalized and adopted during May's MPO Policy Committee meeting, Thursday, May 16, 2019. The draft along with project maps can be found on the MPO website ([Calhoun Area MPO](http://CalhounAreaMPO)). The Final document will be uploaded once adopted.

### ○ FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The MPO is responsible for adopting a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which presents a 4-year program for improvements in the various transportation systems located within the Calhoun Area Transportation Study.

All proposed projects have been received, prioritized, and will soon be submitted to ALDOT to prioritize. A draft is expected to be submitted for review no later than June 14<sup>th</sup> and public involvement meetings will follow soon afterwards.

## ○ March MPO Project Changes

- #37 PE (100063211) BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT 4TH ST., NOBLE ST., 14TH ST., 11TH ST., 18TH ST., AND COBB AVE  
Previous TIP Spreadsheet apportionment: \$63,853  
Requested Funding: \$55,609  
Reason for Request: To increase PE funds to cover the overrun. Project was closed with FHWA for a lesser amount, it had to be reopened to pay a late payment but is still less than previous apportionment (\$63,853).
- #35 CN (100063208) RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND NOBLE STREET  
Old Engineers Estimate: \$580,642  
New Engineers Estimate: \$594,937.54  
-Change in estimate equals an increase of \$14,295.54 which is less than 20% of the old estimate (\$116,128.52).  
No resolution needed for change.
- #36 PE (100063209) BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT CLYDESDALE AVE., 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
Current Funding: \$95,744.00  
Requested Funding: \$98,041.00  
-Change in funding equals an increase of \$2,297 which is less than 20% of current funding (\$19,148.80).  
Previous spreadsheets have had this funding amount as \$128,334.00, so would be a decrease from previous funding amount on MPO TIP spreadsheets.
- #14 CN (100064930) RESURFACE ALEXANDRIA-JACKSONVILLE HIGHWAY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF MCCLELLAN ROAD TO THE INTERSECTION OF CEDAR SPRINGS ROAD – CCP 08-95-16  
Old Engineers Estimate: \$1,428,140.00  
New Engineers Estimate: \$460,155.96  
-Change in funding equals a decrease of \$967,984.04. No resolution needed with decreased estimate changes less than \$1 million.
- #39 CN (100064884) RESURFACING, STRIPING, AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON MOUNTAIN STREET NE FROM SR-21 TO 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE  
Old Engineers Estimate: \$472,288.00  
New Engineers Estimate: \$455,625.22  
-Change in funding equals a decrease of \$16,662.78. No resolution needed with decreased estimate changes less than \$1 million.
- #7 PE (100051023) INTERSECTION SIGNALS AND TURN LANES AT CR-389 (LENLOCK LN) AND CR-324 (SAKS RD)  
Current Funding: \$102,000  
Requested Funding \$143,247  
Reason for Request: To increase preliminary engineering funds.  
-This was changed with Resolution 771 on October 20, 2018. No further changes needed.
- #4 CN (100047014) SIGNAL UPGRADE SR-21 AT BALTZELL GATE ROAD  
Old Target start date: July 26, 2019  
New Target start date: August 30, 2019  
-New start date within the same FY as old start date. No change needed.
- #40 CN (100064886) RESURFACING CHURCH AVENUE FROM 11TH STREET TO SR-21  
Old Target start date: August 30, 2019  
New Target start date: September 27, 2019  
-New start date within the same FY as old start date. No change needed.
- #5 CN TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LENLOCK LANE AND SR-21 IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON  
Old Target start date: July 26, 2019

New Target start date: August 30, 2019

-New start date within the same FY as old start date. No change needed.

## East Alabama RPO Updates

### ○ **New RPO Planner**

East Alabama Regional Commission welcomes Lattisha Royal to the Planning Staff!!!  
Lattisha will be taking over the RPO Coordinator position this month and can be reached at [lattisha.royal@earpdc.org](mailto:lattisha.royal@earpdc.org) or 256-237-6741 for all your RPO transportation needs!

### ○ **STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan) Public Involvement Meetings**

The STIP is a four-year transportation and capital improvements program that lists federally-funded transportation projects. This year, ALDOT is coordinating their STIP public involvement meetings through the RPOs. The East Alabama Region will have 3 public meetings:

Northern Districts, Cherokee and Etowah Counties

– Thursday, May 2, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Gadsden-Etowah Chamber of Commerce, 1 Commerce Square, Gadsden, AL 35901

Central Districts, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties

– Thursday May 16, 2019, 10:30 – 12 p.m. (after MPO meeting), East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, 1130 Quintard Avenue, Anniston, AL 36202

Southern Districts, Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa Counties

– Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., ALDOT Alexander City office, 240 US-280, Alexander City, AL 35010

### ○ **FY 19 RPO Meetings**

*Northern Counties: Cherokee and Etowah*

*Central Counties: Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Talladega*

*Southern Counties: Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, Tallapoosa*

### **July:**

Northern Counties: July 11<sup>th</sup> @ Gadsden Chamber, 11:30 am, after MPO meeting

Central Counties: July 18<sup>th</sup> @ EARPDC, 11 am, after MPO meeting

Southern Counties: July 25<sup>th</sup> @ ALDOT Alexander City office, Section 1, 10:00 am

Meeting minutes from January can be found at <http://www.earpdc.org/pages/?pageID=29>

### ○ **Meeting Coordination Interest**

If you have any suggestions on where to house future RPO meetings or suggestions on places for food items during an RPO meeting in your area, please contact Lattisha Royal at [lattisha.royal@earpdc.org](mailto:lattisha.royal@earpdc.org) or 256-237-6741. We would love to have these meetings be both beneficial and enjoyable for all involved.

## ○ Projects Proposed to Let March 29, 2019

### ○ Calhoun County

- none

### ○ Chambers County

- none

### ○ Cherokee County

- STPAA-0009(569) for constructing the Resurfacing (Scrub Seal) and Traffic Stripe on SR-9 from the Calhoun County Line north of Piedmont to the Terrapin Creek Bridge (MP 250.670). Length 7.250 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$761,582 to \$930,822.
- STPNU-1019(250) for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic stripe on CR-29 from the junction of CR-33 to the junction of CR-643. Length 1.920 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$278,602 to \$340,513.

### ○ Clay County

- none

### ○ Cleburne County

- ACBRZ60377-ATRP(014) for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-533 (Campbell Street) over Cahulga Creek in Heflin. Length 0.052 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$391,712 to \$478,759.

### ○ Coosa County

- ACBRZ61376-ATRP(012) for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-568 (Yates Road) over Black Creek. Length 0.257 mi. The Bracket Estimate for this project is from \$1,137,535 to \$1,390,321.

### ○ Etowah County

- none

### ○ Randolph County

- NH-0001(607) and NH-0001(608) for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, Traffic Stripe on SR-1 (US-431) from 0.626 mile north of the junction of CR-61 to 0.180 mile north of the junction of CR-42 (Site 1) and on SR-1 (US-431) from 0.262 mile north of CR-610 to the South City Limits of Wedowee (Site 2). Length 3.076 mi. The Bracket Estimate for this project is from \$1,345,037 to \$1,643,934.

### ○ Talladega County

- none

### ○ Tallapoosa County

- None

- Employment Opportunity!

D-498

## JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM

# APPLY ONLINE!

[2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

### 2020 Census jobs provide:

Great pay  
Flexible hours  
Weekly pay  
Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call

**1-855-JOB-2020**

Federal Relay Service:  
1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII  
[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

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United States  
**Census  
2020**

- Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- The USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for grants to use broadband technology to improve access to healthcare and educational services in rural communities through its **Distance**

**Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program.** Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and can be used to finance telecommunication equipment, computer networks, and advanced technologies to support job training, academic instruction, or access to specialized medical care in rural areas. The application deadline is **May 15, 2019**.

- **Recreation Economy for Rural Communities** is a new planning assistance program from the US Forest Service, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and EPA to help communities develop strategies and an action plan to revitalize their Main Streets through outdoor recreation. By conserving forests and other natural lands and making them available for outdoor recreation, small towns can boost air quality and water quality and focus development downtown. Communities are invited to apply for planning assistance; the application deadline is **May 31, 2019**. Click [here](#) to learn more and to apply
- The USDA **ReConnect** program will offer up to \$600 million nationwide in loans and grants to help build broadband infrastructure in rural areas. Of the \$600 million available, \$200 million is available in loan and grant combinations and \$200 million is available for low-interest loans. Projects funded through this initiative must serve communities with fewer than 20,000 people that have no broadband service or where existing service is slower than 10 megabits per second (mbps) download and 1 mbps upload. To qualify, projects must increase access speeds to at least 25 mbps upload and 3 mbps download. Priority will be given to projects that propose to deliver higher-capacity connections to rural homes, businesses, and farms. Applications for grant funding are due by **May 31, 2019**, for loan funding by **July 12, 2019**.
- The USDA is accepting applications for grants to support economic development in rural communities through their **Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Program** in order to strengthen the rural economy. RCDI grants will provide technical assistance and training to help nonprofit organizations and communities develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facility, or economic development projects. USDA also encourages applications that will support efforts to combat substance use disorders in high-risk rural communities by strengthening their capacity to address prevention, treatment, and/or recovery needs. Grant amounts range from \$50,000 - \$250,000. Applicants must have capacity-building experience for these types of projects and they must provide matching funds at least equal to the RCDI grant. Electronic applications must be submitted to grants.gov by **June 5, 2019 at 9:00 pm PST**.
- The Department of Transportation is taking applications for **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants** until 8 pm E.D.T. **July 15, 2019**. The FY 2019 BUILD program will also give special consideration to projects which emphasize improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas, such as projects that improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity or facilitate economic growth or competitiveness. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$90 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2019 Appropriations Act. Additionally, not more than 50 percent of funds will be awarded to projects located in urban and rural areas, respectively.

More information on deadlines will be distributed as it becomes available. [Please don't hesitate to contact Tyler Ferrell, EARPCD Director of Planning and Development at 256-237-6741 for more information.](#)

# May 2019

| Sun                   | Mon                | Tue  | Wed                                       | Thu  | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|---|--|-----|-----|
|                       |                    |  | 1   | 2<br>Northern District<br>RPO STIP Public<br>Meeting @ 2 @ Gads-<br>den-Etowah Chamber                 | 3   | 4   |
| 5                     | 6                  | 7  | 8<br>Technical Advisory<br>Committee @ 10 | 9  | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>Mother's<br>Day | 13                 | 14<br>Transit Advisory<br>Board @ 9  | 15<br>Citizens Advisory<br>Committee @ 10 | 16<br>MPO Policy Meeting<br>@ 10<br>Central District<br>RPO STIP Public<br>Meeting @ EARPDC<br>@ 10:30 | 17  | 18  |
| 19                    | 20                 | 21<br>Southern District<br>RPO STIP Public<br>Meeting @ 1 @<br>Alex City ALDOT | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25  |
| 26                    | 27<br>Memorial Day | 28   | 29  | 30   | 31  |     |

# June 2019

| Sun                | Mon | Tue                                 | Wed  | Thu                              | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                    |     |                                     |  |                                  |     | 1   |
| 2                  | 3   | 4                                   | 5  | 6                                | 7   | 8   |
| 9                  | 10  | 11<br>Transit Advisory<br>Board @ 9 | 12<br>Technical Advisory<br>Committee @ 10 | 13                               | 14  | 15  |
| 16<br>Father's Day | 17  | 18                                  | 19   | 20<br>MPO Policy Meeting<br>@ 10 | 21  | 22  |
| 23                 | 24  | 25                                  | 26   | 27                               | 28  | 29  |
| 30                 |     |                                     |  |                                  |     |     |