

# East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

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June 2019 Issue

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## Calhoun Area MPO Updates

### ○ **Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Update**



A final draft was submitted for ALDOT and FHWA review April 9, 2019. The plan is anticipated to be finalized and adopted once review is complete. The draft along with project maps can be found on the MPO website ([Calhoun Area MPO](#)). 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 submitted to ALDOT to program. 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.

### ○ **May MPO Project Changes**

- #46 CN (10008423) 4-lane Greenbrier Rd.  
Old Overrun Amount: \$533,835.45  
New Overrun Amount: \$697,054.56  
-Resolution 733 increased allocation to \$533,835 but did not cover total overrun. An additional \$119,894.15 was added to cover overrun.
- #35 CN (100063208) RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND NOBLE STREET  
Old Target Start Date: May 21, 2019  
New Target Start Date: June 28, 2019  
-New Start Date within the same FY as old start date. No change needed.

## East Alabama RPO Updates

### ○ 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 May 31, 2019

#### ○ Calhoun County

- STPOA-0815(258) for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, Drainage Structure Improvements, and Traffic Stripe on Mountain Street Northeast from the junction of SR-21 to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Jacksonville. Length 0.587 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$307,528 to \$375,868.
- STPOA-0817(250) for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on Alexandria-Jacksonville Highway from the junction of McClellan Road in Alexandria to the intersection of Cedar Springs Road. Length 2.502 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$340,166 to \$415,759.

#### ○ Chambers County

- none

#### ○ Cherokee County

- STPNU-1019(251) for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on CR-6 from the Calhoun County Line to the intersection of CR-19. Length 3.299 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$262,676 to \$321,049.

#### ○ Clay County

- none

#### ○ Cleburne County

- none

- **Coosa County**
  - none
- **Etowah County**
  - IM-1059(412) for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on I-59 in Gadsden from 0.130 mile south of the SR-77 Overpass to 0.780 mile north of the ATN Railroad Overpass. Length 2.943 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,412,607 to \$1,726,519.
- **Randolph County**
  - none
- **Talladega County**
  - none
- **Tallapoosa County**
  - None
- **Employment Opportunity!**

D-498

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## ○ Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- 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 U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced the availability of \$423 million of competitive grant funding through its **Grants for Busses and Bus Facilities Program**. Fixed route bus operators, state and local government entities that operate fixed bus service, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for projects involving the replacement and rehabilitation of buses and related facilities. Proposals are due **June 21, 2019**.
- The **National Park Service** is accepting applications for its **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program** through **June 30**. This program provides technical assistance to help communities develop conservation or outdoor recreation projects. For more information on how to apply visit <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>.
- 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.
- The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission to make approximately \$28.5 million available in **National Dislocated Worker Reserve: Workforce Opportunity for**

**Rural Communities (WORC) Grants** to support workforce training and education in rural communities across the Delta and Appalachian regions. To complement the federal partnership, DRA will host two technical assistance workshops, make an additional \$1.5 million in grants available in July 2019, and offer post-award technical assistance to grantees. DRA will be hosting technical assistance workshops in Memphis, Tennessee on **June 4, 2019** and in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on **June 6, 2019**. The deadline for WORC grants is **July 15, 2019** and the deadline for DRA workforce grants is **August 30, 2019**. For more information on these grants and workshops – and to apply – please visit <https://dra.gov/initiatives/strengthening-the-delta-workforce/>.

- The **Alabama Association of RC&D Councils** will begin accepting grant applications for FY 2020 through **July 31, 2019**. You must be a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization or unit of government/public entity (i.e. school, park, fire department, senior center, etc.). The minimum grant is \$2,000 and maximum is \$7,000. The funding is on a one-time reimbursement basis only. Learn more about proposal requirements and deadlines at <https://alabamarcd.org/rcd-councils-contacts/>.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced that \$15 million in research funds is available to transit providers, state agencies, and federally recognized tribes through the **Integrated Mobility Innovation Demonstration Program**. Applications are due **August 6, 2019**. For more information, visit <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/integrated-mobility-innovation-demonstration-program-notice-funding>.

More information on deadlines will be distributed as it becomes available. **Please don’t hesitate to contact Tyler Ferrell, EARPDC Director of Planning and Development at 256-237-6741 for more information.**

# June 2019

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

# July 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue                             | Wed   | Thu  | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2                               | 3   | 4<br>Independence Day!   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9<br>Transit Advisory Board @ 9 | 10<br>MPO Technical Advisory Committee @ 10 | 11<br>RPO Northern District meeting @ 11:30 in Gadsden                           | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16                              | 17<br>MPO Citizens Advisory Committee @ 10  | 18<br>MPO Policy Committee @ 10<br>RPO Central District meeting @ 11 in Anniston | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23                              | 24  | 25<br>RPO Southern District meeting @ 10 in Alex City                            | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30                              | 31  |  |     |     |