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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

March 2020 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

■ February MPO Project Changes

- #11 RW (100063101) RESURFACING SNOW STREET FROM SR-21 TO SR-4 (US-78)
Current Funding: \$262,000
Requested Funding: \$136,192
-Reduce RW funds (\$125,808) to add to CN budget
- #11 CN (100052525) RESURFACING SNOW STREET FROM SR-21 TO SR-4 (US-78)
Current Funding: \$2,112,026
Requested Funding: \$2,237,834
-Add reduced RW funds (\$125,808) to CN budget
- 100054928 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON CR-198 (GREENBRIER DEER ROAD) FROM WEST OF CHRISTINE AVENUE TO HILLYER ROBINSON INDUSTRIAL PKWY
ALDOT Listed Funding: \$1,556,385.88
TIP Spreadsheet Listed Funding: \$1,567,723
New Total Obligated Amount: \$1,571,869.55
-Overrun of \$15,483.67 from ALDOT Listed Funding; only \$4,146.55 from amount allotted on internal TIP Spreadsheet. Authorized due to age of project.
- #43 CN (100064895) RESURFACE PAVE SHOULDERS AND TRAFFIC STRIPE ON LENLOCK LANE FROM SR-1 (US-431) EASTERLY TO THE ANNISTON CITY LIMITS
Current Funding: \$683,194
Requested Funding: \$686,406.56
-Overrun of \$3,212.56 from payroll and indirect charges not included in Request and Resolution to cover overrun in July of 2019. Approved as it should have been included in previous resolution.
- #44 CN (100064897) INSTALLATION OF A ROUNDABOUT AT THE BYNUM LEATHERWOOD ROAD (CR-109) AND OLD GADSDEN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION

Old Target Start Date: April 3, 2020
New Target Start Date: June 26, 2020
-New start date is in the same FY as previous start date.

East Alabama RPO Updates

▪ FY 2020 RPO Meetings



April:

Northern Counties (Etowah and Cherokee): April 9th @ 11:30

Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega): April 16th @ 11

Southern Counties (Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa): April 23rd @ 10:00



July:

Northern Counties (Etowah and Cherokee): July 9th @ 11:30

Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega): July 16th @ 11

Southern Counties (Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa): July 23rd @ 10:00

All meeting minutes and materials can be found at <http://www.earpdc.org/pages/?pageID=29>.

If you have any suggestions on where to house future RPO meetings in your area, please contact Lattisha Royal at lattisha.royal@earpdc.org or 256-237-6741. We would love to have these meetings be both beneficial and enjoyable for all involved.

Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan

- The Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan has been completed.
- Annual update meetings will be held concurrently with RPO meetings in January 2021 and 2022.
- Annual updates/summary reports will be completed and published on earpdc.org in March 2021 and 2022.
- If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org.

Projects Proposed to Let February 28, 2019

- **Calhoun County**
 - STPOA-0819(250) for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on the Alexandria-Jacksonville Highway from the intersection of Cedar Springs Road to the Jacksonville City Limits. Length 3.787 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$549,105 to \$671,128.

- **Chambers County**
 - none
- **Cherokee County**
 - none
- **Clay County**
 - none
- **Cleburne County**
 - RABRZ-1514(251) for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-50 over Muscadine Creek. Length 0.075 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$498,630 to \$609,437.
 - STPAA-0049(513) for constructing the Resurfacing (Micro-Surfacing Seal Coat) and Traffic Stripe on SR-49 from 0.250 mile north of the junction of Carver Street in Lineville to the junction of SR-281. Length 12.984 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,100,085 to \$1,344,549.
- **Coosa County**
 - none
- **Etowah County**
 - none
- **Randolph County**
 - none
- **Talladega County**
 - none
- **Tallapoosa County**
 - STPAA-HSIP-0022(532) and STPAA-HSIP-0049(514) for constructing the Safety Widening, Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-22 from 0.550 mile south of Hillabee Creek (MP 122.437) to the junction of SR-49 in New Site (Site 1) and on SR-49 from the junction of SR-22 in New Site to the Clay County Line (Site 2). Length 12.768 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,054,550 to \$3,733,339.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- The [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Rural Development](#) is accepting applications for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (**REDLG**) Program. Through the REDLG Program, USDA provides zero-interest loans and some grant funds to rural utilities, which they in turn pass through to local businesses for projects that will retain or create employment opportunities in rural communities. The funding may be used to assist with business start-up and expansion costs; business incubators; feasibility studies; advanced telecommunications and computer networks for medical, educational, and job training services; and community facilities that spur economic development. Rural Development anticipates **a maximum loan amount of \$2 million and a maximum grant amount of \$300,000**. Awards are made on a competitive basis to utilities that will relend the funds for local economic development efforts. Applications must be received no later than **4:30 p.m. Pacific time** on the following dates:
September 30, 2019 (first quarter)
December 31, 2019 (second quarter)

March 31, 2020 (third quarter)

June 30, 2020 (fourth quarter)

- The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has announced the availability of a second round of \$550 million in **USDA ReConnect** Pilot Program funding. The application window will open on January 31, 2020. USDA will make up to \$200 million available in grants; up to \$200 million available in low-interest loans; and up to \$200 million in 50/50 grant/loan combination funds. Through the ReConnect Program, the federal government will partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient coverage. **Applications are due no later than 6 pm Eastern, March 16, 2020.** More information can be found here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-12/pdf/2019-26522.pdf>.
- The Economic Development Administration launched a redesign of its Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) program, now called **Build to Scale (B2S)**, which builds regional economies through scalable startups. With a 40 percent budget increase and recent reauthorization, the redesign of the RIS program modernizes the branding and language of RIS to better reflect the spirit of the entrepreneurial communities that the program serves; increases exposure of the program and encourages applications from underserved communities; and creates a more “customer-friendly” Notice of Funding Opportunity that will lead to better stakeholder engagement. To date, this program has awarded \$100 million in grants across the country that have been matched by more than \$115 million in community funding for 224 projects. To apply for 2020 funding, click [here](#). **Deadline for applications is March 24, 2020.**
- **AARP** is accepting applications for its **2020 AARP Community Challenge Grant Program**. AARP’s Community Challenge provides small grants to fund “quick action” projects to improve housing, transportation, public space, technology, and civic engagement. **Applications are due April 1, 2020.** Eligible projects include physical improvements in a community, temporary demonstration projects, and new programs or services. Grant amounts vary by project. Learn more about the AARP Community Challenge: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy released the **Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation**. HRSA plans to award approximately 89 grants to rural communities as part of this funding opportunity. **Applications must be submitted by April 24, 2020.** Successful **RCORP-Implementation** award recipients will receive \$1 million for a three-year period of performance to enhance and expand substance use disorder (SUD) programs, including opioid use disorder (OUD) programs and service delivery in high-risk rural communities. Award recipients will implement a set of core SUD/OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery activities that align with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) [Five-Point Strategy to Combat the Opioid Crisis](#).
- The Alabama Department of Transportation (**ALDOT**) is soliciting applications for the **Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program (TAP)** for FY 2021. **The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5 pm.** Please refer to the FY 2021 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Guidelines and the FY 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Application for details about the program and the application submittal process.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) have announced calls for the Traffic and Safety Operations Section’s (TSOS) **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)** applications. **Deadlines are April 1st, July 1st, October 1st, and January 1st.** **Max funding amount per agency for reducing rural land departures is \$2,000,000; for intersection related projects is \$2,000,000, and for safe transportation for every pedestrian (STEP) is \$200,000.** They are also announcing a new Local Roads Safety

Initiative within the Alabama HSIP. The initiative will be open to cities and counties for both rural and urban non-State maintained roadways with significant safety risks. Applications submitted through this initiative must be in accordance with the most recent Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan and applicable Local Road Safety Plans if one has been developed by the county that the location falls within. The TSOS is also making available Road Safety Review (RSR) service for those cities or counties that have an identified location(s) but would like some assistance in ensuring the most effective countermeasures are chosen. Applications under this initiative will be submitted electronically to the ALDOT State Traffic and Safety Operations Engineer. PE, ROW, UT, and CN phases are eligible for funding, but may make the application less competitive compared to those with only CN phases requested. Contact John-Michael Walker at 334-242-6123 or walkerjoh@dot.state.al.us with any requests for assistance or questions about the program.

- The **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)** has published the **FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity (PWEAA NOFO)**. Under this NOFO (formerly known as the Economic Development Assistance Program NOFO), the EDA solicits applications for construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which includes Assistance to Coal Communities. EDA awards made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy. Projects funded by these programs will support work in Opportunity Zones and will support the mission of the Department by, among other things: leading to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing capacities of regions, providing workforce development opportunities, and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment. Access this funding opportunity [here](#).
- The **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** has made available \$587 million to eligible grantees in communities effected by natural disasters in 2018 and floods and tornadoes in 2019. Applications should provide long-term, regionally oriented, and collaborative development strategies designed to generate economic growth and resilience. No application deadlines apply, and the EDA will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis. For more information, go [here](#).
- The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** is accepting requests for Technical Assistance (TA) under the **Distressed Cities Technical Assistance (DCTA)** Program. The TA program is specifically designed to assist communities with populations under 40,000 that are struggling to recover from natural disaster and economic decline. DCTA may be used to build capacity around: financial management, economic revitalization; affordable housing development; disaster recovery and resiliency planning; cross-sector partnership building; and utilizing federal development programs. To learn more visit the [Distressed Cities Technical Assistance](#) page on the HUD Exchange.
- The **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has released FY 2020 Notices of Funding Opportunity for **eight DHS preparedness grant programs totaling nearly \$1.8 billion**. The grant programs provide funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as transportation authorities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, to improve the nation's readiness in preventing, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The grants focus on funding for programs that address the nation's immediate security needs and ensure public safety in our communities. Funding opportunities are available for the **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), Intercity Passenger Rail- Amtrak (IPR) Program, Port Security Grant Program (PSGP), Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), and**

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP). For more information on DHS's preparedness grant programs visit www.grants.gov or www.fema.gov/grants. Final submissions must be made through the Non-Disaster (ND) Grants system located at <https://portal.fema.gov>. Contact the Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov with any questions.

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.

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 9 AM Transit Advisory Board	11 10 AM MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 10 AM MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)	19 10 AM MPO Policy Committee	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 10 AM MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	9	10	11
12 EASTER	13	14 9 AM Transit Advisory Board	15 TAX DAY	16 10 AM MPO Policy Committee	17	18
19	20	21	22 Administrative Professionals Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		