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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

May 2020 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

○ **May MPO Meetings**

Last month, all MPO meetings will be held via conference call. At this time, we are unsure of the protocols we will face for the month of May. However, once direction is received from the governor, EMS, and the EAC director, information will be disseminated. If social distancing protocols are in place, MPO meetings for May will be held similarly via conference call. Meeting notifications will be sent similarly to those of prior meetings and will include the dial-in number and access code for the conference call. If you are not currently on the MPO notification mailing list and would like to attend, please email Libby at elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org for the dial-in and access code information. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

○ **April MPO Project Changes**

- #48 PE (100070247) WIDENING ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD FROM CHEAHA DRIVE TO CIRCLE DRIVE (PHASE I); PHASE I WILL INCLUDE DESIGN AND FUNCTIONAL DRAINAGE TO CORRECT EXISTING WATER FLOW ISSUES
Old Target Start Date: September 1, 2020
New Target Start Date: April 1, 2020
-New target start date in a same FY than old target start date. No change needed to TIP.
- #40 CN (100064886) RESURFACING CHURCH AVENUE FROM SR-21 TO 11TH STREET NORTHEAST CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
Old Target Start Date: May 29, 2020
New Target Start Date: August 28, 2020
-New target start date in the same FY as old target start date. No change needed to TIP.

East Alabama RPO Updates

○ FY 2020 RPO Meetings



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 April 24, 2020

- **Calhoun County**
 - none
- **Chambers County**
 - none
- **Cherokee County**
 - none
- **Clay County**
 - none
- **Cleburne County**
 - none
- **Coosa County**
 - none

- **Etowah County**
 - none
- **Randolph County**
 - HRRR-5619(251) for constructing the Guardrail Installations on CR-46 over Wedowee Creek (Site 1) and on CR-67 over Wedowee Creek (Site 2) Length 0.111 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$83,697 to \$102,297.
- **Talladega County**
 - none
- **Tallapoosa County**
 - none

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)
- **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 have been extended to May 15, 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 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 U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the new [Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone \(HOPE\) program](#). This program will make available \$8.5 million to improve transit services or facilities in

areas of persistent poverty through funding for planning, engineering, technical studies, or financial plans. An area of persistent poverty is a county with 20% or more of the population living in poverty over the 30 years preceding the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, or December 20, 2019, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Applicants for the HOPE program must be eligible recipients or sub-recipients under section 5307, 5310, or 5311 of title 49 of United States Code. Applications have been extended to **June 3, 2020**. [Click here to learn more and access the NOFO.](#)

- 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.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it is providing funds to rural projects that support regional economic and community development planning. This [Strategic Economic and Community Development \(SECD\)](#) funding is authorized for applications submitted through the [Community Facilities Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), [Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), [Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees](#), and [Rural Business Development Grants](#) programs. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation. For more information in this opportunity, click [here](#).
- The Federal Transit Administration has announced that expanded eligibility of federal assistance is available under FTA's Emergency Relief Program to help transit agencies respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in states where the Governor has declared a state of emergency. This includes recipients of Urbanized Area and Rural formula funds. For agencies that meet the criteria, the funds can be used for operating expenses in addition to capital expenses, and the change permits operating expenses to be covered at an 80 percent federal share rather than 50 percent. For more information, view the [FTA news release](#) and [FTA's Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding Coronavirus.

More information regarding 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.

May 2020

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

June 2020

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