

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MPO Updates
  - MPO Meetings
  - Project Changes
- RPO Updates
  - FY22 Meetings
- Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan
- Projects Proposed to Let
- CEDS Strategy Committee
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines
- Calendar of Meetings

# East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

*August 2021 Issue*

## Calhoun Area MPO Updates

### ❖ MPO Meetings

With the new CDC guidelines, EAC is reinstating masking in public spaces of the building as well as reduced numbers in the elevator (2). This combined with the AC being out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor potentially until after the MPO meeting, **August's meetings will be virtual only.**

The call-in number for all MPO Committee meetings will remain as 1-866-899-4679 with an access code of 312-611-237 OR you may join by computer or smartphone using the following link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/132611237>.

If you are not currently on the MPO notification mailing list and would like to attend, please email Libby at [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org). All MPO meetings are open to the public.

### ❖ July MPO Project Changes

- #5 CN (100047016) Signal Improvements at Lenlock/SR-21  
Allocated amount moved to correct authorized FY (from 2020 to 2019)
- #52 CN (100070226) Resurfacing on Whites Gap Road SE from SR-21 to the Jacksonville City Limits (Site 1);  
Resurfacing on Whites Gap Road from Cottaquilla Rd to SR-9 (Site 2)  
Previous Funding: \$1,182,980.30  
Incorrect Total previously reported in an Admin Mod: \$891,062  
Correct Requested Funding (Let amount): \$1,113,827.49  
-Federal amount was given previously instead of the total amount project was Let for.
- #53 CN (100070228) Traffic Signal Upgrades at SR-202 (Albert P. Brewer Highway) and North Hunter Street  
Old Engineers Estimate: \$102,010.00  
Resolution 822 increased Engineers Estimate: \$132,073.08  
New Engineers Estimate: \$134,791.35  
-Additional increase of \$2,718.27 is <20%, no Resolution needed.

## East Alabama RPO Updates

### ❖ **FY 2022 RPO 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meetings will be held in October**

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](mailto: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 2022.
- Annual updates/summary reports will be completed and published on earpdc.org in March 2022 and 2023.
- If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org).

## CEDS Strategy Committee

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, is a regional planning and implementation process designed to create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, improve living conditions, and provide a mechanism for guiding and coordinating the efforts of people and organizations involved in economic development.

As we begin the CEDS update, **we invite you to join us on the Strategy Committee!** We are seeking diverse and broad-based stakeholder participation including public sector, private sector, nonprofits, workforce development boards, higher education institutions, labor groups, and more!

If interested, please reach out to Shelby Brown at [shelby.brown@earpdc.org](mailto:shelby.brown@earpdc.org).

## Projects Proposed to Let July 30, 2021

### **Calhoun County**

- ❖ STPOA-0202(524) for constructing the Traffic Signal Upgrades on SR-202 (Albert P. Brewer Highway) at North Hunter Street. Length 0.169 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$95,114 to \$116,250.

### **Chambers County**

- ❖ HRRR-0921(250) for constructing the Safety Improvements (Paved Shoulders and Traffic

Stripe on CR-299, CR-388, CR-83, CR-289, and CR-222 at various sites as indicated in the plans. Length 2.912 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$229,079 to \$279,985.

### **Cherokee County**

none

**Clay County**  
none

Estimate on this project is from \$221,199 to \$270,355.

**Cleburne County**  
none

**Randolph County**  
none

**Coosa County**  
none

**Talladega County**  
none

**Etowah County**

**Tallapoosa County**

- ❖ STPOA-2815(255) for constructing the Resurfacing (Scrub Seal) and Traffic Stripe on Main Street from the junction of SR-1 (US-431) to the junction of Banks Street in Glenco. Length 1.373 miles. The Bracket

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ **The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center** has announced a new funding opportunity, *Equity and Accessibility: Transportation Planning Grant Program*. Planning grants provide an opportunity for communities to consider current and future needs, engage older adults and people with disabilities in planning, and develop a written plan of action. Selected grantees will focus on one of two areas: Transportation Equity & Inclusion for Older Adults and People with Disabilities or COVID-19 Recovery Addressing the Unique Transportation Needs and Preferences of Older Adults and People with Disabilities. NADTC will award up to 10 planning grants of up to \$20,000 each. Awarded planning grantees will be given the opportunity to implement one or more priorities identified in their plans, to be funded at \$50,000 each in FY 2022. The grant application portal opens **July 23** and an informational webinar will be held **July 27 at 3 p.m. ET**. Applications are due **August 27**. More information can be found here: <https://www.nadtc.org/grants-funding/nadtc-grant-opportunities/current-nadtc-funding-opportunities/>.
- ❖ **Federal Transit Administration** announces competitive funding program for Areas of Persistent Poverty. On June 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$16 million for [funding for transit in areas of persistent poverty](#). Eligible applicants include States, tribes, and designated or direct recipients eligible under 49 U.S.C. 5307, 49 U.S.C. 5310, or 49 U.S.C. 5311 that are located in areas of persistent poverty. To verify whether your region contains areas of persistent poverty as defined in this [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO), use the eligibility tool online [here](#): <https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij>. Proposals are due **August 30**. For more information, contact Tonya Holland, FTA Office of Planning and Environment, at 202.493.0383.
- ❖ **The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development** is seeking applications for loans and grants to support rural water and waste disposal systems. Applications are accepted year-round, and technical assistance is available. USDA's [Water and Environmental Programs](#) can assist with constructing or improving infrastructure through loans, grants, and loan guarantees. USDA can

also partner with rural water and waste service providers to finance infrastructure that aims to protect the cyber security of their facilities. The Water and Environmental Programs at USDA were recently expanded, and guaranteed loans are now available to smaller communities that have the financial strength to take advantage of conventional credit as well as larger communities with populations of up to 50,000. USDA also has technical assistance resources available through partnering organizations. USDA's resources are not limited to communities that have already received a loan or grant through Rural Development. Any water or waste disposal system in an eligible rural area may benefit from technical assistance. For more information on the resources available reach out to your local [USDA Community Program Specialist](#). Applications can be submitted through [RDApply](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply) (<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply>).

- ❖ 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 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:walkerjoh@dot.state.al.us) with any requests for assistance or questions about the program.
- ❖ 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 can be found [here: https://www.eda.gov/disaster-recovery/](https://www.eda.gov/disaster-recovery/).
- ❖ 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 (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/dcta/>).
- ❖ 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](http://www.grants.gov) or [www.fema.gov/grants](http://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](mailto: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, visit here: [https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDARD\\_SA\\_SECD02282020\\_.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDARD_SA_SECD02282020_.pdf).
- ❖ **The Environmental Finance Center Network** is offering technical assistance free of charge to small drinking water systems serving 10,000 or fewer people. Services include a resource help desk, financial health check-up, water and wastewater rates analysis tool, and a financial resilience dashboard. See [https://www.nado.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TechnicalAssistanceEFCN\\_COVID.pdf](https://www.nado.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TechnicalAssistanceEFCN_COVID.pdf) for more information.
- ❖ **Community Heart & Soul is offering \$10,000 in Seed Grant Funding** to small cities and towns. This program provides startup funding for resident-driven groups in communities with populations of 2,500 – 30,000 to implement the Community Heart & Soul model which engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love the most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. See <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/seed-grants/> for more information and to apply.
- ❖ The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently initiated the **Mentoring, Assistance, Training, and Communication Help (MATCH) Program** to provide free, broad-based technical assistance to local and tribal agencies facing roadway challenges. This program connects agencies requesting assistance with volunteers that have specific expertise to help successfully address and identify challenges. The program consists of Mentors, who are transportation safety professionals that have specific expertise related to local or tribal road safety, and Mentees. All tribal and local agencies are eligible to apply for technical assistance by a

Mentor, but requests must be submitted by a local agency. For more information on this program or to apply to be a Mentor or Mentee, see [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local\\_rural/match/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/match/).

- ❖ The United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) Rural Development is accepting applications for **Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees**. This program offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

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 or [tyler.ferrell@earpdc.org](mailto:tyler.ferrell@earpdc.org) for more information.

# August 2021

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

# September 2021

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