

# East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

April 2019 Issue

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## Calhoun Area MPO Updates

### ○ Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Update



A public meeting for the draft was held February 21<sup>st</sup> in the EARPDC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room. There was a total of 9 attendees not counting EARPDC staff. While the public comment period has ended, maps of proposed projects can still be found

on the MPO website ([Calhoun Area MPO](#)). At this time, we are wrapping up a finalized document from comments given from local ALDOT and each MPO municipality to submit to ALDOT and FHWA for review.

### ○ 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 municipality TAC members have been notified of a hard deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> to submit potential MPO projects. These projects will be reviewed and prioritized at the April 17<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting. Please contact Libby Messick at [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org) or 256-237-6741 to discuss adding projects to the upcoming TIP.

### ○ March MPO Project Changes

- #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: \$471,713.00  
New Engineers Estimate: \$472,288.03  
Change in estimate equals an increase of \$573.03 which is less than 20% of the old estimate (\$9,432.60). No resolution needed for change  
Resolution #772 passed and adopted December 20, 2018, increased CN allocation to \$484, 694.
- #30 CN (PI#100057407) RE-CONFIGURE INTERSECTION SR-4 (US-78) AT CR-186 (BARRY STREET)

- Old Target Start Date: May 31, 2019
- New Target Start Date: September 27, 2019
- Change is within the same FY. No modification needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #39 CN (PI#100064884) RESURFACING, STRIPING, AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON MOUNTAIN STREET NE FROM SR-21 TO 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
  - Old Target Start Date: June 28, 2019
  - New Target Start Date: May 31, 2019
  - Change is within the same FY. No modification needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #14 CN (PI#100064930) RESURFACE ALEXANDRIA-JACKSONVILLE HIGHWAY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF MCCLELLAN ROAD TO THE INTERSECTION OF CEDAR SPRINGS ROAD – CCP 08-95-16
  - Old Target Start Date: July 26, 2019
  - New Target Start Date: May 31, 2019
  - Change is within the same FY. No modification needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #40 CN (PI#100064886) RESURFACING CHURCH AVENUE FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO SR-21
  - Old Target Start Date: June 28, 2019
  - New Target Start Date: August 30, 2019
  - Change is within the same FY. No modification needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #4 CN (PI#100047014) SIGNAL UPGRADE SR-21 BALTZELL GATE ROAD
  - Old Target Start Date: June 28, 2019
  - New Target Start Date: July 26, 2019
  - Change is within the same FY. No modification needed to the TIP spreadsheet.

## 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.

### ○ **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*



### April:

Northern Counties: April 11<sup>th</sup> @ Cherokee County Commission, 11 am

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

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



### 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 Libby Messick or Lattishia Royal at [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@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

- STPOA-0021(543) for constructing the Traffic Signal Improvements (Traffic Signs, Traffic Signals, and Traffic Stripe) on SR-21 (McClellan Boulevard) at the intersection of Lenlock Lane in Anniston. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$150,930 to \$184,471.

### ○ Chambers County

- NH-HSIP-0001(605) for constructing the Safety Widening, Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-1 (US-431) from the South Town Limits of Five Points (MP 169.783) to the Randolph County Line. Length 7.687 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,521,520 to \$3,081,858.

### ○ Cherokee County

- none

### ○ Clay County

- none

### ○ Cleburne County

- none

### ○ Coosa County

- none

- **Etowah County**
  - none
- **Randolph County**
  - none
- **Talladega County**
  - none
- **Tallapoosa County**
  - none

## ○ **Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines**

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is now accepting applications for the 2019 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program which offers funding through 2 competitions.
  - **FY19 i6 Challenge** – awards up to \$750,000 for projects that increase regional capacity to accelerate the translation of innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into products, services, companies, and jobs.
  - **FY19 Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant Competition** – provides up to \$300,000 for projects that create, launch, or expand equity-based seed funds or that create networks and tools that enable capital to flow into high-growth startups in all parts of the U.S.

**Deadline to apply is April 4, 2019.**
- The USDA Rural Development, **Community Connect Program**, is accepting applications for grants to establish broadband infrastructure in unserved rural communities. Awardees must also use their USDA funding to offer free broadband service to all critical community facilities and a community center in their proposed service area for two years. The minimum grant amount is \$100,000; the maximum is \$3 million. Applicants must be able to prove a 15% match on the desired grant amount. **Deadline to apply is April 5, 2019.**
- The ARC will begin accepting applications for the 2019 round of the **Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)** initiative on February 1 and are due no later than **April 10, 2019**. Approximately \$45 million will be awarded through this competitive grant process. The POWER initiative will continue focusing on regional investments that maximize economic revitalization in the Appalachian region's coal-impacted communities.
- The USDA **ReConnect** program will offer up to \$600 million nationwide in loans and grants to help build broadband infrastructure in rural areas. 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 **April 29, 2019**, for loan and grant funding by **May 29, 2019**, and for loan funding by **June 28, 2019**.

- 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**.

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.

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Transit Advisory Board @ 9	10	11 Northern RPO meeting @ Cherokee County Commission @ 11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Technical Advisory Committee @ 10	18 MPO Policy Meeting @ EARPDC @ 10 Central RPO meeting @ EARPDC @ 11:00	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Southern RPO meeting @ Alex City @ 10:00	26	27
28	29	30				

# May 2019

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