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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

January 2020 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

- **December MPO Project Changes**
 - #41 RW (100064888) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN #11215 CITY OF OXFORD
Old Target Start Date: February 1, 2020
New Target Start Date: April 1, 2020
-New start date is in the same FY as previous start date.
No change needed to TIP spreadsheet

East Alabama RPO Updates

- **FY 2020 RPO Meetings**

January:

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

Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega):

January 16th @ 11

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



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

- We are in the process of updating the Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan. Surveys were sent in October and December. If you do not receive one, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org for a survey.
- We are requesting all surveys be returned no later than January 9, 2020.
- Public meetings will be held in concurrence with the RPO meetings in January.
 - January 9th for Cherokee and Etowah Counties
 - January 16th for Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties
 - January 23rd for Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa Counties.
- If you are unable to make any of the above meetings but would like to meet regarding the survey or any other potential issues with the transportation plan, please contact Libby Messick to set up a meeting.

■ Projects Proposed to Let December 6, 2019

- **Calhoun County**
 - STPAA-HSIP-0144(502) for constructing the Safety Widening, Resurfacing, Bridge Guardrail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-144 from the St. Clair County Line to 0.150 mile west of the junction of SR-1 (US-431) in Alexandria. Length 9.288 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,205,406 to \$3,917,718.
- **Chambers County**
 - HRRR-HSIP-0919(250) for constructing the Widening, Leveling, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on CR-83 from 3.600 miles south of the junction of SR-50 to a point 0.680 mile in a northwest direction. Length 0.511 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$236,193 to \$288,680.
- **Cherokee County**
 - none
- **Clay County**
 - STPAA-0049(512) for constructing the Resurfacing and Traffic Stripe on SR-49 from the intersection of SR-9 in Lineville to 0.220 miles north of the junction of Carver Street. Length 1.098 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$560,525 to \$685,086.
- **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 [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 [Department of Transportation](#) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Federal Transit Administration's (**FTA**) **FY2020 Mobility for All Pilot Program**. The \$3.5 million program seeks to improve mobility options and access to community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Funds will be awarded for innovative capital projects that seek to improve the coordination of non-emergency transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged. Eligible applicants are designated or direct recipients of 5307, 5310, or 5311 FTA program funds. The application **deadline is January 6, 2020**. More information on this opportunity is available [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).
- The [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#), in collaboration with the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#) and the [First Responder Network Authority \(FirstNet\)](#), is seeking applications from eligible parties to create a nationwide network of organizations working to address the nation's most pressing disaster response and resiliency (R2) challenges with innovative technologies. The [Accelerate R2 Network Challenge](#) seeks to connect stakeholders engaged in 1) response innovation – innovation in the communications, technology, and equipment first responders use when responding to disasters and events and 2) resiliency innovation – finding new ways to build, protect, and connect networks and infrastructure to help communities recover and build readiness and resilience in the face of future disasters. The application process involves two phases: **a pre-application letter of intent due January 8, 2020 and a full application due March 11, 2020**. Applicants are strongly encouraged (but not required) to submit a letter of intent, which program staff will review and provide feedback to encourage or discourage a full application. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The **U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT)** Office of the Secretary of Transportation has released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) through its [Safety Data Initiative](#). Up to \$3

million is available for up to 12 awards to build the capacity of state, local, regional, and tribal governments to use innovative data tools and information to improve roadway safety. Metropolitan planning organizations and regional governments, which could include regional development organizations or regional transportation planning organizations, are eligible to apply, as well as their local government members or state partners. Applications are due **January 17**. Registration is now open for a [webinar discussing the NOFO](#), which will take place on December 3 at 2:30 p.m. ET. View the [NOFO here](#), or learn more about the [Safety Data Initiative here](#).

- 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 [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.

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.](#)

January 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 10 AM MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	9 11:30 Northern District RPO meeting in Gadsden	10	11
12	13	14 9 AM Transit Advisory Board	15 10 AM MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)	16 10 AM MPO Policy Committee 11 AM Central District RPO meeting in Anniston	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22	23 10 AM Southern District RPO meeting in Alexander City	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

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