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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

August 2020 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

❖ **August MPO Meetings**

We are still uncertain of how social distancing protocols will change for the upcoming month. However, due to increasing cases of COVID-19 in Calhoun County along with the mandatory mask order from Governor Kay Ivey, all MPO meetings will be held via conference call. The call-in number is 978-990-5000 with an access code of 416691. Meeting notifications will be sent similarly to those of prior meetings and will include all meeting information. If you are not currently on the MPO notification mailing list and would like to attend, please email Libby at elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

❖ **June - July MPO Project Changes**

- #41 RW (100064888) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN#11215
 - Old Target Start Date: July 1, 2020
 - New Target Start Date: December 1, 2020
 - The new target start date pushes the project into FY21. A 1% increase has been added to the project
- #41 UT (100064889) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN#11215
 - Old Target Start Date: September 1, 2020
 - New Target Start Date: February 1, 2021
 - The new target start date pushes the project into FY21. A 1% increase has been added to the project
- #45 CN (100064899) RESURFACE RUSSELL DRIVE FROM ALEXANDRIA ROAD TO PEACEBURG ROAD CITY OF WEAVER
 - Old Target Start Date: September 25, 2020
 - New Target Start Date: December 4, 2020

- The new target start date pushes the project into FY21. A 1% increase has been added to the project
- RESURFACING CR-187 (FRIENDSHIP RD) FROM CR-196 (BOILING SPRING ROAD) TO SR-21
Old stimulus project planned in 2009, authorized in 2011
Due to project management system limitations, stimulus funds and regular federal aid could not reside on the same record
Overrun of \$24,467.50
- #5 CN (100047016) SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT LENLOCK/SR-21
Old Engineers Estimate: \$302,869
Project Let for and New Financial Agreement: \$276,647.03
-Project Let for less than August 2019 Resolution and was never reflected due to financial agreement written prior to any funding increases in the past 2 years. A new financial agreement will be issued for the Let amount.
- #4 CN (100047014) SIGNAL UPGRADE AT SR-21/BALTZELL GATE RD.
Old Engineers Estimate: \$453,734
Project Let for and New Financial Agreement: \$543,237.08
-Project Let for more than May 2020 Resolution. A new financial agreement will be issued for Let amount.
- #30 CN (100057407) RE-CONFIGURE INTERSECTION SR-4 (US-78) AT CR-186 (BARRY STREET)
Old Target Start Date: September 25, 2020
New Target Start Date: December 4, 2020
-The new target start date pushes the project to FY 21. A 1% increase has been added to the project.
- #41 CN (100064890) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK
BIN#11215
Old Target Start Date: December 4, 2020
New Target Start Date: May 28, 2021
-The new target start date is in the same FY. No changes needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #60 CN (100070245) BICYCLE LANE, STRIPING, AND POSSIBLE 3 FT SHOULDER
WIDENING ALONG SOUTH NOBLE STREET FROM CHESTNUT STREET TO FOURTH
STREET
Old Target Start Date: November 6, 2020
New Target Start Date: June 25, 2021
-The new target start date is in the same FY. No changes needed to the TIP spreadsheet.
- #44 CN (100064897) INSTALLATION OF A ROUNDABOUT AT THE BYNUM LEATHERWOOD
ROAD (CR-109) AND OLD GADSDEN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION

Old Target Start Date: August 28, 2020

New Target Start Date: September 25, 2020

-The new target start date is in the same FY. No changes needed to the TIP spreadsheet.

- #40 CN (100064886) RESURFACING CHURCH AVENUE FROM SR-21 TO 11ST STREET
NORTHEAST CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Old Target Start Date: August 25, 2020

New Target Start Date: September 25, 2020

-The new target start date is in the same FY. No changes needed to the TIP spreadsheet.

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ FY 2021 RPO Meetings

Meeting dates, times, and locations will be updated as soon as they are scheduled for the upcoming FY.

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 July 31, 2020

Calhoun County

none

Cherokee County

none

Chambers County

none

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

- RASTPNU-1519(251) for constructing the Widening, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on CR-10 from the junction of CR-25 to the junction of CR-51 southwest of Hightower. Length 4.256 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$845,795 to \$1,033,749.

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 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 can be found [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 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 for more information.

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 for more information.

August 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	15
16	17	18	19	20 10 AM MPO Policy Committee	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

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