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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

September 2020 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

❖ MPO Meetings

We are still uncertain of how social distancing protocols will change for the upcoming month. We will continue to err on the side of caution and all MPO meetings will be held via conference call. The call-in number for the TAC and MPO Policy Committee meetings is 1-866-899-4679 with an access code of 312-611-237. For the CAC and Public Involvement Meetings the call-in number is 1-877-309-2073 access code 370-336-725. 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.

❖ Public Involvement Meetings

The Calhoun Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is soliciting public review and comments on the **DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)** and two amendments to the **FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**.

The 2045 LRTP is a future oriented multi-modal transportation plan which identifies local transportation projects for state, local and federal funding over the next 25-30 years. The completed 2045 LRTP update will include projects related to: roadways, traffic congestion, intersection improvements, public transit, pedestrian and bicycle projects.

The TIP is a four-year plan which identifies local improvement projects sponsored by local, state, and federal jurisdictions through the Calhoun Area MPO. Project ID# AL FLTP FW MOLO(1) Replace Bridge #7 at the Mountain Longleaf NWR in Calhoun County will be added to the TIP and project ID#100065122 Rehabilitate Bowl Rd (RT 420) at Mountain Longleaf NWR will be removed from the TIP.

A copy of the Draft 2045 LRTP, project changes, and comment forms for either can be reviewed prior to the meeting at the EARPDC website at www.earpdc.org or can be mailed or emailed to interested persons by contacting Libby Messick at elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org or (256)237-6741.

Wednesday, September 16

11 am – 12 pm

Join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/370336725>.

Or dial in (toll free) using your phone 1-877-309-2073 access code 370-336-725.

Public comments can be dropped off at the EARPDC offices, mailed to the EARPDC address below, faxed to (256)237-6763, or emailed to elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org. All public comments will be reviewed by the MPO and included in the final plan document.

For more information contact: Libby Messick, Senior Planner at (256)237-6741, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, PO Box 2186, 1130 Quintard Ave., Anniston, AL 36202, or elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org.

❖ August MPO Project Changes

- ❖ #40 CN (100064886) RESURFACING CHURCH AVENUE FROM SR-21 TO 11TH STREET NORTHEAST
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

- ❖ #49 PE (100070253) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF (BIN 004774) (PHASE II)
Old Engineers Estimate: \$352,672
New Engineers Estimate: \$349,181
-Reduction of PE estimate of \$3,491

- #50 PE (100070259) RESURFACING, WIDENING AND UPGRADING EXISTING TURN SIGNALS AND ADDING TURN LANES ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD AT CHEAHA DRIVE (PHASE III)
Old Engineers Estimate: \$152,255
New Engineers Estimate: \$150,748
-Reduction of PE estimate of \$1,507

- #48 PE (100070259) WIDENING ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD FROM CHEAHA DRIVE TO CIRCLE DRIVE (PHASE I) INCLUDING DESIGN AND FUNCTIONAL DRAINAGE TO CORRECT EXISTING WATER FLOW
Old Engineers Estimate: \$314,376
New Engineers Estimate: \$311,264

- Reduction of PE estimate of \$3,112
- #30 CN (100057407) RE-CONFIGURE INTERSECTION SR-4 (US-78) AT CR-186 (BARRY ST)
 - Old Target Start Date: December 4, 2020
 - New Target Start Date: January 29, 2021
 - New Target Start Date in same FY, no change needed to TIP spreadsheet
- #45 CN (100064899) RESURFACE RUSSELL DRIVE FROM ALEXANDRIA ROAD TO PEACEBURG ROAD
 - Old Target Start Date: December 4, 2020
 - New Target Start Date: May 28, 2021
 - New Target Start Date in same FY, no change needed to 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 August 28, 2020

Calhoun County

- ❖ RABR-0818(251) for constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on CR-19 (Ball

Play Road) over Mill Creek northwest of Piedmont. Length 0.105 mi. The Bracket

Estimate on this project is from \$828,502 to \$1,015,614.

Cleburne County

none

Chambers County

- ❖ HRRR-0920(250) for constructing the Widening, Leveling, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on CR-289 from a point north of the junction of CR-216 northwest for 770 feet. Length 0.145 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$111,552 to \$136,341.

Coosa County

none

Etowah County

none

Randolph County

none

Cherokee County

none

Talladega County

none

Clay County

none

Tallapoosa County

none

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) is accepting applications to help rural communities enhance their capacity for broadband access, the preservation of cultural and historic structures, and support for the development of transportation, housing, and recreational spaces. USDA-RD is making \$1 million in grants available through the [Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge \(RPIC\)](#) which can be used to develop multi-jurisdictional plans to benefit towns and populations of 50,000 or less. Organizations can use the grants to identify community needs, convene partners, develop actionable plans, and implement priorities to build rural prosperity. Public and private groups, organizations, and institutions that demonstrate experience in providing placemaking technical assistance to rural communities are eligible to apply. USDA encourages applicants to develop plans that will provide measurable results and help create livable communities, encourage partnerships, contribute to long-term community investment, and support community resiliency, social stability, and collective identity. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000. Electronic applications must be submitted on [grants.gov](#) with a copy of the submission emailed to [rd.innovation@usda.gov](#) by **9 p.m. PST on September 10, 2020**. For additional information or to discuss a potential application, contact Angela Callie, Community Economic Coordinator, at [angela.callie@usda.gov](#) or (202) 568-9738.
- ❖ The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is now accepting applications for their **Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program-II (ATRIP-II)** program. The purpose of this program is to rehabilitate and improve transportation infrastructure by funding projects of local interest, proposed by one or more local governments, related to the state-maintained highway system. Projects may

include local roads and bridges essential to such projects. The program's goal is to address critical needs projects across the state to rehabilitate and improve the in-place facilities and in some cases provide new facilities at locations throughout the state. The program's focus is an emphasis on the public safety, economic growth, and stability of the state and its roads and bridges. More information and applications can be found at <https://www.dot.state.al.us/atrip2/>. **Applications are due by October 30, 2020.**

- ❖ 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.

September 2020

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

October 2020

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

