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East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

December 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 all MPO Committee meetings is 1-866-899-4679 with an access code of 312-611-237. 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@earpcdc.org. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

❖ November MPO Project Changes

- #7 CN (100051026) INTERSECTION SIGNALS AND TURN LANES AT CR-389 (LENLOCK LN) AND CR-324 (SAKS RD)
Current Funding: \$1,433,834
Requested Funding: \$1,519,732
-Funding includes \$60,119.06 of County Federal funds. Total added on TIP spreadsheet does not include these funds. Actual increase = $\$1,433,834 - \$1,519,732 = \$85,898$ $\$85,898 - \$60,119.06$ (County Fed \$) = $\$25,778.94 + \$1,433,834 = \$1,459,612.94$
- #51 CN (100070224) RESURFACING ON ALEXANDRIA-JACKSONVILLE HIGHWAY FROM CEDAR SPRINGS ROAD TO THE JACKSONVILLE CITY LIMITS
Current Funding: \$733,941
Requested Funding: \$725,341
-Reduction of \$8,600 in federal funds to cover overrun from #7 (100051026). Only federal funds were able to be reduced as local match has been received by ALDOT.

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ FY 2021 RPO Meetings

Northern Counties (Etowah and Cherokee): January 7th @ 11:00

Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega): January 14th @ 11:00

Southern Counties (Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa): January 21st @ 10:00

The call-in number is 978-990-5000, Access number 419-691

Meeting information will be updated as they are scheduled.

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 December 4, 2020

Calhoun County

- ❖ STPOA-0815(261) for constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Church Avenue from the junction of SR-21 to the junction of 11th Street in Jacksonville. Length 3.324 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,135,555 to \$1,387,900.
- ❖ STPOA-0815(263) for constructing the Roundabout Installation on CR-109 (Bynum Leatherwood Road) at the intersection of Old Gadsden Highway in Blue Mountain. Length

0.178 mi. The Bracket estimate on this project is from \$769,174 to \$940,102.

Chambers County

- ❖ HRR-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.

Cherokee County

- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0068(510) for constructing the Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Reset, and Traffic Stripe on SR-68 from the junction of SR-9 in Cedar Bluff to the junction of SR-35 in Gaylesville. Length 4.799 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,596,557 to \$1,951,348.

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

none

Coosa County

none

Etowah County

none

Randolph County

none

Talladega County

- ❖ BR-0021(554) for constructing the Bridge Replacement (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, and Bridge) on SR-21 over Cheaha Creek southwest of Munford. Length 0.757. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$6,344,952 to \$7,754,941.

Tallapoosa County

none

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The **Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program** provides tailored technical assistance, along with a \$12,500 award for 7 nonprofit organizations to develop and initiate action plans to increase safe and equitable walking, biking, or transit access to parks and green space. Grantees will work closely with Safe Routes Partnership staff from February through September 2021 to engage community members in the process of assessing park access, putting together an action plan, and begin implementing that plan. Program applicants must be nonprofit organizations that are working in conjunction with local agencies (e.g., parks, planning, and transportation decision makers). Applications are **due by 11:59 p.m. PT on December 18, 2020** and can be found here: <https://www.saferoutesparkpartnership.org/healthy-communities/saferoutestoparks/2021-application>.
- ❖ 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, EARPCD Director of Planning and Development at 256-237-6741 or tyler.ferrell@earpcdc.org for more information.

December 2020

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

January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Transit Advisory Board (TAB) meeting @ 9	13 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting @ 10	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20 MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Committee meeting @ 10	21 MPO Policy Committee meeting @ 10	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						