

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MPO Updates
 - MPO Meetings
 - Project Changes
- RPO Updates
 - FY21 Meetings
- Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan
- Projects Proposed to Let
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines
- Calendar of Meetings

East Alabama Region MPO & RPO Transportation Monthly Newsletter

March 2021 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@earpdc.org. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

❖ **February MPO Project Changes**

- #41 CN (100064890) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN #11215 CITY OF OXFORD
Old Target Start Date: September 24, 2021
New Target Start Date: May 27, 2022
-New target start date in FY 22; added 1% to allocated funding in TIP Spreadsheet
- #41 UT (100064889) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN #11215 CITY OF OXFORD
Old Target Start Date: July 1, 2021
New Target Start Date: January 1, 2022
-New target start date in FY 22; added 1% to allocated funding in 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: May 28, 2021
New Target Start Date: March 26, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet

- #53 CN (100070228) TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES AT SR-202 (ALBERT P BREWER HIGHWAY) AND NORTH HUNTER STREET
Old Target Start Date: February 15, 2021
New Target Start Date: June 25, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet
- #30 CN (100057407) RE-CONFIGURE INTERSECTION SR-4 (US-78) AT CR-186 (BARRY STREET)
Old Target Start Date: June 25, 2021
New Target Start Date: September 24, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet
- #45 CN (100064899) RESURFACING RUSSELL DRIVE FROM RUSSELL DRIVE TO ALEXANDRIA ROAD CITY OF WEAVER
Old Target Start Date: June 25, 2021
New Target Start Date: August 27, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet
- #60 CN (100070245) BICYCLE LANE, STRIPING AND POSSIBLE 2 FT SHOULDER WIDENING ALONG SOUTH NOBLE STREET FROM CHESTNUT STREET TO FOURTH STREET
Old Target Start Date: June 25, 2021
New Target Start Date: September 24, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet
- #41 RW (100064888) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON AIRPORT ROAD AT COLDWATER CREEK BIN # 11215 CITY OF OXFORD
Old Target Start Date: April 1, 2021
New Target Start Date: August 1, 2021
-New target start date in same FY; no changes needed to TIP Spreadsheet

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ **FY 2021 RPO 2nd Quarter Meetings will be held in April**

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 February 26, 2021

Calhoun County

- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0004(551) for constructing the Safety Widening, Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Replacement, and Traffic Stripe on SR-4 (US-78) from 0.150 mile east of the junction of CR-202 to the intersection of SR-21 in Oxford. Length 5.757 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,347,590 to \$2,869,276.

Chambers County

- ❖ NH-HSIP-0001(615) for constructing the Safety Widening, Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, and Traffic Strip on SR-1 (US-431) from 0.230 mile north of the junction of SR-147 to 0.380 mile south of the junction of SR-50 in Lafayette. Length 8.297 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,035,422 to \$2,487,738.
- ❖ STPAA-FMGR-0050(057) for constructing the Resurfacing (Micro-Surfacing Seal Coat), Guardrail Installation, and Traffic Stripe on SR-50 from the junction of CR-208 in Huguley to the junction of SR-15 (US-29). Length 2.581 mil. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$745,200 to \$910,799.

Cherokee County

none

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0004(550) for constructing the Safety Widening, Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-4 (US-78) from 0.230 mile south of the junction of CR-61 in Edwardsville to the Georgia State Line. Length 8.953 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,442,283 to \$2,985,013.

Coosa County

- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0259(502) for constructing the Safety Widening, Planing, Resurfacing, Bridge Guardrail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-259 from the junction of SR-9 in Equality to the junction of SR-22 in Alexander City. Length 12.798 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,510,645 to \$4,290,788.

Etowah County

none

Randolph County

none

Talladega County

- ❖ NH-0021(572) for constructing the Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Installation, and Traffic Stripe on SR-21 from 0.190 mile south of the junction of CR-238 north of Winterboro to 0.340 mile north of the junction of Maine street. Length 3.298 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,697,992 to \$2,175,324.

Tallapoosa County

- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0014(547) FOR CONSTRUCTING THE Safety Widening, Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-14 from the Elmore County Line to the junction of Cannon Road in Tallassee. Length 3.239 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,163,209 to \$1,421,700.
- ❖ STPAA-HSIP-0259(502) for constructing the Safety Widening, Planing, Resurfacing,

Bridge Guardrail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-259 from the junction of SR-9 in Equality to the junction of SR-22 in Alexander City. Length 12.798 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,510,645 to \$4,290,788.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ **The American Association of Retired Persons' (AARP) Community Challenge** provides grants to fund quick-action projects to help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Applications are accepted for projects for public spaces, housing, transportation civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, diversity, inclusion, and more. Eligible applicants include 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4), and 501(c)(6) non-profit organizations, government entities, and other types of organizations (considered on a case-by-case basis). Grant amounts depend on size and term of project. **Applications are due April 14 at 8 pm ET.**
- ❖ 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.

- ❖ **Community Heart & Soul is offering \$10,000 in Seed Grant Funding** to small cities and towns. This program provides startup funding for resident-driven groups in communities with populations of 2,500 – 30,000 to implement the Community Heart & Soul model which engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love the most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. See <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/seed-grants/> for more information and to apply.

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@earpcd.org for more information.

March 2021

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

April 2021

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