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# East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

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*December 2022 Issue*

## Calhoun Area MPO Updates

### MPO Meetings

All MPO meetings will resume in-person with the option to attend virtually. Meeting notifications will reflect any changes if they occur. The call-in number to attend virtually or by phone is 1-866-899-4679 with an access code of 312-611-237 OR you may join by computer or smartphone using the following link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/132611237> .

If you are not currently on the MPO notification mailing list and would like to attend, please email Libby at [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org). All MPO meetings are open to the public.

## November Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

- ❖ #41 RW (100064888) Bridge Replacement on Airport Rd at Coldwater Creek
  - Old Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: April 1, 2023
- ❖ #48 RW (100070248) Widening on Friendship Rd from Cheaha Dr to Circle Dr (Phase I)
  - Old Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: February 1, 2023
- ❖ #49 RW (100070254) Bridge Replacement on Friendship Rd over Choccolocco Creek
  - Old Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: February 1, 2023
- ❖ #50 RW (100070262) Resurfacing, Widening, and Upgrading Existing Turn Signals and Adding Turn Lanes on Friendship Rd at Cheaha Dr.
  - Old Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: February 1, 2023

## East Alabama RPO Updates

### ❖ **FY 2023 RPO Quarterly Meetings**

Next quarter meetings will be held in January.

All meeting minutes and materials can be found at [www.earpdc.org](http://www.earpdc.org).

If you have any suggestions on where to house future RPO meetings in your area, please contact Lattisha Royal at [lattisha.royal@earpdc.org](mailto:lattisha.royal@earpdc.org) or call 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

- ❖ Surveys for the 2023 Plan update will be sent no later than January 2023
- ❖ Meetings regarding the 2023 Plan update will be held concurrently with RPO meetings in January and April 2023.
- ❖ If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or [elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org](mailto:elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org).

## Projects Proposed to Let December 2, 2022

### **Calhoun County**

- ❖ STPSU-0004(536) for constructing the intersection improvements (planing, widening, resurfacing, traffic signals, and traffic stripe) on SR-4 (US-78) at CR-186 (Barry Street) in Oxford. Length 0.263 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$1,549,651 to \$1,894,018.

junction of SR-9 southwest of Ashland. Length 15297 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$2,646,977 to \$3,235,194.

### **Cleburne County**

- ❖ STPNU-0009(587) for constructing the micro-milling, resurfacing, and traffic stripe on SR-9 from a point on the I-20 overpass (MP 213.475) to the junction of SR-4 (US-78) in Heflin. Length 1.598 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$1,063,998 to \$1,300,433.

### **Chambers County**

none

### **Cherokee County**

none

### **Clay County**

- ❖ STPNU-HSIP-0148(504) for constructing the safety widening, resurfacing (micro-surfacing seal coat and scrub seal), bridge guardrail retrofit, guardrail installation, and traffic stripe on SR-148 from the Talladega County line to the

### **Coosa County**

none

### **Etowah County**

none

### **Randolph County**

none

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has announced a new funding opportunity that will allow Local Development Districts (LDDs) to secure funding to hire additional staff and build local capacity. More information is available at <https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-Ready-LDDs-RFP.pdf>. This funding is designed to support LDDs serving distressed areas and marginalized groups. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with the first quarterly cycle closing **December 31, 2022**.
- ❖ In partnership with Main Street America and Smart Growth America, T-Mobile is committing \$25 million toward small town grants over the next five years through its [Hometown Grants program](#). The program will award up to 100 towns per year with project funding grants of up to \$50,000 each. The program will focus on revitalizing community spaces in towns with 50,000 people or less. Main Street programs are encouraged to apply. For more information on the program and to apply go to <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>.
- ❖ The [Local Infrastructure Hub](#) program is designed to ensure access to federal infrastructure funding to drive local recovery, improve communities, and deliver results for residents. Funded by [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), [Emerson Collective](#), [the Ford Foundation](#), and [the Kresge Foundation](#), the Hub will help local leaders navigate the nearly 400 available funding opportunities. It will help cities and towns develop competitive applications most likely to be awarded federal grants. There will also be a special focus on helping traditionally underserved cities and towns. [Sign up for updates](#) on the Hub, planned for launch in July.
- ❖ **The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development** is seeking applications for loans and grants to support rural water and waste disposal systems. Applications are accepted year-round, and technical assistance is available. USDA's [Water and Environmental Programs](#) can assist with constructing or improving infrastructure through loans, grants, and loan guarantees. USDA can also partner with rural water and waste service providers to finance infrastructure that aims to protect the cyber security of their facilities. The Water and Environmental Programs at USDA were recently expanded, and guaranteed loans are now available to smaller communities that have the financial strength to take advantage of conventional credit as well as larger communities with populations of up to 50,000. USDA also has technical assistance resources available through partnering organizations. USDA's resources are not limited to communities that have already received a loan or grant through Rural Development. Any water or waste disposal system in an eligible rural area may benefit from technical assistance. For more information on the resources available reach out to your local [USDA Community Program Specialist](#). Applications can be submitted through [RDApply](#) (<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply>).
- ❖ 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 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:walkerjoh@dot.state.al.us) with any requests for assistance or questions about the program.

- ❖ 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, visit here: [https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDARD\\_SA\\_SECD02282020\\_.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDARD_SA_SECD02282020_.pdf).
- ❖ **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](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.
- ❖ The United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) Rural Development is accepting applications for [Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees](#). This program offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

More information regarding deadlines will be distributed as it becomes available. **Please don't hesitate to contact Frank Humber, EARPCD Deputy Director, at 256-237-6741 or [frank.humber@earpcdc.org](mailto:frank.humber@earpcdc.org) for more information.**

# December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Technical Advisory Committee @ 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 EAC Closed	24
25 Christmas	26 EAC Closed	27	28	29	30	31

# January 2023

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