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East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

May 2024 Issue

Calhoun Area MPO Updates

MPO Meetings

All MPO meetings have resumed to in-person with the option to attend virtually. Meeting notifications will reflect any changes if they occur. GoToMeeting has updated their web application and no longer has a call-in function. However, if you would like to attend virtually you may join any of the Calhoun Area MPO meetings from your computer, tablet, or smartphone via Microsoft Teams:

TAC: meeting ID: 255 189 480 313
passcode: drruW7

CAC: meeting ID: 221 651 818 46
passcode: F6Knky

MPO: meeting ID: 236 259 402 378
passcode: HcQGaw

Or dial in at 1-469-848-0248; code: 542 210 442#

April Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

That created changes on the TIP spreadsheet:

- ❖ #57 CN (100070198) Resurfacing George Douthit Dr from SR-21 to Brierwood Place SW
Was advised project Let for: \$741,617.45
Updated to Urban Funds Report reporting: \$734,477.50
Requested funding from ALDOT: \$741,617.46
- ❖ #41 UT (100064889) Bridge replacement on Airport Rd at Coldwater Creek BIN#11215 City of Oxford
Old target start date: September 1, 2024
New target start date: November 1, 2024
-New FY; increased 1% from \$81,214 to \$82,026

- ❖ #49 UT (100070255) Removal and replacement of existing bridge on Friendship Rd BIN004773 over Choccolocco Creek relief and removal of existing Bridge BIN004774 over Choccolocco Creek relief with a culvert
 Old target start date: September 1, 2024
 New target start date: November 1, 2024
 -New FY; increased 1% from \$185,473 to \$197,428

- ❖ #65 UT (100078101) Roadway Improvements on Gadsden Rd NW/Elm Ave NW from SR-204 to Francis St. W
 Original estimate: \$71,100
 Updated estimate from ALDOT: \$74,726
 -less than 20% increase. Updated on TIP spreadsheet. Project in Plan status

- ❖ #65 RW (100078100) Roadway Improvements on Gadsden Rd NW/Elm Ave NW from SR-204 to Francis St. W
 Original estimate: \$83,300
 Updated estimate from ALDOT: \$86,682
 -less than 20% increase. Updated on TIP spreadsheet. Project in Plan status

- ❖ #65 CN (100078099) Roadway Improvements on Gadsden Rd NW/Elm Ave NW from SR-204 to Francis St. W
 Previous estimate: \$161,813
 Updated estimate from ALDOT: \$173,156
 -less than 20% increase. Updated on TIP spreadsheet. Project in Plan status

That did not create changes on the TIP spreadsheet:

- ❖ #41 RW (100064888) Bridge replacement on Airport Rd at Coldwater Creek BIN#11215 City of Oxford
 Old target start date: June 1, 2024
 New target start date: August 1, 2024
 -Same FY; no changes needed

- ❖ #49 RW (100070254) Removal and replacement of existing bridge on Friendship Rd BIN004773 over Choccolocco Creek relief and removal of existing Bridge BIN004774 over Choccolocco Creek relief with a culvert
 Old target start date: June 1, 2024
 New target start date: September 1, 2024
 -Same FY; no changes needed

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ FY 2024 RPO Quarterly Meetings

- Northern Counties (Etowah and Cherokee): TBA
- Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega): TBA
- Southern Counties (Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa): TBA

All meeting minutes and materials can be found at www.earpdc.org.

If you have any suggestions on where to house future RPO meetings in your area, please contact Eric Wright at eric.wright@earpdc.org or call 256-237-6741.

Projects Proposed to Let April 26, 2024

Calhoun County

Chambers County

none

Cherokee County

none

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

none

Coosa County

none

Etowah County

- ❖ STPAA-0179(504) Etowah and Marshall Counties for constructing the micro-milling, resurfacing (scrub seal), guardrail installation, and traffic stripe on SR-179 from the junction of SR-74 (US-278) to the junction of SR-168 southwest of Boaz. Length 10.429 miles. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$2,819,554 to \$3,446,122.

Randolph County

none

Talladega County

none

Tallapoosa County

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ Applications for the next round of **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)** grants are open. The program provides for two types of grants, Planning & Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants. The program supports the development of a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan) that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. Action Plans are the foundation of the SS4A grant program. SS4A requires an eligible Action Plan be in place before applying to implement projects and strategies. **Planning and Demonstration Grant applications have three deadlines:**
 - Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5 pm est**
 - Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 5 pm est**

Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants may apply during any of the three application rounds. Applications not received by the first or second deadline will be rolled over to the next application round. All applications must be received by August 29th, 2024 at 5 pm est.

Implementation Grants applications must be submitted by 5 pm est on Thursday May 16, 2024. Unsuccessful Implementation Grant applicants may apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant application in the final application round on August 29, 2024 by 5 pm est.
- ❖ 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 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 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) services 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.

- ❖ FTA's **Low or No Emission competitive program** provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses as well as acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities. FTA anticipates releasing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program in February 2024.

- ❖ **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 Eric Wright, EARPDC Planning and Development Director, at 256-237-6741 or \[eric.wright@earpdc.org\]\(mailto:eric.wright@earpdc.org\) for more information.](#)

April 2024

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

May 2024

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