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East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

July 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. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

June Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

❖ #30 CN (100057407) Reconfigure intersection SR-4 (US-78) at CR-186 (Barry St.)

Old Target Start Date: August 26, 2022

New Target Start Date: September 30, 2022

-New target start date in same FY. No changes needed.

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ FY 2022 RPO 4th Quarter Meetings will be held in July

- Northern Counties (Etowah and Cherokee): July 14 @ 11:00
- Central Counties (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega): July 21 @ 11:00
- Southern Counties (Chambers, Coosa, Randolph, and Tallapoosa): July 28 @ 11:00

These meetings will be via phone at (978) 990-5000; access number 419-691.

Further information regarding the meetings TBA.

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 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 November 2022
- ❖ Meetings regarding the 2023 Plan update will be held concurrently with RPO meetings in January 2023.
- ❖ If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org.

CEDS Strategy Committee

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, is a regional planning and implementation process designed to create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, improve living conditions, and provide a mechanism for guiding and coordinating the efforts of people and organizations involved in economic development.

As we begin the CEDS update, **we invite you to join us on the Strategy Committee!** We are seeking diverse and broad-based stakeholder participation including public sector, private sector, nonprofits, workforce development boards, higher education institutions, labor groups, and more!

If interested, please reach out to Shelby Peterson at shelby.peterson@earpdc.org.

Projects Proposed to Let June 24, 2022

Calhoun County

- ❖ IM-HSIP-1020(367) for constructing and micro-milling, OGFC safety treatment, and traffic stripe on I-20 from the H.J. Bentley Jr. Parkway Overpass (MP 181.747) to the SR-21 Interchange (MP 185.904) in Oxford. Length 4.157 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$2,902,046 to \$3,546,945.

Chambers County

none

Cherokee County

none

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

none

Coosa County

none

Etowah County

none

Randolph County

none

Talladega County

- ❖ IM-HSIP-1020(367) for constructing and micro-milling, OGFC safety treatment, and traffic stripe on I-20 from the H.J. Bentley Jr. Parkway Overpass (MP 181.747) to the SR-21 Interchange (MP 185.904) in Oxford. Length 4.157 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$2,902,046 to \$3,546,945.

Tallapoosa County

- ❖ BR-0014(550) for constructing the bridge rehabilitation and bridge painting on SR-14 over the Tallapoosa River in Tallassee. Length 0.329 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$4,620,367 to \$5,647,116.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released a [notice of funding opportunity](#) (NOFO) for the [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) (SS4A) discretionary grant program, which comprises Action Plan Grants and Implementation Grants. Eligible activities include: (1) develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan; (2) conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan; and (3) carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan. Eligible applicants include metropolitan planning organizations, political subdivisions of States, federally recognized Tribal governments and multijurisdictional groups comprised of the aforementioned entities. More information can be found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>. **Applications due: September 15, 5:00p.m. ET.**
- ❖ 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) (<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) 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. 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 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@earpcd.org for more information.

<i>July 2022</i>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Transit Advisory Board (TAB) meeting @ 9	13 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting @ 10	14 Northern RPO virtual meeting @ 11	15	16
17	18	19	20 Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting @ 10	21 MPO Policy Committee meeting @ 10 Central RPO virtual meeting @ 11	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Southern RPO virtual meeting @ 11	29	30
31						

August 2022

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	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting @ 10	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			