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# East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

*November 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.

## October Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

- ❖ #44 CN (100075806; previously 100064897) Installation of a Roundabout at the Bynum Leatherwood Road and Old Gadsden Highway Intersection  
Previously programmed for 2022, then deleted – left on TIP Spreadsheet as a hold to be reprogrammed for next FY.  
Now in plan status for FY 2023  
Engineer's Estimate: \$1,150,981  
Will leave at previous estimated amount of \$1,411,310 for possible overruns
- ❖ #53 CN (100070228) Traffic Signal Upgrades at SR-202 and North Hunter Street  
Admin mod 11.2021 to decrease/adjust contract prices from \$134,791.35 to \$125,025.51  
-Monthly reports and MPO Portal record a reduction to \$124,725.51
- ❖ #30 CN (100057407) Reconfigure Intersection SR-4 (US-78) at CR-186 (Barry St.)  
-Old Engineers Estimate: \$2,264,742.00  
-New Engineers Estimate: \$2,267,768.34  
-Increase of \$3,026.34 less than 20% of old engineer's estimate (\$452,948.40)
- ❖ #56 CN (100070198) Resurfacing Henry Road and Country Club Dr SW to Fairway Dr SW  
-Engineer's Estimate: \$998,187.94

-New Engineers Estimate from August: \$1,025,431.25  
-Project Let for \$1,284,353.21  
Increase processed as Admin Mod as is Let amount

- ❖ #48 UT (100070249) Widening on Friendship Road from Cheaha Drive to Circle Drive, Phase I
  - Old Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: May 1, 2023
  - Same FY; no changes needed
- ❖ #48 RW (100070248) Widening on Friendship Road from Cheaha Drive to Circle Drive, Phase I
  - Old Target Start Date: November 1, 2022
  - New Target Start Date: January 1, 2023
  - Same FY; no changes needed
- ❖ #48 CN (100070250) Widening on Friendship Road from Cheaha Drive to Circle Drive, Phase I
  - Old Target Start Date: June 30, 2023
  - New Target Start Date: September 29, 2023
  - Same FY; no changes needed

## **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 November 4, 2022

### Calhoun County

none

### Chambers County

none

### Cherokee County

none

### Clay County

none

### Cleburne County

none

### Coosa County

none

### Etowah County

- ❖ STPAA-2822(251) for constructing the resurfacing, guardrail installation, and traffic stripe on CR-375 (Appalachian Highway) from the junction of SR-74 (US-278) in Hokes Bluff to the junction of SR-25 (US-411). Length 8.007 miles. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$3,441,744 to \$4,206,576.

### Randolph County

none

### Talladega County

none

### Tallapoosa County

none

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The purpose of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program-II (**ATRIP-II**) is to rehabilitate and improve transportation infrastructure by funding projects of local interest, proposed by one or more local governments, related to state-maintained highway system. Projects may include local roads and bridges essential to such projects. The program's goal is to address critical needs projects across the state to rehabilitate and improve the in-place facilities and in some cases provide new facilities at locations throughout the state. The program's focus is an emphasis on the public safety, economic growth, and stability of the state and its roads and bridges. Sponsors will be required to submit the application electronically to the ALDOT Local Transportation Bureau by the FY 2023 **deadline of November 18, 2022**. More information can be found at <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/ATRIPII.html>.
- ❖ 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.

<i>November 2022</i>						
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 @ 10	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Citizens Advisory Committee @ 10	17 MPO Policy Committee meeting @ 10	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving EAC Closed	25 EAC Closed	26
27	28	29	30			

# 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