

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MPO Updates
 - MPO Meetings
 - Project Changes
- RPO Updates
 - FY23 Meetings
- ALDOT STIP
- Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan
- Projects Proposed to Let
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines
- Calendar of Meetings

East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

May 2023 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 smart phone via this link: <https://meet.goto.com/132611237>
To get the app now and be ready before the meetings start use this link: <https://meet.goto.com/install>.
If you are not currently on the MPO notification mailing list and would like to receive mailed or email notifications of upcoming meetings, please email Libby at elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org. All MPO meetings are open to the public.

April Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

- ❖ #56 PE (100070197) Resurfacing on Country Club SW and Henry Rd from Fairway Drive SW to SR-21
Current Funding: \$93,900
Requested Funding: \$83,545.90
-Release of \$10,354.10 in PE funds
- ❖ #41 CN (100064890) Airport Rd. Bridge Replacement at Coldwater Creek
 - Previous Target Start Date: February 2024
New Target Start Date: February 2026
-Will move FYs. Increased by 1% for each FY move from \$2,107,918 to \$2,253,317
- ❖ #41 RW (100064888) Airport Rd. Bridge Replacement at Coldwater Creek
 - Previous Target Start Date: June 1, 2023
New Target Start Date: October 1, 2023
-Will move FYs. Increased by 1% for each FY move from \$10,615 to \$10,721
- ❖ #44 PE (100064896) Bynum Leatherwood/Old Gadsden Rd. Roundabout
 - Previous Funding Amount: \$314,115

- Over Run of \$2,071.89
- New Funding Amount: \$316,186.89

East Alabama RPO Updates

❖ FY 2023 RPO Quarterly Meetings –

The next Quarterly meeting will be announced soon!

- 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 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.

ALDOT State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

The **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** is a federally mandated 4-year funding and scheduling document for surface transportation projects (road, highway, pedestrian trails, bicycle facilities, bridge facilities and transit projects in Alabama).

The STIP is important because federal and state money cannot be spent on projects unless they are listed in the STIP.

The STIP must be financially constrained to the estimated federal apportionments. Only projects which construction and operating funds can reasonably be expected to be available are included in the STIP.

Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan

- ❖ Surveys for the 2023 Plan update were sent in January 2023 with a return deadline of April 10th, 2023
- ❖ Meetings regarding the 2023 Plan were held concurrently with RPO meetings in January and April 2023. There was a last-minute change in the virtual/call in options that may not have been communicated. If you have ANY questions or comments regarding the plan, please contact Libby Messick at 256-237-6741 or elizabeth.messick@earpdc.org.

Projects Proposed to Let April 28, 2023

Calhoun County

none

Randolph County

none

Chambers County

none

Talladega County

- ❖ NH-HSIP-0038(551) for constructing the micro-milling, resurfacing, guardrail installation, and traffic stripe on SR-38 (US-280) from the Shelby County Line to the junction of CR-25 (MP 37.455) northwest of Oak Grove. Length 4.912 mi. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$4,869,132 to \$5,951,161.

Cherokee County

none

Clay County

none

Cleburne County

none

Coosa County

none

Tallapoosa County

none

Etowah County

none

Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has opened applications for the FY2024 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP). These funds are awarded through an ALDOT administered competitive selection process. The purpose and intent of this program is to provide new "Transportation Alternatives" to communities, as well as enhance existing non-motorized transportation infrastructure. All eligible applications will be evaluated on how the proposed project improvements advance the intent of the program. All applications must be submitted electronically no later than 5:00 pm on **May 31, 2023**. Applications should be sent to tapapp@dot.state.al.us as a .pdf file (25 mb max) with "FY 2024 TAP Application – Sponsor Name" in the subject line. More information and application materials can be found at <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/TAP.html>.
- ❖ The US Department of Transportation has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for their Safe Streets for All program. The NOFO and other information can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/ss4a/fy23-nofo>. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm Eastern Time Monday, **July 10, 2023**.
- ❖ The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) intends to issue a funding opportunity in March 2023 for up to \$300 million to improve the cost, reliability, environmental impact, and climate resilience of energy systems in rural or remote areas across the country. More about this anticipated funding opportunity announcement can be found here:

https://www.energy.gov/oced/energy-improvements-rural-or-remote-areas-0?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- ❖ 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) 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 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 Frank Humber, EARPCD Deputy Director, at 256-237-6741 or frank.humber@earpcd.org for more information.

May 2023

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

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 MPO 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 Juneteenth	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	