

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MPO Updates
  - MPO Meetings
  - Project Changes
- RPO Updates
  - FY24 Meetings
- Projects Proposed to Let
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines
- Calendar of Meetings

# East Alabama Region Transportation Monthly Newsletter

March 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 smartphone via this link: <https://meet.goto.com/148309069>

#### **You can also dial in using your phone.**

Access Code: 148-309-069

United States (Toll-Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3116](tel:+15713173116)

### February Calhoun Area MPO Project Changes

❖ #57 (CN) Resurfacing George Douthit Dr from SR-21 to Brierwood Place SW

Previous allocated amount: \$1,464,490

Project Let for: \$741,617.45

## 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](http://www.earpdc.org).

If you have any suggestions on where to house future RPO meetings in your area, please contact Lattisha Royal at [eric.wright@earpdc.org](mailto:eric.wright@earpdc.org) or call 256-237-6741. We would love to have these meetings be both beneficial and enjoyable for all involved.

## Projects Proposed to Let February 23, 2024

### Calhoun County

none

### Chambers County

none

### Cherokee County

none

### Clay County

none

### Cleburne County

none

### Coosa County

none

### Etowah County

- ❖ For constructing the safety widening, micro-milling, resurfacing (scrub seal) and traffic stripe on SR-74 (US-278) from the intersection of

Alford Ben Road in Hokes Bluff to the Calhoun County Line. Length 7.370 miles. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$2,089,258 to \$2,553,538.

### Randolph County

none

### Talladega County

- ❖ For constructing the planning, micro-milling, resurfacing (scrub seal), guardrail installation, and traffic stripe on SR-38 (US-280) from the intersection of Coosa Street in Sylacauga to the Coosa County Line. Length 4.394 miles. The bracket estimate on this project is from \$4,677,441 to \$5,716,872.

### Tallapoosa County

none

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities & Deadlines

It's not too early to be thinking ahead!

- ❖ FHWA is accepting applications for \$9.7 billion in multi-year funding to improve the nation's bridges through the competitive **Bridge Investment Program's "Planning" and "Bridge Project" categories**, which fund bridge planning, repair, and replacement projects under \$100 million. FHWA has provided a [Bridge Project Application Template](#) and [Planning Grant Application Template](#) and highly encourages applicants to use the templates for their applications. Join FHWA for live Q&A sessions on [January 25 at 2:00 p.m. ET](#) on Planning and Bridge Project Grants and on [January 30 at 2:00 p.m. ET](#) on the Benefit Cost Analysis Tool. [Technical assistance](#) is also available to recipients who receive Bridge Investment Program grants. **Applications for this round of planning and bridge project funding must be submitted by March 19, 2024 via Grants.gov.**
- ❖ 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, April 4, 2024 at 5 pm est**
- 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 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) 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](mailto: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](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.

# March 2024

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

# 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				