

RAPID TRANSIT: What kind of Rapid Transit would work for Huntsville based on population & employer density needs, as illustrated below?



Our New Transportation Quarterly Goals:

1. Report multi-jurisdictional transportation projects in Huntsville, Madison & the County in user-friendly, easy to digest and visually pleasing format.
2. Educate the public on transportation plans and connect transportation projects of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with the BIG Picture Huntsville visions and goals for the Huntsville regional area.

Looking for “Federal Aid Obligations” and “Scheduled FY 2015 Transportation Projects” tables?

These are still available to the public! They’re posted on the MPO website: huntsvillempo.org. Or, call me, Planner Paige, at 256-427-5188 or email me at paige.colburn@huntsvilleal.gov

How do BIG Picture ideas meet transportation plans?

After the presentation at the BIG Picture Transportation Citizens Academy on March 18th, 2015, a citizen asked the speakers a question at the microphone: “How do the BIG Picture ideas we’ve just heard about fit into that huge Year 2040 long range transportation plan that was just finished?”

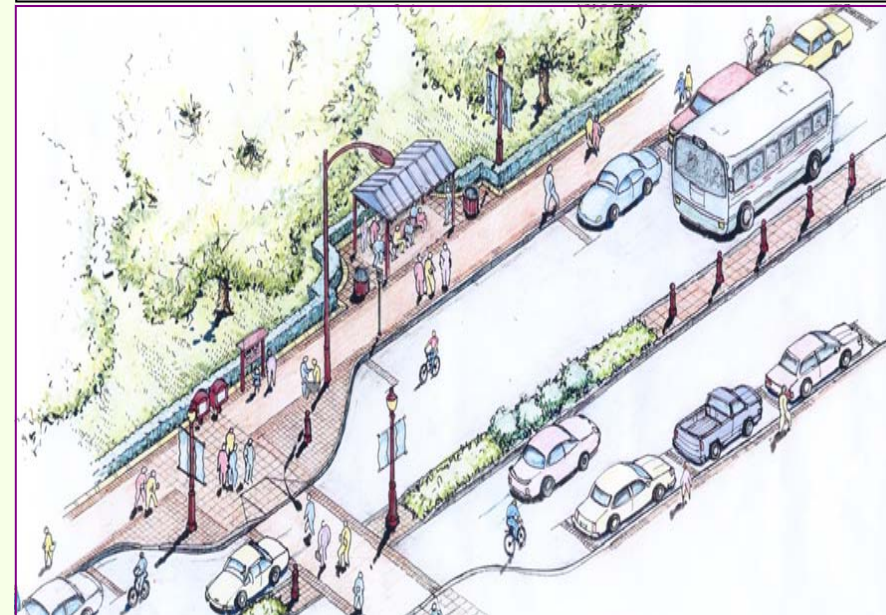
Dennis Madsen answered saying we can edit the LRTP, or Year 2040 plan, any time. He’s right. Since the LRTP was adopted in March, the MPO added two projects!

The plan is a living document. Also, we’re required to revamp and edit it entirely every five years. Plans change. Because the county and cities change.

The BIG Picture process is about to enter the implementation phase. Since June 2014, we’ve received ideas from the public, using brainstorming tools like: ImagineHuntsville.com. Now, the BIG Picture team must figure out how to implement these BIG ideas. This includes changing zoning rules, writing new ordinances and making agreements with outside agencies.

We need your help! Join a focus group, book a planner to speak to your organization, like our Facebook page and join the conversation online: BigPictureHuntsville.com Working together, we’re writing Huntsville’s first comprehensive plan in 50 years! Thank you for your feedback and support.

News & Notes: Welcome to the New Edition!



A “Complete Street” : multi-modal corridor, designed to move *people*, not just cars. Can you see Holmes Ave like this from Research Park to Five Points? Any other complete streets you’d like to see? Tell us: bigpicture@huntsvilleal.gov

What’s with all these plans?

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), commonly called the “Year 2040 Plan” is the main plan of the MPO. We also write the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

What’s the difference?

- LRTP lists all transportation projects, both realistic & dreams, for Huntsville, Madison & Madison County for 25 years.
- The TIP lists all the funded, going-to-happen, projects for the next five years.

For a project to be in the TIP- and crews to start working- the project had to first be in the LRTP, so taxpayers know the MPO is doing the projects it planned to do. We update the LRTP every 5 years. See it online here: huntsvillempo.org/2040-plan

What does the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) do?

We write plans, find funds and oversee the schedules of all these transportation projects for Huntsville, Madison & Madison County:

- ⇒ **Bridges: replacements and new additions**
- ⇒ **Bicycle Lanes, Bicycle Plans, Bicycle options**
- ⇒ **Intersections: improvements as well as additional lanes to roads & highways**
- ⇒ **Greenways: Master Plan and more pedestrian options**
- ⇒ **Road Maintenance: such as pot holes and streetscapes (beautification).**
- ⇒ **Interstates: updates, new on/off ramps, new lanes**
- ⇒ **Public Transit: buses, TRAM, Handi-Ride, future ideas like Light Rail**
- ⇒ **When we talk transportation, never forget we put a man on the moon!**





The Bridges of Madison County

UPCOMING: Four bridges on Old Highway 431 in Hampton Cove will be replaced as part of the updated FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP). A map of these bridge replacements can be found in the new TIP when we post it here: huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/ Construction to begin in 2018.

FINISHED: Holmes Bridge is done! You no longer have to detour past that epic "Iron Tribe" gym or be ashamed you don't exercise as hard as they do. This was Map # 14.02 in the 2012-2015 TIP, page 86. See it here: huntsvillempo.org

"BIG Picture" Bridge: We've needed a new Tennessee River bridge by Ditto Landing for a long time. The 'BIG Picture' part of this project is to transform the existing TN River Bridge into a **pedestrian & cyclist** bridge once the new one is built. If we do this in the next 25 years, will you bike or walk over the TN River? Tell us: bigpicture@huntsvilleal.gov



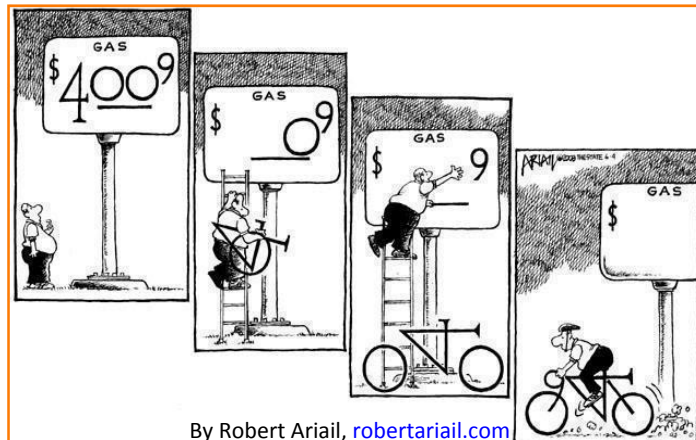
Next big bicycle project:

Location: From Redstone Arsenal N to Governors DR West, going underneath I-565, connects Redstone Gateway to Research Park. See LRTP project #32, page 4-47, online at: huntsvillempo.org/2040-plan/

Timeline: Construction to begin 2017 **Cost:** \$115,000

Learn more about Huntsville Cycling & Safety!

⇒ BikeHuntsville.com



Maintenance "Fixing potholes is like giving your wife a fire extinguisher for her birthday." - Peter Kageyama, *For the Love of Cities*, "It is the equivalent of a clean knife and fork in a restaurant." It must be done to avoid bad reviews!

How to report a pothole or any service request:

Huntsville: Easy to use app= huntsvilleal.gov/huntsvilleconnect/

Madison: Call: 256-772-0000 or Let us Know at madsional.gov

Madison County: Call your County Commission District office.

Find their number here: madisoncountyal.gov



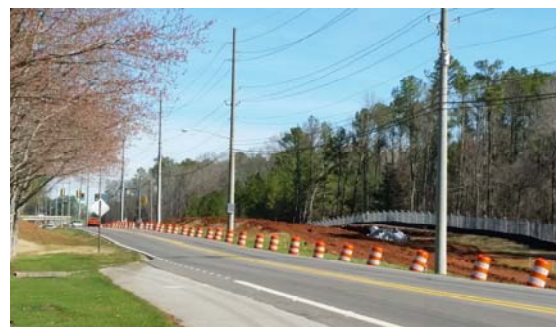
See it , Click it, Fix it



Rockets & Research: Highlighted here are projects directly affecting Redstone Arsenal, MSFC, Research Park or all of the above. We'll also discuss MPO transportation research.

Zierdt Road: Dirt is moving to widen Zierdt Road from Gate 7 to Madison Blvd! This will greatly reduce travel times and includes a greenway for homes along Zierdt road to enjoy & bike-commuters to get to work! This project is in the 2012-2015 TIP, Map 1.03, on page 33. Find it online here: huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/

Transportation in our MPO: Remember we put a man on the moon!!



Intersections & Additional Lanes

Two road-widening projects were planned after the MPO approved the Year 2040 LRTP, in April:

- **Old Monrovia Road-** complete four lanes from Jeff Road to Providence. Currently, the 4 lane section, with a turn lane & sidewalks, ends about 1/2 mile west of the Providence Main traffic circle. This project will extend the four lanes to Jeff Road. See project #71, in the LRTP online: huntsvillempo.org/2040-plan/ Construction to begin in 2028.
- **Blake Bottom Road-** From Jeff Road to Research Park Blvd. This project was changed from "visionary" to "financially constrained" in the LRTP. This means the project has moved up in priority and funding will be found for it. In the LRTP, this is project #13, map #4.1A, page 4-48, see it online here: huntsvillempo.org/2040-plan/



Greenway Master Plan & Greenway Focus Group

The Greenway Focus Group has a battle cry: "Finish the Greenway Master Plan!" As a government coalition, the MPO isn't designed to raise funds or rally volunteers. So, we're partnering with The Land Trust to do the heavy-lifting. At their last meeting, the focus group voted on which greenways should take priority as we move forward with this partnership. Join the focus group here: bigpicturehuntsville.com/greenways/

Any new greenways in the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

- **Aldridge Creek** will be extended from Weatherly Road north to Esslinger Road. Construction to begin in 2017.
 - * A map of this project will be found here, after the new TIP posts: huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/

Check out the **Greenways Master Plan**, 180+ miles of greenways: bigpicturehuntsville.com/greenways/



Interstate Updates

A safety improvement project will carry over to the 2016-2019 TIP for I-565:

- Median Crossover Protection from Spring Branch in Limestone Co to Madison Blvd overpass. This 13.2 miles of improvements will ensure the safety of this corridor. The project is set to begin in May of 2017 and cost \$1.3 million dollars. For more info, ask: paige.colburn@huntsvilleal.gov



Normally, governments Plan, Fund, then Build. Our BIG Picture goal is to add some pre-planning steps, above .



Public Transit : Move more people, reduce traffic congestion

The LRTP lists many public transit goals for the MPO area in the next 25 years. An electronic fare-box system for HSV, expansion of shuttle routes, and Saturday shuttle service are all visionary goals. See these ideas and more on page 6-9 and read the 25 year vision for our MPO's public transit: huntsvillempo.org/2040-plan/

Transportation Survey results are largely in favor of expanding public transit:

BIG Picture Huntsville conducted a Transportation Survey in April. The results show the public's positive opinion of public transit rather than expansion of car-based travel. This is great news for the future of public transit options in our MPO! Multi-modal corridors with rapid transit, like the 'complete street' image on the cover of this issue, were popular, as well. See the Transportation Survey results here: bigpicturehuntsville.com/transportation/