



# TRANSPORTATION QUARTERLY



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## News & Notes: FAST Act, Freight, and ADA keep us busy.

### FAST Act: First in 12 years!

In December, the President signed the FAST Act, the first long-term transportation bill in 12 years. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act sets the transportation directives and goals for the country until 2020. Some say it is more of the same, some herald the public transit, cyclist and pedestrian spending increases as a step towards the DOT's "Beyond Traffic" goals. Regardless, it is the first long-term transportation budget, rather than a continuing resolution, in more than a decade. The MPO is excited. Learn more: <http://transportation.house.gov/fast-act/> <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact>



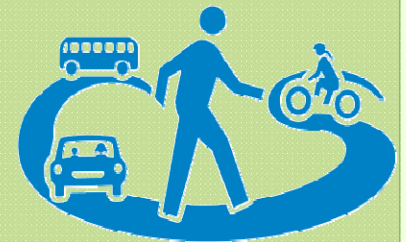
**ADA 25** Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To celebrate, ALDOT shared the new ADA Transition Plan requirements with local MPOs. Each member jurisdiction is writing a new ADA Transition Plan to self-certify the status of the jurisdiction's ADA compliance efforts. All MPO member jurisdictions met in November to discuss their individual transition plans and current compliance efforts. Meetings will continue until the ADA Transition Plan deadline in July, 2016.



The new ALDOT Statewide Freight Plan is in its draft stages. MPOs around the state are supporting ALDOT by identifying chokepoints in freight transportation, railroad crossings that cause delays, and major industrial parks in each MPO's Transportation Management Area. Learn more: [www.dot.state.al.us](http://www.dot.state.al.us)









### Why do we want Complete Streets?

The MPO added Complete Streets to our Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in 2015. To quote the LRTP: "The Huntsville-Area MPO intends to create a mobility system for... improved public health, reduced fuel consumptions, reduced demand for single occupancy motor vehicles and increased public safety through the Complete Street program. ... Complete Streets are intended to be safe, comfortable, and convenient for all users regardless of age or ability— motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders," (page 7-4). To further these goals, the City of Huntsville recently won a national competition for *FREE* technical assistance to develop a Complete Streets Policy! Find out more on the "BIG Picture back page" of this newsletter.



Huntsville Area  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

The MPO writes plans, finds funds and oversees the schedules of these transportation projects for our local member jurisdictions:

-  ⇒ **Bridges: replacements and new additions**
-  ⇒ **Bicycle Lanes, Bicycle Plans, Bicycle options**
-  ⇒ **Intersections: Plus additional lanes**
-  ⇒ **Greenways: Plus more pedestrian options**
-  ⇒ **Road Maintenance and Beautification**
-  ⇒ **Interstates: Lane additions, on/off ramps**
-  ⇒ **Public Transit: TRAM, Handi-ride and Shuttle**
-  ⇒ **Redstone Arsenal and Research Park Access**



## The Bridges of Madison County

Orange cones became a constant for commuters into Huntsville from the south who experienced delays most of 2015 as a bridge on northbound US 431 was reduced to one lane while under construction. The original project was to resurface and widen lanes from south of Victorian Lane in Owens Cross Roads to south of the intersection of Old Big Cove Rd. This project's estimated start date was May 2015, but due to a tragic accident on the bridge just before construction was scheduled to begin, the bridge needed emergency repairs before widening and resurfacing could commence.

The good news is the emergency bridge work is now complete. The widening and resurfacing project construction began in November and is 10% complete. This project cost \$4,362,000 and is to be completed in 2016.



## BIG Bicycle Event: Mark Your Calendar: Thursday, February 18th!

The BIG Picture Huntsville is partnering with the City of Huntsville's Bicycle Advocacy and Safety Council (BASC) to host a BIG event February 18th. Come one, come all! Gresham Smith Consultants and City of Louisville Bike/Ped Coordinator Mr. Rolf Eisinger will tell us "How Louisville achieved Silver Status in less than 7 years!" Over the last 6 years Louisville's bicycle and pedestrian programs have made a tremendous amount of progress in transforming the city. Also, hear from BASC representatives on cyclist safety statistics in Huntsville.

Spoiler Alert: Cycling is safer than you may think!

Learn more about Huntsville Cycling & Safety! [BikeHuntsville.com](http://BikeHuntsville.com)

Or Follow "See and Be Seen Huntsville" on Facebook and Twitter!



## Maintenance: New ALDOT Maintenance projects starting soon:

- Construction – Maintenance Resurfacing on SR-2 (US-72) From Near Jefferson Street (MP 74.85) to Near McCulley Mill Road (MP 81.5); project will cost \$4,832,862 and scheduled to begin in April, 2016.
- Construction – Maintenance Resurfacing on HWY 53 from just south of I-565 to just south of the intersection at Mastin Lake Road. Project will cost \$2.3M and is scheduled to begin in March 2016.

### How to report a pothole or any service request:

**Huntsville:** Easy to use app= [huntsvilleal.gov/huntsvilleconnect/](http://huntsvilleal.gov/huntsvilleconnect/)

**Madison:** Call: 256-772-0000 or [Let us Know](http://Let us Know) at madsional.gov

**Madison County:** Call your County Commission District office.

Find their number here: [madisoncountyal.gov](http://madisoncountyal.gov)



## Rockets & Research: Transportation projects affecting Redstone Arsenal, MSFC, or Research Park.

**Construction affecting Gate 1:** Road crews closed ramps at Martin Road at South Memorial Parkway and opened a temporary off-ramp until the new access roads and Martin Road bridge are complete. Motorists should remain cautious, plan a few extra minutes for their commute and follow all posted traffic signs. These closures will remain in place for the duration of the first phase of the South Memorial Parkway improvements project. The first phase, which includes construction of service roads for the Parkway between Golf Rd and Whitesburg Dr and replacement of the Martin Road bridge and interchange with a wider bridge and elevated intersection, has a completion deadline of Dec. 1, 2017. The closures of eastbound Martin Road and both access ramps on the south side of Martin Road are necessary for construction of the service roads and bridge.





## Intersections & Additional Lanes

The Restore our Roads program, the City of Huntsville's innovative financing of major road projects, through a unique partnership with ALDOT, began in 2013. This year, it's in full swing! In 2016, the first projects of the Restore our Roads program are nearing construction completion and new projects are about to begin!

- HWY 72, additional lane westbound, and intersection improvements from Maysville to Shields started in 2014, is 75% complete and to be completed later this year or early 2017. This project cost \$11.4M.
- Maysville Road and Epworth Drive connector will begin construction in January, 2016 and cost \$5.2M.
- Martin Road and Memorial Pkwy described in "Rockets & Research" will take 3 years to complete and cost \$48M.

# RESTORE *our* ROADS



## Substantial Research Supports Investment in Active Transportation

*Active Transportation defined: any form of human-powered transportation such as walking or cycling.*

- 70% of adults want more facilities for non-motorized travel.
- Building sidewalks reduces pedestrian risks by 88%.
- 50% of all metro trips are shorter than 3 miles, and many are under 1 mile; these are bikeable and walkable distances.
- By 2030, 20% of Americans will be over 71 years of age.
- One-third of Americans don't drive.
- Building more facilities for non-motorized travel will increase non-motorized trips (mode shift).

See Complete Streets fact sheets and Victoria Institute Study: Source: <http://www.greatcommunities.org/toolkit>

Check out the **Greenways Master Plan**, 180+ miles of greenways: [bigpicturehuntsville.com/greenways/](http://bigpicturehuntsville.com/greenways/)



## Interstate Updates : *New ALDOT Projects for I-65 starting soon:*

- Median Crossover protection from Norfolk Southern Railroad overpass (MM 341.4) to S of US-31 (MM 354.1) and .1 mile median protection at TN State Line, starts late February and costs \$1.6 M.
- Resurfacing I-65 from near I-565 to near HWY-72 (MM 338 to 351) starts in November and costs \$8.7 M.

## *New ALDOT Projects for I-565 in 2016:*

- Median Crossover Protection from Spring Branch to Madison Blvd Overpass; cost: \$1.1M; starts: late January
- Project to stabilize Bridge piles on four I-565 bridges in Limestone County. Cost: \$400k; started in November, 2015 with construction anticipated to complete in June, 2016.



## Public Transit : "Hop Around Huntsville" Shuttle Bus Tracker coming soon!

The City of Huntsville partnered with a Code4Huntsville, volunteer group of software developers, to create a bus tracking website called "Hop Around Huntsville." Citizens can check the website and know instantly where their bus is! This will help riders determine when to go to the bus stop and how long they'll have to wait. This website was developed at no cost to the city or the MPO, as it was created entirely by the Code4Huntsville volunteers. As a test run, the website will initially track the Saturday and Sunday free downtown entertainment trolley.

Look for this trial to start soon! Learn more about Code4Huntsville at their website:

[www.code4huntsville.org](http://www.code4huntsville.org). Detailed information about each shuttle stop, routes, and shuttle times, will be available on [www.hoparoundhuntsville.com](http://www.hoparoundhuntsville.com) when it launches this Spring, 2016.



## Meet our newest Complete Streets candidate...



We've talked about Holmes Ave as a multi-modal corridor, but with a BIG idea like Huntsville's first bus rapid transit on Holmes, it remains a long-term goal requiring extensive teamwork with UAH and Cummings Research Park.

In the near term, to show the public how a Complete Street works, the BIG Picture Huntsville team looks to Clinton Ave to be our new Complete Streets pilot project. The corridor is shorter and less traveled, but runs parallel to Holmes, connecting many of the same key resources, and is the new home to the Campus 805 entertainment development.

BIG Picture Huntsville recently won a nationally competitive award from Smart Growth America to host a Complete Streets Workshop in Huntsville in the Summer of 2016. At the workshop, we'll be looking at both Holmes Ave and Clinton Ave, building partnerships, community input, and a knowledge base to make these BIG ideas a reality. Stay tuned!

Special Thanks to:



**Smart Growth America**  
Making Neighborhoods Great Together

### Transportation Quarterly Goals:

1. Report news of multi-jurisdictional transportation projects in the cities of Huntsville, Madison and throughout Madison County in a 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.

For more information, see the MPO website: [huntsvillempo.org](http://huntsvillempo.org). Or, with questions or comments, call me, Planner Paige, at 256-427-5188 or email me at [paige.colburn@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:paige.colburn@huntsvilleal.gov)

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**CHECK OUT our Monthly Blog!** : <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/category/tqr/>