



TRANSPORTATION QUARTERLY

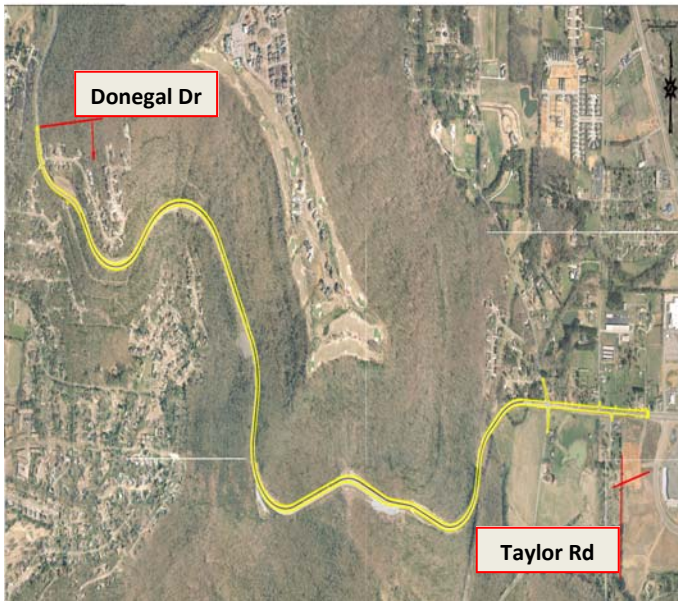


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News & Notes: Cecil Ashburn Meeting & Who are MPO Staff?



Cecil Ashburn Drive from Taylor Road to Donegal Dr SE
(Imagery courtesy of LittleJohn– An S&ME Company)

Public Meeting for Cecil Ashburn Drive Project!

On **August 31, 2016 at 6pm**, a public meeting will be held at 320 Fountain Circle, Huntsville, AL to discuss the Cecil Ashburn Drive safety project from Taylor Road to Donegal Drive SE. Public meetings are important. Transportation planners and engineers, all public servants, present their work to the people they serve. You, the public, get to comment and critique projects affecting you.









At this public meeting, you'll see the plans for Cecil Ashburn Drive, designed to increase safety and traffic flow along the corridor. This is a "Restore our Roads" project, meaning it will be financed on a 50/50 cost share basis by the City of Huntsville and State of Alabama. The current cost estimate is \$19 million. The project is in the design phase, finalizing layout, geotechnical, and construction sequencing. Construction is anticipated for mid-2017.

Who are the MPO Staff? What do they do?

MPO staff are employed by the City of Huntsville Planning Division, and MPO staff work closely with Planning and Engineering staffs of all member jurisdictions. The role of the MPO staff is to manage the planning process, adhering to all federal, state and local requirements for spending federal funds on local transportation. The MPO staff does accounting for hundreds of millions of dollars, maps of current transportation projects, models of future traffic projections, piles of required documentation, technical support, requested demographics, and stacks of mandatory plans. MPO staff also handle all public engagement, input, and feedback for the MPO. Learn more about what we do: www.huntsvillempo.org/about/what-we-do/



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: Shuttle, TRAM, and Handi-ride**
-  ⇒ **Redstone Arsenal and Research Park Access**



New Bridge in Design for Christmas Day Flooded Bridge in Limestone County

Floods inundated Limestone Creek in Limestone County on Christmas Day, 2015. The flooding caused one of the bent foundations on an Old HWY 20 bridge to settle, which warped the structure, making it un-sound. After inspection, it was determined that it would not be cost effective to rehab the existing bridge. Instead, a project was set up for a new bridge replacement using federal Emergency Repair Permanent Relief (ERPR) funds. The new bridge is currently in design by ALDOT and Morrell Engineering. The construction date is unknown. See flood water and debris on both sides of the bridge in this image from ALDOT.



Local Bicycle Planner joins "Sister Cities" for Cycling Workshop in Nashville

James Moore, Huntsville Bicycle Planner, attended the Bike Sister Cities Conference in Nashville, June 16-17th. The cities of Louisville, Nashville, Huntsville, Indianapolis, Lexington, and Chattanooga, discussed strategies of implementing complete streets in their local areas. The event also included a workshop on using complete street tactics to convert a major arterial in Nashville; imagine trying to make University Drive into a complete street! There were tons of ideas, such as painting bike lanes green, especially for unprotected lanes to improve motorists' awareness, and using raised crosswalks to protect pedestrians. There were discussions of Cultural trails such as the one in Indianapolis and how it came about as well as how to use road diets and protected bike lanes to create a network of safe ridership. The conference also focused on advocacy and ways to better educate the public on cycling safety and health benefits. The event was a great success, and the possibility of this becoming an annual event in midsize cities looks very promising. The next one may be here in Huntsville in 2017!



Maintenance: Madison County receives \$2.7M to upgrade four County roads!

Last year, Madison County was formally awarded funding for four projects to improve safety on County roads. Through the High-Risk Rural Roads program, ALDOT awarded \$2,748,065 to Madison County for roadway safety improvements along Hobbs Island Road, Moores Mill Road, Ryland Pike, and Wall Triana Highway. The safety improvements include shoulder widening, rumble strips, pavement reflectors, striping, guardrail, signage, and other roadway safety countermeasures. Croy Engineering assisted Madison County with the application for funding and is providing design services for the project. Madison County anticipates the completion of design and releasing the safety projects for construction in the fall of 2016.

Report a pothole or service request:

Huntsville app: huntsvilleal.gov/huntsvilleconnect/

Madison: Call: 256-772-0000 or madsional.gov

Madison County: Call your Commission District office. Find numbers here: madisoncountyal.gov



Rockets & Research: New Cummings Research Park (CRP) Master Plan

In May, the Chamber of Commerce and CRP Board unveiled a new 50-year plan for CRP. This plan demonstrates CRP's interest in evolving from an older office park to a new mixed-used layout. Community input requested more transportation options in and around the park. The new plan delivers bike and pedestrian options. The plan also designs the geography of Research Park in stages of "the lifecycle of innovation, from the germination of an idea, to its global applications." There are several added residential areas as well as community gathering spaces such as mixed-use centers, parks, and greenways. See the entire plan here: <http://www.hsvchamber.org/crp.html>



CUMMINGSRESEARCHPARK



Intersections and Additional Lanes : University Drive Safety and Polaris' new road

- The intersection of University Drive (HWY 72) and Jordan Lane (HWY 53), in the city of Huntsville, will be redesigned and improved by ALDOT. The State of Alabama will be using federal Safety funds for an upcoming ALDOT project to tackle some of the issues with its design." The project will include resurfacing HWY 72 from HWY 53 to Memorial Parkway (HWY 231-431). There will be access management upgrades along this section of the corridor. A crosswalk may be included at the Family Dollar. Look for a public meeting concerning all these plans to be held this Fall. Currently, construction is scheduled to begin in November, 2016.
- A new access road is under construction for the Polaris site in the City of Huntsville. This road will go from Greenbrier Road to the northern boundary of Polaris Industries. The target completion date for the project is August 31, 2016 and the cost is \$4,000,000.



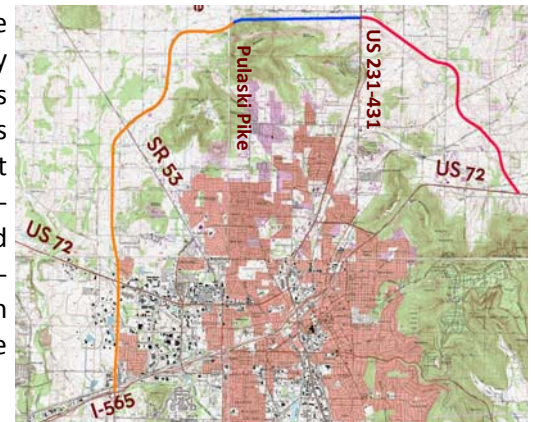
New Cummings Research Park (CRP) Master Plan includes interconnected Greenways

Transportation options and quality of life upgrades were listed by the public as goals for the new CRP. The new CRP Master Plan divides Research Park into three distinct areas. These areas have green public spaces connected by a series of trails, walkable streets, and greenways. The plan's design guidelines stress the importance of the existing natural environment, on-street bicycle lanes, and dedicated shared-use paths separated from traffic. Greenways and trails are discussed in detail in the new CRP Design Guidelines at: <http://www.hsvchamber.org/crp.html>



Interstate Updates : Go Around Huntsville- A Northern Bypass At Last

The Northern Bypass is a project with a long history. The four lane divided highway around Huntsville to the north has been on city road plans since the 1960s! The image to the right depicts the three sections of the Northern Bypass. The completed section is in orange. You know it as Rideout Road or Research Park Blvd. The section in blue, from Pulaski Pike just past the Toyota Plant to Memorial Pkwy (Hwy 231/431 N), will begin construction in late 2017. It is currently in the Right of Way acquisition phase. The Red section from Memorial Parkway south to US 72 will be divided into two phases. The first phase will end at Winchester Road and is scheduled to begin in 2021. The second phase is not yet funded. To learn more check out our June blog post: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/category/tqr/>



Public Transit : City of Huntsville budgeting for FY 2017 improvement projects

Huntsville Public Transit is submitting a grant application to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that includes several projects that will improve transit access for elderly and disabled clients. If the City budget funds the projects and the FTA Grant is awarded, the City's shuttle buses will be upgraded with audio and visual bus stop alert equipment. For example, as the bus approaches a stop, there will be an audio alert over an intercom saying the current stop name. The current stop name will also scroll on an electronic board. The system helps people with visual or hearing disabilities, as well as riders not familiar with the bus routes. The project will include licensing for the voice annunciation, next stop announcement software module, hardware, installation, and implementation. The project expenses will be shared by the City and FTA. Another project on Public Transit's wish list will be included in this funding, call notification for Handi-Ride clients. This new system would send an automated reminder call to Handi-Ride clients the night before their trip.



The **Complete Streets Workshop**, brought to Huntsville by Smart Growth America (SGA), was a huge success. The public event June 15th was standing-room-only with over 100 people in attendance. SGA's presentation discussed the value of complete streets in place-making and improving transportation infrastructure for growing communities. Then on Thursday, members of the public joined policymakers, city planners, and community partners in learning how to draft the City's first Complete Streets policy. Members of the public also participated in a hands-on exercise with two potential pilot-project streets in Huntsville: Holmes Ave and Clinton Ave. One of the more popular ideas was to include pull offs on Holmes so buses do not have to stop in traffic to pick up passengers. This would improve the flow of traffic and increase safety for transit riders. Performing a road diet on Holmes and Clinton were both visualized by city leaders and citizens. If workshop attendees get their wish, both streets would have bike lanes and sidewalks, as well as more greenery. Smart Growth America will now follow up with a One Month memo to begin the City of Huntsville's process towards a Complete Streets Policy.

Over the course of the next year, SGA will follow up with the City of Huntsville three times to make sure the participants in the workshop move forward to produce a Complete Streets policy and begin to tackle complete street implementation. During each of these follow-ups, the public will be informed and involved in the City's next steps. Citizens will play an active role in the future of Huntsville's transportation design. SGA provides technical assistance to communities across the country thanks to a "Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities" grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities. The public may view the entire SGA presentation on the BIG Picture website: <http://bigpicturehuntsville.com/complete-streets-event/>

The TQ would like to thank **GARVER** for two images in the Spring 2016 edition in which **GARVER's** logo was removed for space. :-)

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 area.

Questions or comments? Call me, Planner Paige, at 256-427-5188 or email me at paige.colburn@huntsvilleal.gov

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