



TRANSPORTATION QUARTERLY

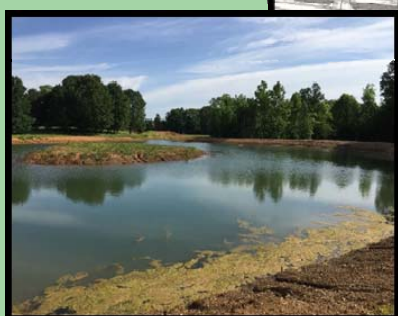
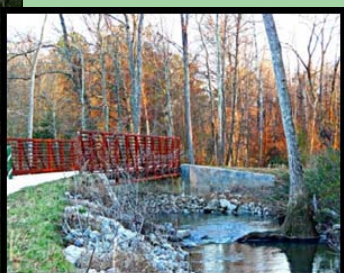


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News & Notes: Greenway Growth in City of Madison



Bradford Creek Greenway Improvements

The City of Madison completed the main spine of the Bradford Creek Greenway in 2014. The Greenway extends for 2.3 miles from Palmer Road in the south to Heritage Elementary School in the north. Bradford Creek Greenway is one of the City's most heavily used recreational assets.

In response to the need for more amenities along the Greenway and in an effort to improve drainage in a floodplain area, the City is constructing trailhead improvements at Mill Road, a popular access point mid-way along the Greenway.

The current project includes a new parking lot, restrooms and a small lake that provides a storm water solution and will ultimately be stocked for fishing. A bridge will be constructed over the Creek providing access from the parking lot to the Greenway. Future improvements will include a fishing pier, tot lot and gazebo.



**Huntsville Area
Metropolitan Planning
Organization**



⇒ **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**



The Bridges of Madison County: Public Opinion and four Old HWY 431 bridges

Over the summer there was a public opinion outpouring in regards to four bridges on Old HWY 431. The replacement of these bridges has been a funded project in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) since 2015. The project was repeatedly delayed due to environmental issues.

When the MPO agenda for August was drafted, the Madison County Commission made a suggestion to add the project to the August MPO agenda for the purpose of rescheduling the replacement of these bridges and prioritizing another project that could be completed sooner without the environmental issues.

That's when the public got involved. The public contacted their elected officials and the media as well as MPO staff with questions and comments about this project. As a result, weeks before the August MPO meeting, the draft agenda item concerning these bridges was removed, and the project remains on its original schedule for March 2018. Several citizens later contacted the County Commission and the MPO staff, thanking them for reconsidering this bridge project.



Bicycle News: Huntsville area's first protected bike lane may open by Halloween!

The Spragins Street protected bike lane will connect Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville with the Early Works Huntsville train depot and museum. The bike lane will be bi-directional, so bikes will travel both north and south. From Monroe St, a paved path across the train depot will connect to the nearby Gateway Greenway, paralleling I-565, and past the dog park toward the Lumberyard entertainment venue.

This exciting new piece of infrastructure is a first step in implementing the Downtown Master Plan. This plan recommends bicycle and pedestrian improvements throughout the city center.



Safety and Maintenance

Federal maintenance projects are planned for the Huntsville-Area MPO. These projects are funded with federal dollars and occur on state or federal roads.

I-65 Resurfacing— This project, from I-565 (MP 338.85) to HWY 72 (MP 351.25) is now authorized. Construction began in September and is to be completed by Spring 2018. Cost: \$22,992,231.

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge— A resurfacing project with an additional turn lane was discussed at the August MPO meeting for Rockhouse Road (Route 15). This project will cost \$1,236,361 and begin in 2020.

Potholes? Service Request?

Huntsville Connect app:

huntsvilleal.gov/huntsvilleconnect/

City of Madison:

Call: 256-772-0000 or madsional.gov

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

madisoncountyal.gov



Rockets & Research: New Master Plan for Huntsville International Airport

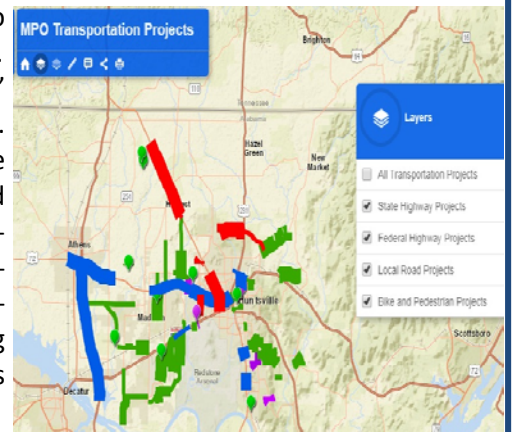
Huntsville International Airport (HSV) is the largest commercial airport in North Alabama, serving more than 1.2 million passengers annually and a high-tech air cargo market. HSV provides its 18-county service region with outstanding customer service, state-of-the-art technology, and convenience. The Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority (HMCAA) began the Huntsville International Airport Master Plan process in October 2016. Its purpose is to outline a long range strategic direction consistent with HMCAA's mission to continue providing quality multimodal transportation services to its diverse regional customer base and stimulate economic growth and development of the Tennessee Valley. This collaborative effort will run concurrently with various regional planning processes. The timing of this important study is significant as these initiatives will mutually support one another and allow for a comprehensive development plan for the region. HSV will engage the community and partner organizations to ensure it reflects the great thinking of local and national experts and the Huntsville Region. Learn more at the Dec. 6, 2017 MPO meeting!





Intersections & Additional Lanes : How to find Project Status on the MPO website

The Huntsville-Area MPO website has many options for the public to find the status of a current or future road project in the Huntsville area. From the home page at www.huntsvillempo.org one can hover over the “News” tab on the top blue bar and select “Project Status” from the drop down menu. On the Project Status page, the first image is the “Road Project Timeline” for the MPO’s current fiscal years. This image shows four of the primary phases of a road project and which projects are currently in each phase; projects are listed in alphabetical order. Below the Timeline, one will find the “MPO Transportation Projects” interactive map, as shown in the screen capture on the right. This map allows users to click on individual project lines that are color-coded by funding source. Clicking on each project will bring up a box listing more details such as funding and scheduling of each project.



Master Plan Implementation: Dry Creek Greenway approved at August MPO Meeting

The City of Huntsville and the Land Trust of North Alabama have completed the Greenway Master Plan update less than one year after the process began. The updated plan will soon go before the Planning Commission for approval. Look for the final product online by the end of the year. After approval, the next step for the Greenway Master Plan is implementation. The City and Land Trust are working to secure funding and property for development of the plan’s prioritized greenways. The first project to be funded since the master planning process began is the Dry Creek Greenway north of University Drive (Hwy 72) in the Providence community. The one-half mile route starts at Providence Town Square and connects underneath the Providence Main bridge, across Gates Mill, to the Indian Creek Greenway. This project will cost \$500,000 and was funded by the MPO’s Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. It was approved for TA funding at the August MPO meeting. Construction should begin in 2018.



Interstate Updates: Transportation Performance Measures (TPM) Coming Soon

Transportation reliability on Huntsville area interstates will soon be evaluated using a set of state and federal criteria called Transportation Performance Measures (TPM). According to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)’s TPM website, performance management is defined as “A strategic approach that uses system information to make investment and policy decisions to achieve national performance goals.” What this means is that the MPO’s planning documents, and the federal tax dollars attached to transportation projects funded by those documents, will now need to adhere to performance measures with goals and targets to meet every four years. In 2018, ALDOT’s performance measure targets will be completed and the Huntsville Area MPO will need to either agree to use the state’s targets in our planning documents or create new MPO-specific targets that meet our area’s planning needs.



Transit: Alabama A&M University wins \$1Million dollar grant for new buses!

Alabama A&M University has won the Low or No Emission (Low-No) Vehicle program grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA announced \$55 million in grant selections which will fund the development of transit buses and infrastructure that use advanced fuel technologies. Fifty-one projects in 39 states will receive a share of the funding. “The projects selected through the highly-competitive Low-No program all demonstrate strong value to American communities,” said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. “As transit providers nationwide face a backlog of maintenance needs, it is imperative to replace aging buses near the end of their useful life with newer, cleaner models that are also more efficient to operate and maintain.” - courtesy www.transit.dot.gov press release



Downtown Multi-Modal Center & Rail-Volution

Transit is an exciting part of the BIG Picture Huntsville's plan for the future of the Huntsville region. One BIG step forward in visioning our expanded transit future is the new multi-modal center downtown where local buses and national Greyhound buses now operate in one location.



The MPO is investing in transit as well. Two MPO staff members attended Rail-Volution in Denver, CO in September. At the conference, MPO staff learned about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), FTA Small Starts grants, and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). These are all ideas that could reshape the transportation future of the Huntsville metropolitan area! At the August MPO meeting, \$90,000 was approved for a Huntsville / Madison County Mid-Range Transit and Mobility Options Study. The goal of this study will be to look for innovative new transit options to expand public transit in the Huntsville-area over the next 10-15 year "mid-range" period.



Upcoming Plans and Projects

Five Points and Northeast Huntsville

In Five Points and Northeast Huntsville, all signs point to a rapidly transforming section of the City. As development pressures mount, now is the time to discuss the future of this area. On **October 17th at 6PM** at the Cooper House, 405 Randolph Ave, the BIG Picture will use interactive exercises with residents to help create a Small Area Plan (SAP) for the Five Points and Northeast Huntsville neighborhoods. SAPs utilize the principles set forth in the BIG Picture. They are fully created from public input and are tailored to the unique challenges facing various neighborhoods and opportunity sites. Watch the BIG Picture website in the coming months for information, images, and results from this meeting.

Ditto Landing Greenway Grant

The Ditto Landing Master Plan was the first SAP of the BIG Picture process. Ditto Landing continues to work with BIG Picture staff on projects to implement their master plan. In October, BIG Picture helped Ditto Landing apply for a \$10,000 People-ForBikes grant to help make the western extension of the Ditto Landing greenway a reality. This greenway will run along the Tennessee River to the TVA and Land Trust property on the west side of Memorial Parkway. If funded, this project will provide a safe route to access Ditto Landing from the west as well as more outdoor recreation for everyone.

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/>