



NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:
Robert B. Lake, Executive Director
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476-0509
(205) 333-2990 * FAX (205) 333-2713

January 23, 2012

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tuscaloosa Area will hold the following meetings:

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC), Monday, February 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m.;
2. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 5:00 p.m.;
3. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Thursday, February 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m.;
4. Metropolitan Planning Organization (Policy Committee), Monday, February 27, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

The meetings will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission, located at 4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1, Northport, Alabama.

Items that will be discussed at the meetings include: (1) the bicycle and pedestrian plan performance evaluation; (2) the draft bicycle and pedestrian plan vision statement, goals, objectives, and performance measures; (3) the McWrights Ferry Road protective purchase project; (4) the draft fiscal year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and (5) a proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment.

Proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment

- (Project Addition) 100057923 US-82 (SR-6, McFarland Boulevard) - Extending and adding new turn lanes with the City of Tuscaloosa, Preliminary Engineering, estimated start date 2/1/12, estimated cost \$450,000

Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The draft UPWP is available on the internet (<http://warc.info/index.php/transportation-planning/tuscaloosa-area-mpo/documents>), at the WARC office, and by request.

The public can comment on the proposed TIP amendment and the draft UPWP at any of the MPO committee meetings, by mail (at the address in the header), by e-mail (david.norris@adss.alabama.gov), by telephone (205-333-2990, x 213), or by fax (205-333-2713). Unless submitted at the MPO Policy Committee meeting, public comments regarding the TIP amendment will be accepted until February 24, 2012. Comments on the UPWP will be accepted until April 12, 2012.

The MPO Policy Committee plans how federal highway and transit funds are spent in Tuscaloosa County. The five voting members of the Policy Committee are the mayors of Tuscaloosa and Northport, the County Commission Chairman, the Alabama Department of Transportation Fifth Division Engineer, and the Executive Director of the West Alabama Regional Commission.

The MPO Policy Committee is served by three advisory committees: the BPC, CTAC, and the TCC. The BPC was formed to assist the MPO with bicycle and pedestrian issues. The CTAC was established to provide active public participation in the MPO planning process and to inform the MPO of public concerns related to transportation projects and issues. The TCC members review the transportation planning issues from a technical perspective making certain that all appropriate concerns are addressed, including local planning issues, engineering details, environmental questions, and future growth, among many others. The TCC also coordinates the work of the various departments and agencies involved in the transportation planning process. All of the local governments, the State DOT, and selected other transportation interests are represented on the TCC.

All of the meetings are open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance for the meetings should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior the meeting. For special assistance call the WARC at 333-2990.

- END -