



Comment Form Compilation—Region Meetings Round #1  
Alabama 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP)  
Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Hoover, Mobile and Montgomery  
September 20-28, 2016

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**TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENT FORMS RECEIVED: 38**

**Q1: IS THERE ANY IMPORTANT AREA *NOT* ADDRESSED BY THE DRAFT SWTP GOALS?**

- Revise goal to “Protect the natural environment” (vs. Promote and enhance the human and natural environment) **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Public transit receives inadequate attention, especially in light of climate change. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- The need for public transit is deemphasized. We must put much more consideration on this. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- True state-wide public transportation and input by millennials. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Combining UA and Tuscaloosa City transits for better service (longer hours and higher frequency) through the city, especially west side. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Additional funding for adding Amtrak route between Huntsville and Mobile. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Make walking and biking a safe option. I think more people would walk or bike if it were safer. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Depolitization [sic] of transportation planning process. Independent commissions. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Prichard, Chickasaw, Tillman Corner, Happy Hills where poor and working class are. They do not have public transportation. Not fair! **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Implement my plan to save millions and make millions by making the interstate safer from accidents (animal) at no major cost to state if adopted. New interstate fence built at no cost! **Response/follow up by study team.**
- Failure to recognize Tribes in all aspects of the presentation and documents provided, while FHWA continues to promote recognition of Tribes (as the funding source). **Response/follow up by study team.**
- Increase options for non-automobile travel. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- The promotion and funding of public transportation throughout the state; assisting with federal and local funding to subsidize local transit/statewide transit. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**



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- Public connectivity issues between urban and rural areas needs to improve. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Transit. The availability of transportation for those that don't have a personal means of transportation around Mobile County and its surrounding areas. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Coordination with adjacent states for improved regional transportation. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Improve funding mechanisms. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Investigate asset management techniques. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Incorporate health monitoring systems. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Discussion of shipping business on our rivers, update Alabama Cruise Terminal section, upgrade rail service, upgrade airports. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Technologies need to be promoted beyond monitoring and enhancing system performance. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- No mention of bike, ped, transit: ALL THREE are vital to FAST ACT! ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Prioritize the movement of people, **not** cars. Cars are disappearing, slowly, surely. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Develop a plan for roadway and bridge maintenance so funds can be used in the most efficient manner. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Promote the design-driven process where scopes are discussed in-depth to arrive at the most cost efficient solution for the taxpayer. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***



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**Q2: WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS FOR THE STATE TO EMPHASIZE OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS?**

	Most Important									Least Important
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Congestion reduction	XXXXX XXXXX X	X	XXXXX XXX	XXXXX X	XXXX	XXX			X	
Infrastructure condition	XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX	XXXXX XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XX				
Safety	XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX X	XXXX	XXX	XXXXX		X			X	
Freight movement	XXX	XXXXX XX	XXX	XXXXX XXXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX	
Transit access <sup>1</sup>	XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXX	XX	XX	XXXX	XX	XXX	XXXX			X
Bicycle/pedestrian facilities	XXXXX XX	XXX	XXXXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXXXX X	XX	XXX	X
Economic vitality <sup>2</sup>	XXXXX XXXXX X	XXXXX XXXXX XX	XXXXX XX	XXXX	XXXXX			X		
Environmental sustainability	XXXXX XX	XXXXX XX	XXXXX XX	XXX	X	X	XXXXX	XX	X	X

**\*NOTE: The category “Communication, Inclusion & Coordination with [Tribes]” was added by one respondent and given a 10.**

<sup>1</sup>One comment noted: “If this means free – cheap public transportation”

<sup>2</sup>This category was listed twice on some forms. If two different answers were given (4 occurrences), both were noted.



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**Q3: ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS THAT YOU THINK ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUR PART OF ALABAMA?**

- Northern Loop around Birmingham is a first-order boondoggle to open new corporate land holdings to further sprawl – with economic costs to core city. Shame on you guys! *Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.*
- Public transportation is much needed in Jefferson County. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Bridges – Road – Safety – Infrastructure. Making your rural area tie back with the urban area. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Transportation from intercity to outlying areas and jobs. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- We need more millennials on the planning team. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Improvements in mass transit is vital to this state’s economy. It should take priority over everything else. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Sooner or later, 69 South from Skyland Blvd to beyond the Army Reserve Center will need overpasses at intersections much like Memorial Parkway in Huntsville. Can add only so many lanes that won’t handle continued future growth in that area. *Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.*
- Provide sidewalks so that it is safe to walk on busy roads. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Free-cheap public transport for all of Tuscaloosa, AL. Shaded bus stops. “Tuscaloosa Trolley” is NOT helpful. Poor and elderly are left stranded. This should change. *Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.*
- Also concerned about environment and infrastructure overall. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- The ability to sustain economic growth is incredibly important. Anything specific to that end. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- We need a dedicated funding source for all the state’s public transit systems. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- More emphasis on mass transit. Bring elevated roads to street level. Use freeways to connect, not bisect, communities. *Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.*
- Four lane the rest of US 43 and US 84. *Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.*



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- To have reliable public transportation for all communities. There need to be forms of public transportation to compensate the working class and poverty stricken areas for all hours and days. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Exit 93 on I-65 needs another bridge across I-65 on Hwy 84. 84 needs to be four laned from 84/31 intersection across the interstate. New ramps (A & B) both N & S needs to be established then lighting put at the intersection. Economic growth and high truck volume demands action to be taken. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**  
**Response/follow up by study team.**
- Complete failure by ALDOT to incorporate, identify or recognize Tribes while FHWA (FAST Act) mandates such. **Response/follow up by study team.**
- In the Birmingham/Hoover region, we need a much more extensive mass transit system. We also need an intra-state passenger rail system.
- The addition of a designated tax for public transit. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- A level of focus should be directed toward public transportation – transit in an effort to reduce congestion, environmental sustainability, and assist in load capacity of state’s infrastructure. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Rail passenger service in-state has the opportunity to grow IF given consideration by planning in ALDOT. Current efforts to both restore Gulf Coast passenger services and return Amtrak service from Mobile to Birmingham and Huntsville have broad support from local, county, municipal and federal leaders. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- TRANSIT. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Completion of new Hwy 98 in west Mobile County. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Additional lanes to I-10 from Mississippi to Tillman’s Corner. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Build new bridge over Mobile River and Delta. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Baldwin County is the fastest growing county in Alabama. New businesses are coming to Mobile every day. What local planning is being done to stay ahead of the growth in the area?  
**Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation. (No contact information provided for additional response/follow up by study team.)**
- Completion of US 98 from Semmes to Mississippi State Line. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Reduction of congestion along I-10 (new bridge over Mobile River). **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**



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- Completion of secondary hurricane evacuation routes. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Improvements to the Port of Mobile. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- On your transit access map, Limestone County had no transit at all. It is surrounded by urban transit systems – Marshall, Morgan, Lauderdale and Madison counties. Seems like Limestone is an important link and in serious need of transit. A regional transit network would be wonderful. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Replacement of bridges and culverts that are currently in bad condition. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- There is not much public transportation available in North AL. This may become more necessary in the future. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Limestone Co. is lacking in public transit. I would like to see some sort of initiative for that area. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Improving the safety of our rural routes, and utility within Limestone County. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**

**Q4: PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU HAVE REGARDING THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**

- I tried repeatedly (9/26/16) to access comment page. Hope it's down only temporarily. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation. (Note: website was working when checked and new materials have been loaded.)**
- Specific “what if” scenario under “Key Plan Components”: What if climate change is as real as the vast preponderance of the scientific community claims – will Alabama not need to make significant investments in public transit to help reduce carbon emissions? **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- What are the three intermodal facilities shown for Dothan? [Sturkoski@dothan.com](mailto:Sturkoski@dothan.com); 334-792-5138 **Response/follow up by study team.**
- Put a little more effort into moving people from place to place. Fix problems before they become major problems. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- If any 21<sup>st</sup> century development is going to ever happen in Alabama, we need to truly have statewide public transportation. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Every community, urban and rural, needs mass transit. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Please contact via [sdatta19@gmail.com](mailto:sdatta19@gmail.com) or (205) 534-7746. Shompa Datta, Stillman College. **Response/follow up by study team.**





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- It would behoove Alabama to pass a gas tax to fund future road repairs. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- It would also behoove the state to actively assist in funding additional Amtrak routes between Huntsville and Mobile. The state could work with Tennessee in extending it to Nashville. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Really wish the state could assist Tuscaloosa in extending the main runway from 6500' to 8-8500' for larger aircraft and commerce. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- Would be nice to have swift intrastate transport; environment and infrastructure important throughout the state. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- Rural transportation, lack thereof, meeting the needs of people needing to get to work, school, medical appointments. Funding for creative ways to meet the needs. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**
- The streets should be repaired in all communities not just certain ones. Trinity, Garden still have ditches and property with sink holes. Prichard streets are horrible. Alabama Village is muddy and not paved. ALL communities deserve reliable public transportation and paved streets. Better drainage, Crichton under the underpass on Old Shell Road floods all the time. **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
- The above comments (Exit 93 on I-65 needs another bridge; Hwy 84 needs to be four laned; new ramps (A & B) both N & S needed) should be considered before the ramp expansion and bridge widening of Murder Creek on I-65. There needs to be NO vehicle crossover of US 84 from the ramps. There should be 2 exits for E/W on N side and 2 exits E/W on S side, with Hwy 84 being 4 laned. Love's is ready to expand for more truck traffic plus more trucking industry is coming along with other big box stores (3) coming to that exit plus 24/7 hotels there also. A container terminal is coming to this exit too? **Project or location specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer. Response/follow up by study team.**
- #2 priority of FHWA FAST Act PL114-94 "getting funding in the hands of states, locals, metro. Planning, MPOs, TRIBES, and others who can put it to use throughout the country." **Response/follow up by study team.**
- #4 priority of FHWA FAST Act PL114-94 "making progress on regulations related to the FAST Act." In short, FHWA understands the system is flooded with politics and prefers fidelity in the programs by transferring authority to locals that truly understand the needs of the people and can be held accountable. **Response/follow up by study team.**
- At the present time, there is too much emphasis on roads designed for cars only. We need more availability of non-automobile options: bike lanes (including on highways), HOV lanes, intra-state rail, special bus lanes. We also need park & ride lots. **Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.**



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- There should be a dedicated funding source from the state of Alabama that sets aside transit funding for Alabama state agency. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- TRANSIT. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- We have to increase the gas tax. ALDOT has to have the funding to do their jobs effectively. Other states have been able to accomplish this. Soon, the lifespan of all of the interstates will reach their effectiveness and will need replacing. Most were built at the same time and therefore will reach the end of their life at the same time. 50% of your bridges are older than 50 years old. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- Any consideration for electric and/or hybrid vehicles such as recharging stations along the interstate and state routes? Maybe placing these at rest areas? Impact of self-driving vehicles? ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation. Response/follow up by study team.***
- Local MPOs need the authority and capability to go “off model” with their Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) or local Year 2040 plans. Mr. Wilburn talked a lot about the SWTP model assumptions vs. local models. And he implied that local MPO staff have the ability to use models only as a tool and make plans based on local information that may make the model’s congestion predictions unreliable. It has not been my experience that local MPOs can go “off model” in planning. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- I would like to see more emphasis on pedestrian facilities. (Maybe require the addition of sidewalks with all roadway projects – excluding resurfacing, maintenance, etc.). ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- I’m also interested in the promotion of roundabouts in the interest of being cost-effective and low maintenance for the cities and counties. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***
- I would like to see cohesion among consultants and ALDOT personnel on all levels of funding as projects come from multiple sources. I believe a vast amount of experience can be shared through technical expertise and general knowledge between both entities throughout all Regions in Alabama. ***Comment noted and captured in outreach documentation.***