



Comments from Public and Stakeholder Meetings—Round #1
Alabama 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP)
Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Hoover, Mobile and Montgomery
September 20-28, 2016

The following lists the comments provided verbally during the Region Meetings, both as part of the Q&A and/or separately to consultant staff (when able to be noted). In addition, questions/comments submitted afterwards (via email) are also provided here and noted with a preceding asterisk.

NOTE: All written comments provided on the comment form distributed at the meeting (either turned in during the meeting or submitted separately afterwards) are noted on the separate compilation of comment form responses.

Huntsville (33 signed in)

- How will the long range plan filter down and show on a micro scale as to what intersections might need to be improved? Will the large-scale model give information on specific intersections or just a broad spectrum view? (Dan Sanders, City of Huntsville Traffic Engineer) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Since the models are based on historical data, is it possible and how might they be modified to account for more jobs, more travel and a decrease in LOS over a shorter period of time due to a spike in travel that was not planned for? (ALDOT) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- If and how will public transportation be implemented in the 14 counties that do not have access to at this time? (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Does Birmingham have a major problem with traffic from an LOS standpoint? (Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Is driverless technology going to be looked at in the LRTP? (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Will deficiencies be looked at in all modes of transportation? Several locks on the Tennessee River are already exceeding capacity. (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- EMAIL #1. ***Comments noted; Curtis Vincent, Region Engineer responded via email on 10/5/16.***
 - *Has the Memphis-Huntsville freeway been scrapped or pushed up another 10-15 years?
 - *Is it possible to re-direct some of the earmarked monies already set for local upgrades and fund the interstate?
 - *You have looked at details, reports, growth data and other variables stating our current system is already over capacitated [sic].



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- *The dire need for the Huntsville, Madison and Limestone area is for I-565 to be extended and widened. Adding another interchange in Madison is going to add more transportation issues on trying to get out of the city.
- *On Monday the 19th, there were three wrecks on I-565 going eastbound and one of the vehicles was on its roof.
- *I find myself exiting on to Old Hwy 20 and beating the backed up traffic on I-565. We are going to [be] larger than Birmingham in about 5 years and we only have one and half major routes to get out of Huntsville (I-565 and 255).
- *Six lane I-565 to the interchange.
- *Cut through the for [sic] the Southern Bypass and connect Weatherly and others.
- *Re-engineer the service road access exit onto north parkway and University drive. Basically bridge over the service roads to connect. Split it halfway through so people can access it.
- *Continue eastward towards Gurley and put a [sic] interchange at Moores Mill, Shields, Ryland Pike and Dug Road and have some type of better access to connect to Old 431 a.k.a. that leads into Owens Cross Roads Hampton Cove.
- EMAIL #2. **Comments noted; project specific comment forwarded to Region Engineer.**
 - *It's probably all well known, but during peak times we typically have bottlenecks at I-65 and I-565, Hwy 72 in the 2 lane region crawls along, Hwy 53 in the 2 lane portions get bogged down. I wish the 4 lane would have went [sic] at least to the Harvest Road intersection, after that there isn't a traffic light for a long while, and Research Park Blvd is regularly stop and go now – I can just imagine as the area continues to expand.
 - *For Hwy 72 I almost feel like there needs to be a bypass to go around Madison as a lot of traffic is trying to flow through there from what I noticed, but I don't know the feasibility of this, and I'm sure it's costly, and let's face it Madison probably won't like it either as it will drop traffic going through there. It bogs down around Jeff Road until you get past the Target/Madison Hospital area.

Tuscaloosa (25 signed in)

- Lurleen Wallace Boulevard has about 70,000 vehicles per day and is not represented that way on the map (i.e., it's orange when it should be red). (James Brown) **Mr. Brown is correct. The map, when zoomed in, has two parallel lines representing I-359 NB and SB, and they both show about 35,000 vehicles per day. This will be corrected to have a single line, and the map will be checked for other instances like this.**



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- Tuscaloosa Airport – need to verify that it isn't a commercial airport. (James Brown) ***It was confirmed that the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport no longer offers regularly scheduled commercial airline service.***
- Does the Tuscaloosa bus system use federal dollars? (General Public) ***It was confirmed with the University of Alabama Transportation Services that the Crimson Ride does not receive any federal (FTA) funds.***
- Why doesn't Alabama have a statewide transit funding line-item? (General Public) ***Response provided during the meeting.***
- Is there a Statewide Transit Plan? (General Public) ***Response provided during the meeting.***
- What is the state doing to make bicycle and pedestrian travel safer? (General Public) ***Response provided during the meeting.***
- Can the City and the University of Alabama service be merged to provide better service? (General Public) ***Response provided during the meeting.***
- More state funding is needed for transit. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***

Hoover (29 signed in)

- How can transportation planning be improved? It would appear that this plan is focused on moving vehicles and does not have enough emphasis on transit. (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Will the SWTP look at intercity passenger rail? (General Public) ***Response provided during the meeting.***
- Is future behavior being projected based on current behavior? Evidence would suggest that millennials are driving less. Millennials are not represented in the planning process. (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- How can one expect non-auto travel to be overwhelmingly popular when the transportation network is not designed for alternative modes? (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- Why hasn't rail transit been considered? (General Public) ***Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.***
- More state funding is needed for transit. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***
- Proposed an amendment that 1.7% of gas taxes go to urban and rural transit. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***
- Public transit is vital to the quality of life. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***
- A statewide funding source for transit is needed. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***
- The provision of alternative modes is also a safety issue and safety is important. (General Public) ***Comment noted.***



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- The West Alabama RPC needs to be modeled given their efforts towards intercity bus. (General Public) **Comment noted.**
- For every one dollar spent on transit, five dollars of economic development is generated. (General Public) **Comment noted.**

Mobile (40 signed in)

- How does the plan address transit for the public? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- It appears the plan presented has congestion as the primary item of concern. (General Public) **Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.**
- A show of hands was requested by a person to see how many people were there who came for transit information; ten people raised their hand. (General Public) **Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.**
- A question was raised about the factors shown on the slides of emphasis areas. (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- The Port of Mobile is looking at creating an inland port in the Evergreen area of the state. (General Public) **Comment noted.**

Montgomery (24 signed in)

- How does the statewide plan measure congestion? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- Can counters distinguish between a truck and regular vehicles? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- Are truck counts on the website? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- Are you familiar with the Harvard freight clustering model? I mention it because it may be a useful tool? (General Public) **Comment noted; response provided during the meeting.**
- Do you take into account the aging population when accounting for safety? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- How are capacities determined (seasonal, peak time, ESAL's, etc.)? (General Public) **Response provided during the meeting.**
- More attention and support needs to be given to waterways by the state. (General Public) **Comment noted.**