

ALDOT

FALL 2023

Inside Lane

SASHTO '23: ALDOT Hosts Region's Largest Transportation Event

Improving work zone safety, addressing the challenges of homelessness on public right-of-way, and working with fast-growing cities to meet the needs that come with increasing traffic are just a few of the issues commonly faced by state departments of transportation. To address these types of issues, ALDOT brought together more than 1,300 transportation officials and industry representatives to Mobile, Alabama for the 82nd Annual SASHTO Conference. SASHTO, the Southeastern Association of Transportation Officials, facilitates the development of an integrated transportation system across the southeastern states.

As Alabama's Port City, Mobile provided a fitting backdrop for the SASHTO conference. From technical tours of the Port of Mobile and the Flight Works/Airbus facility to a presentation on the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project, attendees got an inside look at some of the state's largest transportation facilities.

SASHTO guests were also treated to the best in Southern hospitality with the Mardi Gras spirit of Mobile.

"This conference is a great way to network with our neighboring states and partners," said Southwest Region Deputy Region Engineer Brian Aaron. "This creates opportunities to discuss the trending topics

of today, such as drone and AI technology uses, the increased awareness being put on roadway and pedestrian safety and many other topics help to ensure that we are all working towards the same goal when it comes to achieving the mission of building and maintaining roads and bridges in our own states."

Special guest speakers Governor Kay Ivey and Congressman Jerry Carl welcomed SASHTO attendees to Alabama. Gov. Ivey encouraged those at the con."

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Chief Engineer, Ed Austin during opening session of SASHTO 2023

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There's a New Code of the Road



When is the last time you smoked marijuana and drove high? It's just one of the "man on the street" interview questions that is part of a new Drive Safe Alabama campaign from ALDOT launched this fall called Code of the Road.

The new campaign takes an entertaining approach to delivering a serious message about keeping yourself and others on the road safe. Watching out for your passengers or others on the road and caring about what happens to them is the basis for the "code." The campaign tagline is, "There's a Code of the Road, and knowing it helps you follow it."

"So much about safe driving comes down to how we respect each other," says ALDOT Communications Manager Allison Green. "Respect is really the underlying message of the 'codes' we highlight in our Code of the Road campaign."

With 18-34-year-old men having the highest number of fatal crashes, many of the campaign messages were designed to appeal to that audience. Humor and sarcasm in the messages pave the way to deliver important facts about safe driving.

"Most people don't want to read research reports about the causes of roadway crashes and dive into the data behind the crashes," Green said. "But many people will watch a 15-second video on social media to get a laugh that comes with a serious message."

Focus group research was done to gain insight into how people will respond to the messages of the campaign. The focus groups included men and women in the 18-34-year-old age range and participants from both rural and urban areas of Alabama. Feedback from the focus groups indicated that the Code of the Road messages will help change driver behavior. Wording on some of the messages was changed based on comments from the participants and the type of unsafe driving behaviors they admitted that they or their friends do.

There are more than 40,000 vehicle crashes each year on Alabama roads, and most of those crashes are preventable just by following the "Code of the Road." Check out some of the videos from this new Drive Safe Alabama campaign by clicking on the QR Code below.



The DSA Code of the Road campaign included a series of video and audio ads that were placed on social media and streaming platforms, digital banner ads, and outdoor boards across the state.



ALDOT Hosts Region's Largest Transportation Event *continued from cover*

Producing an event of this size and delivering on the conference theme of "Flourish, Celebrate, Connect," took the talent and commitment of a large group of ALDOT employees. "The team-building value of the SASHTO Conference will continue to benefit the department well beyond the event," said Chief Engineer Ed Austin. "I am so thankful for and proud of our people, who brought the conference to life and represented our department and state in the best way."

ALDOT leaders opened the general sessions and served as moderators for the technical sessions and presented during some technical sessions. Deputy Director Lamar Woodham presented with Laura Chambliss of Troy University on Developing Future Leaders: ALDOT Leadership Academy. Mobile River Bridge Project Director Edwin Perry presented Design Build on a Mega Project: The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway.

Cameron Dubois, a Civil Engineering Graduate in the ALDOT Maintenance Bureau, shared her singing talent and joined the Voices of Mobile Choir to open the event with an audience favorite song, Sweet Home Alabama. Southwest Region Civil Engineering Graduate and trumpet player Bradley Cooper, brought Mardi Gras energy to the closing session and led the attendees out in Mardi Gras-style with a parade inside the Mobile Convention Center.

Originally, Alabama was scheduled to host SASHTO in 2020, but plans were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, the location of the SASHTO conference rotates to one of the 13 member states.

above left to right

Southwest Region employee, Bradley Cooper performing with the Excelsior Brass Band parade

Keynote Speaker Jason Dorsey

ALDOT Maintenance Bureau's Cameron Dubois opens SASHTO with *Sweet Home Alabama*

Southwest Regions employees, Aaron and Nina Richardson and Brittany and Daniel Ganus pose for opening reception photo



Scan the code to check out the ALDOT sizzle reel from SASHTO 2023, or visit youtube.com/watch?v=nu3D38Rtu-g

Work Resumes on Intracoastal Waterway Bridge

The Alabama Supreme Court made a unanimous decision in August 2023 to allow construction of a new toll-free bridge over the intracoastal waterway in Gulf Shores to move ahead.

In October 2022, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded a contract to construct a toll-free bridge over the intracoastal waterway in Baldwin County, which is intended to alleviate the traffic congestion on Highway 59, support access to emergency services and make it safer to evacuate in the case of a storm or emergency.

A Montgomery County Circuit Court judge in May 2023 ordered ALDOT to stop construction on the bridge after the Baldwin County Bridge Company asked for a preliminary injunction while they were pursuing a lawsuit. The bridge company claimed the bridge was "unnecessary" and could put their toll bridge out of business.

ALDOT released a statement regarding the Alabama Supreme Court's unanimous decision in August 2023 to dissolve the preliminary injunction:

"With Baldwin County Bridge Company's request for a rehearing denied and the Supreme Court's previous ruling in favor of ALDOT now finalized, ALDOT's bridge contractor Scott Bridge Company has been directed to resume work immediately. The Supreme Court's decision is a victory for ALDOT's effort to complete a toll-free bridge that will reduce traffic congestion to and from Alabama's Gulf Coast beach communities. We are gratified that the Court ruled in our favor so we can get back to work on a project that is sorely needed."



Joint Transportation Committee Visits Historic Gee's Bend Ferry

In August, the Alabama Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee took a ride aboard the historic Gee's Bend Ferry. The ferry, which is owned by ALDOT and operated by HMS Ferries on the Department's behalf, connects the Gee's Bend community, which is also known as Boykin, to the Wilcox County seat of Camden across the Alabama River.

The small community of Gee's Bend is famous the world over for its quilts, and offers visitors and tourists a chance to learn more about the history of Gee's Bend and its unique culture on the Gee's Bend Quilt Trail, a self-guided tour of quilt blocks that are displayed on barns and other buildings throughout the community.

The Joint Transportation Committee was able to get an up close and personal look at a few of the Gee's Bend quilters in action and were able to attend a presentation with demonstration at the Gee's Bend Welcome Center. There, committee members and guests learned about the history of the community's world-famous quilts and quilters and some of the high profile people and places that have featured their art.

Joint Transportation Committee members were also able to learn a great deal about the ferry itself, which made headlines back in 2018 for becoming the first all-electric ferry in North America. Thanks in part to a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ALDOT was able to successfully convert the diesel-powered workboat into a battery-powered electric vessel. JTC Chair Rep. Margie Wilcox said that she believed that it was important for committee members to understand some of the more unique transportation projects that ALDOT has undertaken over the years.

above Joint Transportation Committee aboard the historic Gee's Bend Ferry

ALDOT Launches Online News Site

Alabamians have a new way to learn about the work ALDOT is doing across the state and other related transportation and road safety topics. This fall, the Media and Community Relations Bureau launched ALDOTNews.com, an online news site.

The new, mobile-friendly website provides timely information about local traffic and road construction, public involvement opportunities, highway safety, ALDOT grant programs, and more.

"ALDOTNews.com provides Alabama drivers, elected officials, news outlets and others with the most up-to-date transportation information available in Alabama, ranging from current traffic conditions to long-term transportation

plans," said Media and Community Relations Bureau Chief Tony Harris. "For our employees, ALDOT News will also provide a broader perspective of the department and how their job matters to the overall ALDOT mission."

Changes in the media world have made it strategically important for ALDOT to have its own news site where it can distribute accurate, timely information to the public. Today, there are fewer newspapers being published. Television news staffs have been cut in size, which limits the availability of journalists to cover news. More often, the public is seeing news about ALDOT and its projects on social media or blogs that often publish inaccurate and incomplete information.

"With ALDOTNews.com, we can reach more of our stakeholders with accurate, timely information," Harris said. "The site also makes it easier for the public to find the transportation information they need and share with others."

ALDOT employees are encouraged to share the ALDOTNews.com site with their friends and family, and contacts they work with from counties, cities, associations, contractors and other organizations.

Visit [ALDOTNews.com](https://algotnews.com) and stay connected with us for a brighter and more informed future on the road.



Meet Training Bureau Chief Craig Guthridge: Training Empowers Employees

When did you join ALDOT, and where did you work prior to ALDOT?

I came to ALDOT in January 2023. I was previously with the Alabama Department of Corrections, where I served as the Deputy Director of Training since 2019. I retired from active duty, U.S. Air Force in 2019, after 23 years of service specializing in Education, Training, Workforce & Leadership development. In those 23 years, I served all over the world in various leadership roles for dozens of different classifications, specializations and functional units.

What is something you learned from your travels with the military that influences your work or how you approach your job?

Simply put, mindset. Your situation or your job is largely what you make of it. This is especially important as a leader, but it applies to everybody. Your mindset can affect those around you. You can affect the climate and culture of the workforce, and more importantly, your mindset can motivate and inspire others in a positive way. However, as leaders, it's our duty to ensure that everybody understands where they fit into the bigger picture, how they contribute to the overall mission of ALDOT, and that they understand why what they do is important and really matters to our ability to successfully complete that mission. If the job didn't matter or contribute, then we wouldn't have it at ALDOT. This starts with our mindset and continues through appropriate and effective training and development programs.

What is your vision for the future of the Training Bureau?

The Training Bureau is transitioning to a team approach to support training needs, instead of a single person being assigned to support the training needs of a bureau or region. This way, a training representative is always available to respond to training related assistance in a timely, professional manner. The Training Bureau's vision is



to "Provide education, training, and professional development opportunities for the ALDOT workforce."

What types of training courses would you like the Training Bureau to offer?

In the future, I would like to see ALDOT offer more professional and leadership development options to new and existing supervisors and emerging leaders at the appropriate level. These courses would be in addition to the courses offered through the ALDOT Leadership Academy. I would also like to offer training for Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) events, otherwise known as LEAN, or Six Sigma training.

We are also working to update a training program that ALDOT offered in the past, so that current and new employees have an opportunity to complete professional development courses online and at their own pace, working toward ALDOT Career Enhancement (ACE) certifications. We want to provide employees with beneficial, meaningful, and practical trainings to continue their professional goals and growth journey.

What would you say is the biggest benefit of the Training Bureau that employees may not know about or do not take advantage of?

The Training Bureau offers more than classes that employees just check off to meet the basic requirements of their job.

Our bureau wants to work with employees to take advantage of the complete training and development program we offer. It is this type of training that empowers employees to build trust with ALDOT leadership and achieve their own goals and future with ALDOT.

Can you give us more information on the Continuum of Learning concept that you introduced to ALDOT and what that means to an ALDOT employee, whether they are working out in the field or behind the desk in an office?

The ALDOT Continuum of Learning (CoL) is not just a graphic hanging on the wall in our work areas. CoL shows how we can become adaptable and knowledgeable employees through a combination of training, workforce development and experiential learning opportunities. 1) Training includes technical requirements, on-the-job training and other job or career-specific training and certifications. 2) Development includes professional or workforce development and professional growth, supervisory training, leadership training and continuing education requirements from industry partners and vendors. 3) Experiential Learning is obtained through time on the job or the appropriate series of job assignments and special programs, coaching and mentoring and shared opportunities with industry partners or vendors.

ALDOT Leadership Academy 2023 Year in Review

This spring, 28 more promising ALDOT employees graduated the Department's most recent Leadership Academy. Graduates were presented with a wide range of leadership information, including modules that discussed the History of ALDOT, character and ethics, emotional intelligence, strategic leadership, communication and much more. This Academy was hosted once again at Lakepoint State Park, located in Eufaula, and included employees from a wide range of positions and locations across the state.

In November, the Leadership Academy Steering Committee hosted its third Leadership Reunion at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort. The Reunion is an opportunity for graduates from all prior Leadership Academies to come together and continue to learn and develop as leaders in the Department. Speakers this year included international speaker Alan Mallory and Becky White of Sain and Associates, as well as members of ALDOT's Administration Bureau and Troy University Montgomery's Leadership Development Program.



top Wes Fulmer receiving a plaque in appreciation of his service since he is stepping off the team

bottom Everyone listening to Alan Mallory's presentation

Navigate Holiday Stress

'Tis the season for family get-togethers and Hallmark family movies, but for many, the holiday season can be the most difficult time of the year. The need for emotional support, specifically for anxiety and depression, often quadruples from October through December each year. There are several reasons why people struggle more emotionally during the holidays, beginning with the season itself. In many parts of the world, daylight is shorter and temperatures are colder this time of year, resulting in less time spent outdoors or doing physical activity.

The sheer busyness of the holidays is another common stress factor. Not only are there more errands to run (presents to buy, packing to do), but the calendar is usually full of concerts, parties, and family commitments. Anxiety over finances is also common during the holidays. The push to buy and spend begins weeks before Black Friday and lasts all season. You may feel bad for spending too much or worry that you haven't spent enough and fear disappointing people. Try these five tips for a healthy holiday experience:

1. Set realistic expectations for your time and energy.

Decide in advance what events you really want to attend, and politely decline the others. Give yourself the freedom to say no without guilt.

2. Set realistic expectations for your finances. Decide on a budget that is reasonable. Don't get roped into the commercialism of the season.

3. Surround yourself with healthy people. Try to spend time with people who encourage and support you. Avoid toxic people, even if that means declining some holiday invitations or limiting communication with certain individuals or groups. If you are dealing with grief or addiction, consider joining a support group so you can communicate with people sharing similar struggles; most organizations have set up special online, telephone and email support systems.

4. Take care of yourself physically. Don't sacrifice sleep to get things done. Instead, recognize that you need rest to be able to recharge. Aim to eat healthy and try to stock your fridge with nutritious options and fewer sugary snacks. Avoid excessive consumption of alcohol.

5. Take care of yourself emotionally. Schedule quiet time for yourself daily to unplug and unwind. During this time, you may choose to walk, journal, meditate or practice mindfulness.

If you are concerned about your mental health, don't hesitate to seek advice. Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides free and confidential assessment and counseling services. **Call your designated BHS Care Coordinator today at 800-245-1150 to get started.**

State Employee Combined Charitable Campaign

Since 1993, state employees have donated more than \$20 million to the State Combined Campaign (SCC) charitable organizations that have been vetted by state employees. The SCC is the only way Alabama's state employees can give to their favorite charity or charities through payroll deduction. The 2023 state campaign goal is \$785,000.

The SCC is a once-a-year, on-the-job charitable solicitation of state employees. The campaign permits state employees to give monetary support to qualified human health, welfare and human care service charities recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under 26U.S.C.501(c)(3).

The SCC supports the work of approved charitable agencies and organizations. These agencies fight disease, make life

more meaningful for the young and aged, assist the impoverished, and help people become economically self-sufficient.

Oversight of the campaign is provided by a steering committee composed of a chair, appointed by the governor, and six other members representing all three branches of state government.

Local organization and administration are accomplished through 10 Local Agency Review Committees (LARCs) comprised of state employees throughout Alabama. Local Campaign Managers support LARCs. This ensures local input from agency review to distribution of funds and other campaign procedures.

Alabama Law permits the use of time during the workday throughout the



campaign period for volunteers to participate in the SCC, with the approval of the department head.

Employees wanting to contribute to the campaign should turn in a pledge form to their office administrator before Dec. 3, 2023.



Welcome Center Winner for the 4th Quarter

I-85 Welcome Center

left to right Jake Debusk, Tommie Lockhart, James Benson, and Jamie Davis



Rest Area Winner for the 4th Quarter

I-59 Northbound Tuscaloosa Rest Area

left to right Jonathan Ford, Derek Sanders, William Aaron, Angela Randolph, Alicia Christen, Baylock Burton, Christopher Colvin

West Central Region News

Drake Honored with National Award



Steven Drake doesn't like to talk about his accomplishments. It's just not his nature. The seven-year Agronomist Senior would rather talk about how his 18 employees throughout the West Central Region should receive praise and how they make him look good. However, Greg Wall, representative for Helena Chemicals was determined to showcase Drake's work.

Wall nominated Drake for the National Roadside Vegetation Management Association (NRVMA) award, which recognizes individuals who have excelled in their efforts to maintain the nation's roadways. Individuals are nominated based on their overall program results, individual efforts or leadership qualities. Drake

received the award September 12 at a celebratory luncheon in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"Greg saw my work and was impressed," Drake said. "He felt the need to recognize me even though I told him it wasn't necessary, but he insisted. Honestly, there are so many other people who deserve this. I don't deserve it. My guys deserve the award because they do all of the work."

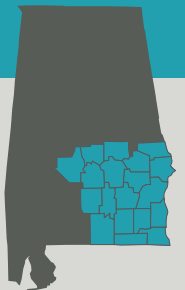
Vegetation management is the process of promoting stable, low-growing plants and stopping weeds or unwanted growth. If Drake and his crew do their jobs, it saves the state money by eliminating mowing cycles and improves site-distance for motorists.

"Having someone outside my organization notice the work we're doing with the vegetation program means a lot," Drake said. "Proper vegetation management reduces the risk for overturned tractors and makes it safer for everyone, too."

Drake said he's not satisfied, even though he won the award. He wants to continue learning different tips and techniques so he can apply those within the region and have the vegetation program grow even more.

"We're always looking to get better," Drake said. "Putting in the work and seeing the direct results of your work is fulfilling. I want to see what other agencies do and see how we can incorporate any cost-saving or time-saving measures into what we do."

Southeast Region News



Remembering Ramsey Ashmore



On September 14, 2023, the Montgomery Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) honored Past President Ramsey Ashmore at their Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. They were able to raise \$8,000 for the annual scholarship fund to provide funds to high school seniors in the River Region area that plan to enroll in Civil Engineering in college.

Ramsey Ashmore started at ALDOT in 2008 as a Professional Civil Engineer Trainee Program. By 2021 he had worked his way to Montgomery Area Maintenance Engineer. In September 2021, Ramsey was diagnosed with colon cancer. During his battle with cancer, Ramsey continued to leave his mark on ALDOT. Cooper Calhoun, Montgomery Area Construction Engineer said, "Ramsey demonstrated unwavering dedication and an extraordinary work ethic that should inspire all of us at

ALDOT. Even while fighting a battle that ultimately claimed his life, Ramsey's positive demeanor and unwavering strength during his last year serve as a testament to his spirit, fueled by a power greater than himself. I am incredibly fortunate to have had Ramsey as a boss/colleague and his memory will continue to inspire and live on as a reminder of how hard work and positive attitudes can affect the lives of others around you even after you are gone."

Ramsey was a respected engineer across the state, but first he was a husband and father. Ramsey married Ellen Trotman in November 2013 and in 2017 they welcomed their first son, Trot and in 2020 their youngest son, Mac. As a family they enjoyed hunting, fishing, baseball, golf, and being outside making memories.

Tyler Ashmore, Southeast Region Preconstruction Engineer and Ramsey's cousin

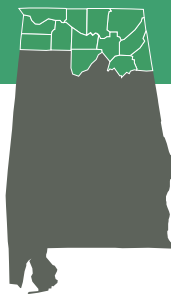
said, "From the time Ramsey was diagnosed with cancer, he demonstrated to everyone a new meaning of the word 'strong'. He was a Godly man, a devoted husband and father, and a great friend to those who knew him. Ramsey never once asked 'Why me?' when learning of his diagnosis. Instead, he took it as an opportunity to grow stronger in his faith and to ensure those around him did as well. He was an inspiration to all."

Ramsey was a firm believer in God and relied on his faith during his battle with cancer. Ramsey said multiple times that cancer was a blessing because it gave him the time he needed to "get right with the Lord" and to spend as much time as allowed to make memories with his family. When Ramsey passed on November 26, 2022, he went home to be with his Heavenly Father.

above Ramsey Ashmore, January 2, 1987—November 26, 2022

below, left to right William Ashmore (father), Jennie Ashmore (mother), Ellen Ashmore (wife), Wagner Ashmore (brother)





Two Slides Fixed in North Alabama

ALDOT this fall completed repairs to landslides on two state highways in the North Region.

During a severe weather event in spring 2021, a backslope above SR-9 north of Piedmont in Cherokee County failed. The slide covered both lanes in debris, rendering the road impassable until Gadsden District crews were able to cut fallen trees and haul away mud and debris.

The following year, a slope below SR-24 near Trinity in Morgan County gave way, leading to a long-term closure of the outside eastbound lane.

ALDOT implemented two different solutions for these slides.

Assistant Maintenance Engineer Zach Bennett said the Guntersville Area reviewed multiple options, such as soil nail and soldier pile walls, for the Cherokee County slide, which was about 400 feet long and more than 100 feet tall. Ultimately, they opted for a rock buttress repair, which involved cutting benches into the slope and filling with stone to stabilize the slope and reduce erosion.

The rock buttress was constructed by ALDOT forces from West Central Region at a considerable cost savings.

"Wes Spiller and his crew from the Hamilton District spent two months making the repair," Bennett said. "Their cost estimate was \$1 million, versus \$3 million if we let it to contract, and they've done a great job on it. We're grateful for their expertise and assistance."

The repair included the Hamilton crew excavating nearly 6,000 cubic yards of material, benching slopes, installing 5,000 square yards of filter fabric, and placing almost 10,000 tons of riprap.

Meanwhile, in Morgan County, contractor F&W construction, on a nearly \$2.2 million contract, constructed a 28-foot-high, 330-foot-long soldier pile wall with a soil nail tieback to address that slide. After constructing the retaining wall, which uses steel I-beams or "soldier beams" driven into the earth as vertical supports, they installed guardrail and a five-foot high safety fence along the top of the wall.

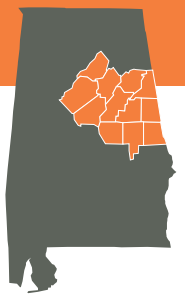
ALDOT Tusculumbia Area Field Operations Manager JaCey Wilson said the slope had been a problem area for decades and underwent a previous repair in the 1990s. Movement in the slope had accelerated due to periods of heavy rain in recent years, eventually to the point of requiring the lane closure while a permanent solution was determined.



top Cherokee County landslide above SR-9

middle Cherokee County landslide repair

bottom Morgan County landslide repair



Governor Ivey Announces Widening of I-65, Hoover Interchange Project, and Widening of I-59

Gov. Kay Ivey during a press event announced three major interstate projects totaling approximately a half a billion dollars. The governor made the announcements at Hoover City Hall to a gathering of local officials from Shelby and Jefferson counties, state senators and representatives, federal officials, economic development officials and others.

The largest project announced is the next phase of the governor's plans to widen Interstate 65 from Alabaster to Calera, which runs from Exit 238 to Exit 231. This project includes six bridges over rail tracks and two bridges over County Road 26. The project will be broken into three phases that will eventually be under construction all at once. This project has an estimated cost of approximately \$300 million. The Shelby County Commission, city of Alabaster, city of Calera and 58 Inc. are providing a total of \$20 million in local matching funds, with the remaining funds coming from the state of Alabama.

The second largest project is the construction of a new interchange to connect Interstate 459 to Highway 150 and South Shades Crest Road in Hoover. The new Hoover Interchange will be located about one mile from the current Exit 10. The project is a City of Hoover-led initiative, totaling \$120 million.

The final project will widen Interstate 59 from I-459 to Chalkville Mountain Road, a distance of about four miles. This project will provide additional capacity in this congested area and accommodate future traffic volumes, including those generated by the Birmingham Northern Beltline. This project has an estimated cost of approximately \$80 million in ALDOT funds.

Gov. Ivey concluded her remarks recognizing the diligent teamwork of local, state and federal officials who have prioritized the feat to Rebuild Alabama, while expressing her optimism for the work ahead.

"We have been working a long time to make these announcements possible—projects totaling about a half a billion dollars. These are wise investments to Rebuild Alabama, and I am proud to get dirt churning on these all within the year," said Gov. Ivey.

Since taking office, Gov. Ivey has made transportation infrastructure a top priority, tackling Alabama's previously stagnant roadway progress by renewing investments in infrastructure statewide. In 2019, Gov. Ivey signed into law the historic Rebuild Alabama Act, her legislative plan to comprehensively address the state's pressing infrastructure issues. Championing more than \$170 million dollars in state transportation funding, 400 miles of

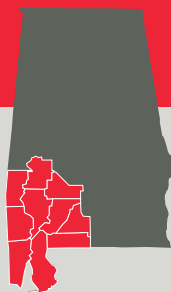
resurfaced roadways and 234 new road and bridge projects spread across all 67 counties, Rebuild Alabama is a proven investment in public safety, economic development and the overall progress and prosperity of Alabama. Under Governor Ivey's leadership, more than 1,500 road and bridge projects worth \$5 billion have been administered across the state.



top Gov. Ivey, Ed Austin and Dejarvis Leonard at the announcement ceremony



bottom Gov. Ivey speaks to media about the upcoming projects



Wide Open: AL SR-158 "Open Road" to Progress

The opening of the new State Route 158 in Mobile County from the Alabama to the Mississippi state line to Interstate 65 in Mobile was a big event for ALDOT engineers, the

department, the state and for motorists who have been eager to see its completion.

The SR-158 Corridor opened to the public October 17, 2023, with a media tour and

ribbon cutting unveiling a true feat of engineering with its innovative design and highway construction.

The 14.32-mile two lane highway is unique in its design, featuring an environmentally friendly construction stormwater system. SR-158 is described as a highway that has changed how roadway planning, design and maintenance, contract administration and regulatory compliance can all be integrated into future highway construction.

The project paused in 2007 after several environmental delays and redesigns. It ramped up again in 2015. The project's total cost was \$109.33 million, a collective effort including state and federal dollars and

special funding appropriated from the State of Alabama from the 2010 BP oil spill settlement fund.

The current project is designed to accommodate two additional lanes, expanded to a four-lane highway in the future.

top Alabama State Route 158 Now Open

bottom Connecting Communities—Safely!



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