What Is the Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP)?

- Federally mandated, long range (2040) assessment of the state’s transportation system network
- Considers the extent of modal coverage and connectivity across state and between modes
- Geographically builds on the 14 urban area MPOs (metropolitan planning organizations) and 12 rural area RPOs (rural planning organizations)
- Focuses on programs, policies and strategies
- Not a detailed listing of projects; those are included in the short-term State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (http://cpmsapps.dot.state.al.us/OfficeEngineer/Plan/Statewide)
Key Plan Components

- Multimodal—roads and bridges, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, rail, aviation and waterways

- Reflects other short and long-range plans
  - Urban area MPO plans
  - Mode specific plans by other ALDOT bureaus

- Final products
  - Updated statewide travel demand model
  - Interim reports on conditions and needs (existing and future)
  - “What If” Improvement Scenarios technical report
  - Draft and Final Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP) report and summary documents
SWTP Update Key Milestones

- September 2016 – Existing conditions, travel demand model development, and 1st round of regional meetings
- January 2017 – Projected 2040 conditions and existing/future needs
- February 2017 – “What if” improvement scenarios
- April 2017 – Draft Plan and 2nd round of regional meetings
- May 2017 – Final Plan
Statewide Planning Emphasis Areas

- Congestion reduction
- System reliability
- Infrastructure condition
- Freight movement and economic vitality
- Safety
- Reduce project delivery delays
- Innovation/technology
- Environmental sustainability
Alabama’s Transportation Goals

- Improve reliability and reduce congestion on the roadway network
- Ensure a state of good repair along roadways and bridges
- Improve economic benefits by supporting public and private sector investment
- Prioritize improvements that preserve mobility on the network
- Promote the safety and security of the transportation network
- Make more effective and efficient use of limited funding
- Promote the use of technologies to monitor and enhance system performance
- Promote and enhance the human and natural environment
Travel Demand Modeling

- The Statewide Travel Demand Model is a tool for determining existing and future roadway congestion.
- The State is divided into 1,179 analysis zones based on Census Tracts.
- Socioeconomic data on households, income and employment is used in projections.
- A roadway network is developed that includes US and State routes as well as other important arterial segments and connectors.
- Roadway data includes speed, capacity, distance, functional classification, and percent trucks.
Roadway Network

- Functional Classification categorizes each roadway based on its mobility and access (interstates down to local streets)
- Roadway volumes are compared to capacity to indicate congestion
- Maintaining existing infrastructure is critical
  - Pavement condition
  - Bridge condition and age
National Highway System

- Nationally significant roadways for mobility, goods movement and connections to military installations
- 230,000 miles nationwide
- 4,300 miles in Alabama
Roadway Volumes

- Volumes reflect travel patterns and maintenance needs
- Higher volumes along interstate in urban areas
- Key non-interstate facilities
  - US 280
  - US 431
  - US 72
Transit and Ridesharing

- Some degree of public transportation available in all 67 counties
- 13 systems operate fixed route and/or demand response services in 11 urbanized areas
- 29 rural general providers operate demand response services in counties across the state
- 14 Alabama counties do not have unrestricted access to public transportation services
- CommuteSmart program offers various commute alternative carpool/vanpool services in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery
Intercity Bus and Passenger Rail

- Greyhound connects 14 Alabama communities to major US cities
- Three federally subsidized intercity bus providers offer connecting routes—Greyhound, West AL Public Transportation, and Capital Trailways*
- Amtrak’s Crescent passenger rail stops in Anniston, Birmingham and Tuscaloosa en route between New Orleans and New York

*Note: Capital Trailways is transitioning out of the program in fall 2016

Figure 3-5: Intercity Bus Routes of Greyhound and 5311(f) Providers, (2015)
Aviation, Freight Rail and Ports

- Approximately 235 public and privately owned airports and heliports across the state
- 6 commercial airports in Muscle Shoals, Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, Dothan and Mobile
- *Alabama Statewide Airport System Plan* identified 84 publicly owned airports statewide as the foundation for a robust airport system
- 28 railroads, including 4 Class I railroads
- CSX and Norfolk Southern operate the largest networks, reaching all corners of the state
- The Port of Mobile ranked 9th in the US in 2014 for tonnage and is Alabama’s most significant freight facility
Transportation Funding Sources

- Federal funds for roadway, transit, airport, rail, port, and bicycle/pedestrian trail development
- State funding for roadway and bridge improvements, operations and maintenance (primarily from fuel taxes or other user fees)
- Local funding for non-State highway system improvements, operations and maintenance, transit, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and other modal improvements
- Private sector investment in development and operation of rail, trucking, airport and port facilities
- Various user fees for development and operations of multimodal system elements
Next Steps

- Complete development of travel demand model
- Assess current and projected conditions
- Identify existing and future needs
- Analyze “what if” improvement scenarios
- Develop statewide program, policy and strategy recommendations
- Prepare draft plan for presentation at second round of stakeholder and public meetings
How Can You Participate?

- Two rounds of stakeholder and public meetings held in locations around the state

- SWTP webpage on ALDOT’s website: http://www.dot.state.al.us/oeweb/statewideTransportationPlan.html

- Email to study team with comments or to be added to study contact list: altransplans@dot.state.al.us

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