



Kay Ivey  
Governor

## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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John R. Cooper  
Transportation Director

April 6, 2018

### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION BUREAU MEMORANDUM 2018-14

TO: Alabama Counties/Cities/Towns  
ALDOT Region/Area Local Transportation Engineers  
ALDOT Local Transportation Bureau Staff

FROM:

  
D.E. (Ed) Phillips, Jr., P.E., Local Transportation Bureau Chief

REFERENCE: AVAILABILITY OF HIGHWAY SAFETY FUNDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2019 HIGH RISK RURAL ROADS

Section 148(g)(1) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), established a High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Special Rule. This rule requires States where the fatality rate on rural roads increases over the most recent two-year period to obligate additional funding to HRRR. The fatality rate is based on rural major and minor collectors and rural local roads. Whenever a state fails to meet this requirement, it must obligate a specific amount of funds toward HRRR safety projects in the next fiscal year (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019).

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has allocated a portion of Federal funds to establish a High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Program for FY 2019. The intent of this program is to evaluate site-specific and programmatic actions in an effort to reduce the Statewide fatality rate. Therefore, the ALDOT is placing a call to all local agencies (counties, cities, and towns) to submit applications in accordance with the program intent. Any local agency is eligible to apply for these safety funds, so long as the selected project is located on a rural major or minor collector, or rural local road, i.e., a route not within an urbanized zone. The available funding that has been set aside for FY 2019 will be \$4,537,476. Generally, there will be a 10% funding match requirement by the local agency. Funding will be available for all phases of work, PE, RW, UT, and CN. Projects may be implemented by contract or through force account work.

When proposing work phases and proposed improvements, the applicant should give consideration that projects must be obligated and ready to go to contract or proceed under force account prior to the end of FY 2019. Projects that are approved must be advanced so that all funds are obligated by September 30, 2019. Project status reports will be required to ensure that the selected projects are advancing. At the discretion of ALDOT, project awards may be

rescinded if reasonable project development is not pursued, to ensure the expenditure and prevent the lapsing of Federal funds.

A portion of the funds are set aside and programed to address unprotected bridge ends. When considering the installation of bridge end treatments, the project sponsor should also address the bridge end treatment to bridge rail connection to ensure all improvements meet current ALDOT standards, including the replacement of bridge rail when necessary.

Project types that have been shortlisted as desirable to advance within this program are noted in Appendix A. This list is not exhaustive and other safety improvements may be considered. The project application includes a simplified Highway Safety Improvement Program application spreadsheet. Projects will be ranked based on the calculated benefit-cost ratio. As such, the crash data, applicable safety countermeasure, and estimated costs will be closely evaluated by a committee of Federal, State, and local representatives.

Further information on these safety countermeasures may be found in the FHWA Manual for Selecting Safety Improvements on High Risk Rural Roads. In addition, ALDOT has arranged a training class to be held in four locations throughout the State during the months of April and May of 2018. Details of the program, its intent, and application requirements will be discussed during these training classes. A training flyer has been attached for your reference. We highly encourage any potential project sponsor to attend.

If you should have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Brad Lindsay, Local Transportation Bureau Deputy Bureau Chief at (334) 242-6728.

TB/DEP/dep

c: Mr. John R. Cooper, Transportation Director  
Mr. Don Arkle, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Mr. Ed Austin, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer, Policy & Planning  
Mr. Linda Guin, FHWA Alabama Division  
Mr. Stuart Manson, System Safety Engineer  
Mr. Gary Havron, Alabama Technology Transfer Center, Auburn University

# Safety Treatments on High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) and The ALDOT Application Process



Transportation agencies across the United States use many countermeasures to improve safety on high risk rural roads (HRRR). This one day seminar will explain the ALDOT HRRR application process and provide information and criteria associated with HRRR improvements including the following:

- Safety benefits;
- Cost-effectiveness comparison of safety countermeasures;
- Applicability of countermeasure deployment with respect to identified need;
- Initial and reoccurring costs associated with countermeasure installation; &
- Decision-making process for countermeasure selection.
- Help local agencies with the HRRR application process

With the large number of safety countermeasures available, it can be challenging for practitioners to select the most effective countermeasures to implement with limited funds. This one day seminar will assist an agency in understanding the effectiveness of safety improvements on HRRR to aid in the countermeasure selection process and provide decision-making tools for selecting appropriate safety countermeasures based on crash types and roadway characteristics.

Alabama has qualified for set aside funding for rural major or minor collectors, or rural local roads with significant safety risks in accordance with 23 USC 148(g). This 4.3 million dollars of funding will be awarded by ALDOT to eligible projects through a competitive process. The funds must be obligated in FY 2019, so all agencies that may consider applying for these funds are encouraged to participate in this training event.

**Instructor: Jennifer Atkinson, P.E.**

Ms. Atkinson serves as Leidos' Surface Transportation Solutions Portfolio Director, serving FHWA, State DOTs, local agencies, and private sector customers. Prior to joining Leidos, Ms. Atkinson served as a District Traffic Safety and Operations Engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), providing technical leadership of highway safety and operations data collection and analysis, countermeasure implementation, and policy improvements; managing the District's highway signing, striping, and pavement marking operations; leading the District's traffic signal and ITS program; serving as a subject matter expert to State and local agencies; shaping and implementing the District's highway safety improvement and high risk rural roads programs (HSIP and HRRR); and serving as an expert witness for District litigation on highway safety and operations topics.

**Questions? PLEASE CONTACT GARRY HAVRON:**

Direct Line 334-844-5710; Email: ghavron@auburn.edu



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

## Cost

**\$35.00**

**8:30A.M-4:00P.M**

## Dates and Location

**Pelham – April 17, 2018**

**Pelham Civic Center  
500 Amphitheater Road  
Birmingham, AL 35124**

**205-620-6488**

**Register**

**Huntsville – April 18, 2018**

**Holiday Inn - Research Park**

**5903 University Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35816**

**800-845-7275**

**Register**

**Montgomery, May 15 2018**

**Hilton Garden Inn Montgomery**

**7665 East Chase Parkway**

**Montgomery, AL 36117**

**334-244-0101**

**Register**

**Mobile - May 17, 2018**

**Hampton Inn Providence Park**

**525 Providence Park Drive**

**Mobile, AL 36695**

**251-776-5866**

**Register**



<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>