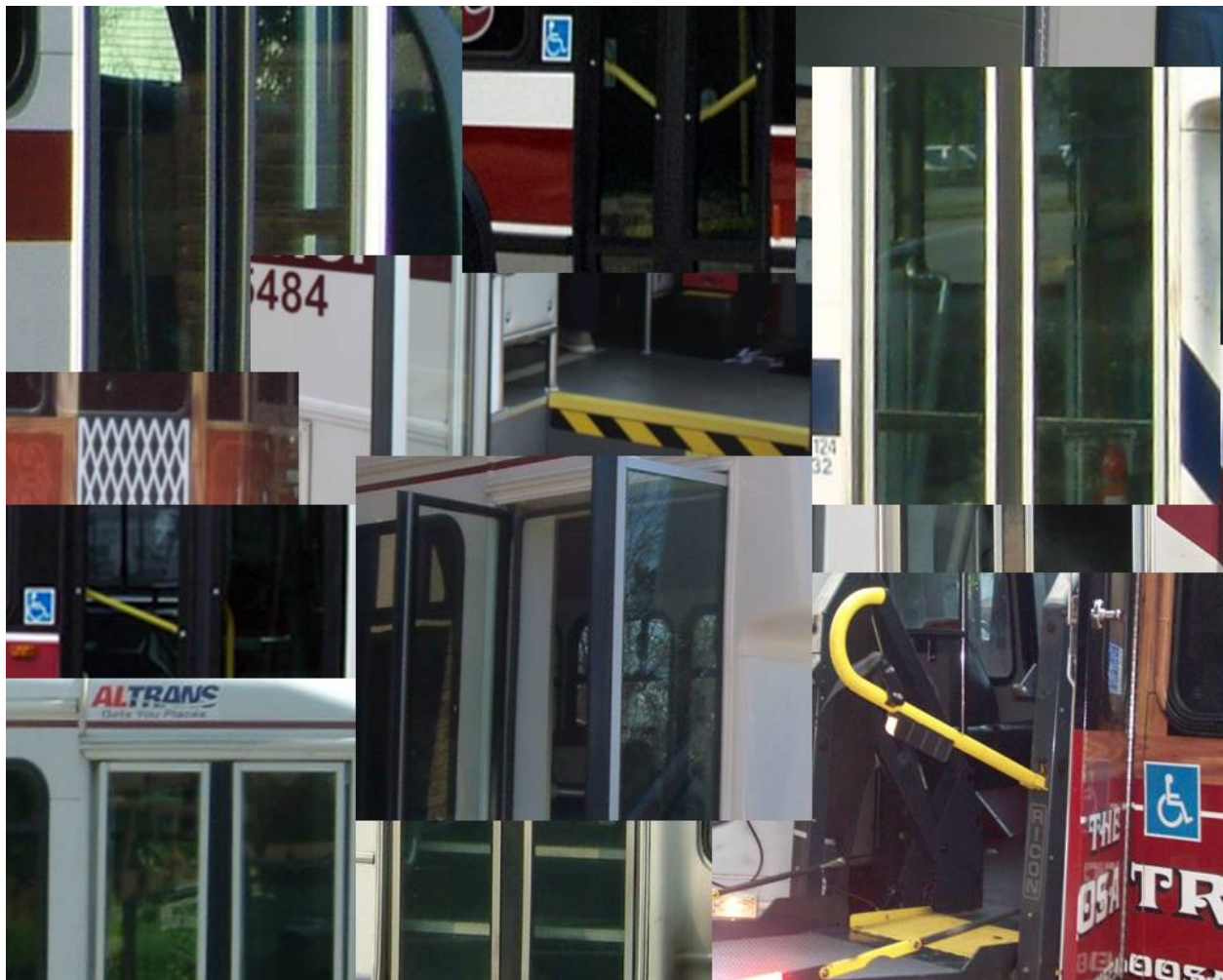


West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017



Developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)
in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation

Adopted August 4, 2017 by the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization
Adopted August 28, 2017 by the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Tuscaloosa Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
&
West Alabama
Rural Planning Organization (RPO)**

***West Alabama
Coordinated Public Transit Plan
2017***

This document is posted at
<http://warc.info/transportation-planning/tuscaloosa-area-mpo/documents>

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Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Members

Policy Committee

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Donna Aaron- City of Northport Mayor
James D. Brown, ALDOT West Central Region Engineer
Robert Lake, WARC Executive Director
Walt Maddox - City of Tuscaloosa Mayor
W. Hardy McCollum - Tuscaloosa County Commission Chairman

Non-Voting

Mark D. Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration
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Planning Bureau representative, Alabama Department of Transportation
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Representative, Town of Coaling
Representative, Town of Coker
Representative, Town of Lake View
Representative, Town of Moundville
Representative, Town of Vance
Representative, Alabama Department of Public Safety (Local Office)
Representative, Northport City Police Department
Representative, Tuscaloosa City Police Department
Representative, Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office

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Harold Horton
Tommy Nix
Willis Reynolds
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Prepared by the
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Staff to the MPO

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Policy Committee

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Arthur Crawford, Hale County Commission Representative
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Fredrick Kennedy, Pickens County Commission Representative
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Ray Nelson, Fayette County Mayors Representative
Raymond Steele, Greene County Mayors Representative
Tony Lester, Hale County Mayors Representative
Stanley Allred, Lamar County Mayors Representative
Craig Patterson, Pickens County Mayors Representative

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Lian Li, Federal Highway Administration
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David Norris, West Alabama Regional Commission

Non-Voting

Representative from each municipality in the study area
Scott Anders, Tuscaloosa County Engineer
Dewayne Roby, Fayette City Engineer
Russell Lawrence, Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority
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Jonathan Anderson, District 53 (Pickens/Greene) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region
Tracey Fletcher, District 54 (Bibb/Chilton) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region
Talbert Essary, District 55 (Hale/Perry) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region
Chris Bedwell, District 56 (Greene/Sumter) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region

West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Members (Continued)

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Bibb County

County Appointments

Joanne Craighead

John Downs

Municipal Appointments

Jerry C. Pow

Freddie Shoults

Fayette County

County Appointments

Allen Dunavant

Faye Meharg

Municipal Appointments

Wanda Deavours

Bobbie Kemp-Driver

Greene County

County Appointments

Judy Jarvis

Jacqueline Whitehead

Municipal Appointments

Iris Sermon

Hale County

County Appointments

Willie Smith

William Thomas

Municipal Appointments

Jerry Elkins

Sandy Rowland

Lamar County

County Appointments

Wayne Baines

Al Elbert

Municipal Appointments

Wayne Christian

Lane Gilliam

Pickens County

County Appointments

Joe Lancaster

Joan Owens

Municipal Appointments

Marva Gipson

James Pugh

Prepared by the
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)
Staff to the RPO

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Resolution MPO 2017-10

**Adopting the
*West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017***

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) requires the development of a coordinated human services transportation plan in order to be eligible for Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization and the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation developed the *West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017*, and

WHEREAS, the Transit Committee, the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization have reviewed the plan and have passed recommendations in support of adopting the plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 28th day of August 2017, that the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby adopt the *West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017*.


MPO Chairman

Attest:


Process Coordinator

West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Resolution RPO 2017-1

**Adopting the
*West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017***

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) requires the development of a coordinated human services transportation plan in order to be eligible for Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization and the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation developed the *West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017*, and

WHEREAS, the Transit Committee, the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Technical Coordinating Committee of the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization have reviewed the plan and have passed recommendations in support of adopting the plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 4th day of August 2017, that the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization does hereby adopt the *West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017*.



RPO Chairman

Attest:



Process Coordinator

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017

Executive Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this plan is (1) to determine transit gaps and coordination opportunities among publicly funded, human services transportation programs in west Alabama and (2) to develop strategies to address the identified gaps and coordination issues. This plan did not evaluate the internal operations of individual transit systems to determine improvement opportunities. Instead, it examined overall transit deficiencies and coordination issues for each county and the entire region. Since it is often impossible to distinguish between the specialized transit services (Section 5310, Section 5316, and Section 5317) and the more general transit services (Section 5307 - Urban Area and Section 5311 - Non-urbanized Area), this plan considers all forms of transit service regardless of funding categories. The plan will provide the Alabama Department of Transportation and the local entities with information to make decisions regarding the allocation of limited federal and local transit funds.

The *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU) required the development of a coordinated human service transportation plan in order to be eligible for three Federal Transit Administration programs (Section 5310 - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute, and Section 5317 - New Freedom). The *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) and the subsequent *Fixing America's Surface Transportation* (FAST) Act extended the coordinated human service transportation plan requirement for the Section 5310 program. Under Map-21, the Section 5316 and 5317 programs were consolidated with the Section 5307, 5310, and 5311 programs. However, remaining pre-MAP-21 Section 5316 and 5317 funding must be allocated based on a coordinated human service transportation plan.

The current regulations specify that the plan must be based on input from public, private, and non-profit transportation providers; human services providers; and the general public. Required elements include (1) an assessment of available services, (2) an assessment of transportation needs, (3) strategies, activities, and/or projects to address gaps, needs, and efficiency improvements, and (4) priorities for implementation based on resources, time, and feasibility of implementation. Minimizing duplication of services in order to maximize collective transit coverage is a prime imperative.

The plan was developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC). WARC used the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) to conduct the plan development process. WARC is the staff for the Tuscaloosa Area MPO and the West Alabama RPO.

The following sections list the transit needs, the barriers to improving transit service, and recommended strategies that were identified during the development of this plan. The sections are divided between the seven counties in the west Alabama region. The final section covers the region as a whole.

Bibb County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional public and private providers
- Service to other counties
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)
- Reliable scheduling method
- Communication between clients and drivers
- Coordination of client trips that originate at a common community and end at common destinations
- Qualified drivers

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)
- Improve current transit service (Additional funding may be required) (**High**)
 - Scheduling
 - Communication between clients and drivers/providers
 - Trip coordination
 - Driver training

Fayette County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Weekend service
- Service to rural areas of the county including Bluff, Kirkland, and Wayside
- Additional public and private providers, including a Section 5311 provider
- Service to other counties including Tuscaloosa and Walker
- Shopping service
- Newer vehicles
- More frequent service
- Recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips

- Local trips
- Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
 - Operating funds
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county including Bluff, Kirkland, and Wayside
 - Inter-county
 - Shopping
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, including a 5311 provider (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

Greene County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

Hale County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- More frequent service
- Service for senior citizens who are less than 60 years old

- Service to Shelton State Community College (Tuscaloosa) and Wallace Community College (Selma)
- Service to large employers in Tuscaloosa
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)

- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) **(Medium)**

Lamar County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers, including a Section 5311 provider
- Service to rural areas of the county including Kingville, Cody, Detroit, and Beaverton
- Additional service in Millport and Sulligent
- Out-of-county service including Tuscaloosa and Columbus, MS
- Shopping service
- Recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
 - Operating funds
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service **(High)**
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts **(High)**
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) **(High)**
 - Nights

- Weekends
- Millport and Sulligent
- Rural areas of county including Kingville, Cody, Detroit, and Beaverton
- Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, including a 5311 provider (Additional funding required) **(High)**
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) **(High)**
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source **(High)**
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources **(High)**
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) **(Medium)**

Pickens County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service, including early morning and early evening times
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- Decreased call-in times
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients

- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Additional service to reduce call-in times
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Low**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**Medium**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

Tuscaloosa County

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Holiday service
- Decreased fixed route headways
- Additional public and private providers
- City of Northport service
- Service to rural areas of the county including Brookwood, Holt, Peterson, Vance, Lake Tuscaloosa area, Duncanville, Taylorville, and McCalla
- Out-of-county service including Jefferson County and Bibb County
- Additional service for shopping, medical appointments, recreational activities, and church
- Decreased call-in times
- Decreased wait times
- Maintaining schedules (pick-up and drop-off times) demand response service and fixed routes
- Vehicles that will accommodate larger people
- Service for senior citizens who are less than 60 years old
- Additional service from the UA campus to other areas of the community
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects, including telephone notification
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Alternative fuel options

- Additional fixed route bus stop shelters
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Lack of financial support by the City of Northport
- Lack of financial support by Tuscaloosa County
- Dispersed population
- Large land area
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Holidays
 - Reduce fixed route headways
 - City of Northport
 - Rural areas of county including Brookwood, Holt, Peterson, Vance, Lake Tuscaloosa area, Duncanville, Taylorville, and McCalla,
 - Inter-county
 - Shopping, recreation, and church
 - Additional service to reduce call-times, wait times, and schedule delays
 - Additional service for senior citizens
 - Purchase or modify vehicles to accommodate larger people
 - Additional service from the UA campus to other areas of the community
 - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)

- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) **(Medium)**
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source **(High)**
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources **(High)**
- Support/Establish alternative fuel options for existing and future transit providers **(Medium)**
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) **(Medium)**

West Alabama Region

Needs Not Currently Addressed or Only Partially Addressed

- Additional inter-county service to connect rural residents with national bus service, Amtrak service, commercial air service, jobs, medical facilities, shopping opportunities, recreation facilities, education and training opportunities; including west Alabama and out-of-region travel

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Alabama Public Service Commission service area restrictions

Strategies

- Maintain current inter-county transit service in Bibb, Greene, Hale County **(High)**
- Add inter-county transit service (Additional funding required) **(High)**
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, where needed (Additional funding required) **(Medium)**
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) **(Medium)**
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source **(High)**
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources **(Medium)**
- Support efforts to modify the Alabama Public Service Commission service area restrictions **(High)**

Continuing Efforts

After the adoption of this plan the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will monitor transit issues in the region in order to determine if this plan needs to be modified. Changes to existing transit conditions could require the addition, deletion, or re-prioritization of strategies or projects. Any necessary adjustments to the plan can be accomplished through amendments adopted

by the Policy Committees of the MPO and RPO. The joint MPO and RPO transit committee, which helped develop this plan, will meet as needed to assist in these efforts and to facilitate the implementation of the identified strategies.

The committees of the MPO and RPO will continue to meet on a regular basis. The MPO committees meet every other month and the RPO committees meet once per quarter. The Section 5307 and 5311 providers in the region are voting members on the MPO and RPO technical coordination committees. At the meetings the committees discuss various transportation issues, usually focusing on federally funded projects, including transit programs.

Based on the current ALDOT contract, this plan will be updated in fiscal year 2019. The MPO and RPO Policy Committees should adopt the update in August 2019. If the federal planning requirements continue past 2019 and funds are available, the plan will likely be revised in 2021.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is (1) to determine transit gaps and coordination opportunities among publicly funded, human services transportation programs in west Alabama and (2) to develop strategies to address the identified gaps and coordination issues. This plan did not evaluate the internal operations of individual transit systems to determine improvement opportunities. Instead, it examined overall transit deficiencies and coordination issues for each county and the entire region. Since it is often impossible to distinguish between the specialized transit services (Section 5310, Section 5316, and Section 5317) and the more general transit services (Section 5307 - Urban Area and Section 5311 - Non-urbanized Area), this plan considers all forms of transit service regardless of funding categories. The plan will provide the Alabama Department of Transportation and the local entities with information to make decisions regarding the allocation of limited federal and local transit funds.

1.2 Laws and Regulations

The *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU) required the development of a coordinated human service transportation plan in order to be eligible for three Federal Transit Administration programs (Section 5310 - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute, and Section 5317 - New Freedom). The *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) and the subsequent *Fixing America's Surface Transportation* (FAST) Act extended the coordinated human service transportation plan requirement for the Section 5310 program. Under Map-21, the Section 5316 and 5317 programs were consolidated with the Section 5307, 5310, and 5311 programs. However, remaining pre-MAP-21 Section 5316 and 5317 funding must be allocated based on a coordinated human service transportation plan.

The current regulations specify that the plan must be based on input from public, private, and non-profit transportation providers; human services providers; and the general public. Required elements include (1) an assessment of available services, (2) an assessment of transportation needs, (3) strategies, activities, and/or projects to address gaps, needs, and efficiency improvements, and (4) priorities for implementation based on resources, time, and feasibility of implementation. Minimizing duplication of services in order to maximize collective transit coverage is a prime imperative.

1.3 Agency Participation

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the Alabama Association of Regional Commissions (AARC) entered into an agreement to develop 12 regional transit coordination plans in 2015 and plan updates in 2017. The AARC represents the 12 regional commissions that cover every county in the state. The 12 plans coincide with the commission districts. ALDOT agreed to fund 100 percent of the cost of the plans with pass-through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) money.

In west Alabama the plan was developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC), one of the 12 regional commissions. WARC used the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) to conduct the plan development process. WARC is the staff for the Tuscaloosa Area MPO and the West Alabama RPO.

The MPO is a cooperative effort of the West Alabama Regional Commission, the Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority (TCPTA), the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the City of Tuscaloosa, the City of Northport, and Tuscaloosa County. Each of these entities has membership on the various MPO committees.

The RPO process brings together the Alabama Department of Transportation with locally elected and appointed officials from the six RPO counties. The RPO policy committee consists of mayors, county commissioners, and officials from ALDOT and FHWA. The technical committee is composed of local engineers, local modal representatives, and ALDOT engineers. More detailed descriptions of the MPO and RPO can be found in Appendix I and J.

The MPO and RPO utilized a regional transit committee to guide the development of this plan. This committee was composed of all of the publicly funded transit providers in west Alabama, agencies that purchase transit service for their clients, and private transportation providers. In addition, the membership requirements for this committee were left open, so any interested group or individual could become a member. The transit committee membership is listed in Appendix A.

1.4 Time Frame

As previously mentioned, this plan identifies current needs and strategies to address these needs. It does not attempt to forecast future needs and develop a related set of strategies. Based on these facts this plan is a short-range document. Unfortunately, many of the strategies will not be implemented in the near future due to the lack of financial support.

The original version of this plan was adopted in 2006 and revisions were prepared in 2008, 2011, and 2015. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), the agency providing the funding, established the development cycle. The ALDOT contract required the plan to be revised in 2015 and updated in 2017. Future federal regulations and ALDOT needs will determine the plan development schedule beyond 2017.

1.5 Development Process

The update process began in October 2016 with a review of the 2015 plan. The WARC staff determined an initial set of changes that had taken place since 2015 and the status of any of the proposed strategies. The regional transit committee met in November 2016. The committee reviewed the 2015 plan and provided the WARC staff with additional changes.

The WARC staff presented a draft version of this plan to the transit committee in March 2017. The committee recommended that the draft plan be presented to the MPO and RPO for initial approval. The MPO and RPO adopted the plan for public review in April and May 2017, respectively. After the public review period the plan was adopted in its final version by the MPO on August 28, 2017 and the RPO on August 4, 2017.

1.6 Public Involvement

The public was given several opportunities to participate in the development of the plan, review the plan inputs, and comment on the draft plan prior to its adoption. The draft plan or the inputs to the plan were discussed at the fiscal year 2017 MPO and RPO committee meetings. Copies of the plan inputs or the draft plan were available at these meetings and on the West Alabama Regional Commission website.

The MPO and RPO committee meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to participate. News releases for the meetings are sent to local media contacts, special interest groups, and to anyone who requests to be on the mailing list. The special interest groups include agencies or organizations that have contact with persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, minorities, and senior citizens.

The MPO also held a public review and seven public meetings regarding the draft plan. The review extended from May 2017 until August 2017. Anyone interested in the plan had the opportunity to visit the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) office during this period and review the document. The public meetings were held on July 12, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 27, 2017. News releases were distributed detailing the public review and public meetings. Twenty-three people, not including MPO staff, attended the public meetings. No public comments were received. The public involvement materials are located in Appendix D.

The draft plan was placed on the WARC website on January 21, 2017 and paper copies were available at the WARC and by request. The public involvement activities associated with the plan are documented in Appendix D.

1.7 Format

This plan is divided into 11 chapters and includes 10 appendices. Chapter 1.0 is the introduction and provides background information and the development framework. The chapter provides a basic understanding of why and how the plan was produced.

Chapters 2.0 through 8.0 are devoted to one of the seven counties in the west Alabama region. The chapters describe the demographic characteristics, employment attributes, transit resources, transit needs, transit service barriers, and strategies to improve transit service in each county. Chapter 9.0 summarizes the information from the county chapters to the regional level and adds cross-county needs, service barriers, and improvement strategies.

The county chapters (2.0 - 8.0) provide a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service. The transit provider descriptions are divided

between public/non-profit agencies and private companies. When relevant, the appropriate Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding information is included in the descriptions.

Also in Chapters 2.0 - 9.0, as part of the identification of geographic service gaps and possible coordination opportunities, potential high-transit use areas were mapped along with transit routes (when available) and potential transit destinations. Census 2010 block groups were used as the base for these maps. The maps display a summary of disabled, elderly, and poverty populations taken from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey. These groups are the traditional populations that depend on transit service.

Chapter 10.0 describes possible funding sources for the identified strategies. The chapter reviews federal, state, and local options. Chapter 11.0, the final chapter, includes the plan amendment process, MPO and RPO continuing efforts, and the probable plan update schedule.

The appendices provide additional background information related to the plan development. Appendix A includes a list of transit committee members who helped prepare the plan. Appendix B lists the individuals and agencies that received news releases regarding the transit planning effort. Appendix C includes examples of the surveys that were part of the assessment process. Appendix D provides items related to the public involvement activities, such as legal ads, news releases, comments, and responses. Appendix E is a list of proposed transit projects provided by the transit agencies in west Alabama. Appendix F is a standard transportation planning acronym list. Appendix G contains a trip summary table for agencies in west Alabama. Appendix H is a list of agencies that provide transit service in west Alabama. Appendix I includes a description of the Tuscaloosa Area MPO. Appendix J is a description of the West Alabama RPO.

2.0 Bibb County

2.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, there are 22,583 people living in Bibb County. This is a slight decrease (332) from the number reported in the 2010 Census. The population density of the county is 36 people per square mile. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) there are 2,865 disabled people, 3,140 elderly individuals, and 3,488 people below the poverty line in the county.

Bibb County has a land area of 622 square miles. At its widest section the county is 28 miles north-to-south and 32 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 888 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south route is SR-5 and the main east-west route is US-82.

There are three areas of concentrated population in Bibb County. The largest of the three is the Brent-Centreville community in the south-central part of the county. The second concentration is the West Blocton community located in the north-central part of the county. The northern area of the county around Woodstock and along the Tuscaloosa County line is the third area of concentration. Figure 1 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 1 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 1 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

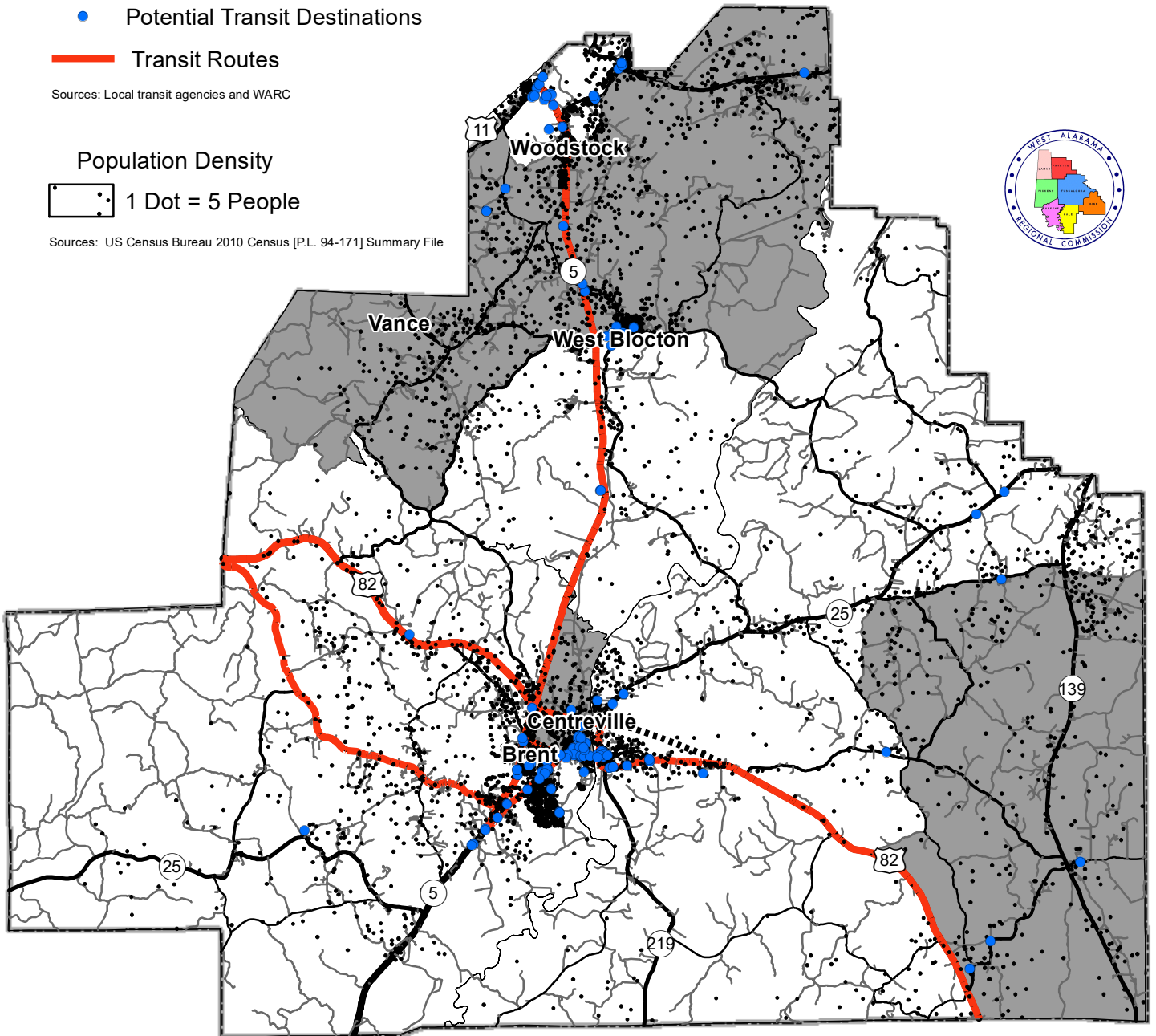
2.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Bibb County had 8,490 people in the labor force. Of this number 7,929 were employed and 561 were unemployed. The 2015 average unemployment rate (6.6percent) was higher than the national and state averages of 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively. Major employers in the county include the Alabama Department of Corrections, Bibb County Medical Center, Bibb County Board of Education, and Burkes Mechanical. In Bibb County, there are approximately 700 businesses with 85 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 48 percent of the employed workforce in Bibb County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 94 percent are employed in Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, and Shelby County. Only 39 percent of the total workforce live and work in Bibb County. An additional 13 percent of the workforce commutes into Bibb County from another county.

Bibb County

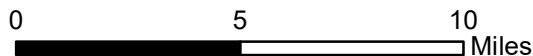
Figure 1



Concentrations of People in Bibb County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

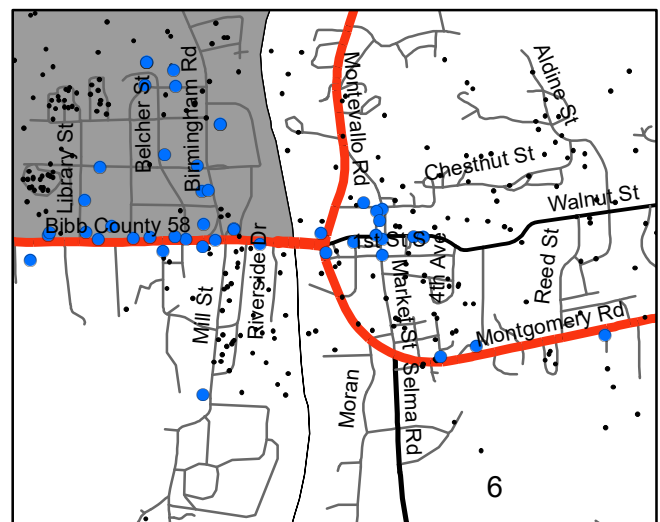
- Above Average
- Below Average

In Bibb County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 633 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

Brent/Centreville



2.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Bibb County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**
The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.
- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**
The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.
- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**
The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.
- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**
The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.
- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**
The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be

used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **AM-Serv EMS**

AM-Serv EMS is a private, non-profit transportation provider operating in Bibb County. The agency operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day and provides emergency and non-emergency transportation. The agency is located in Centreville and is associated with the Bibb County Medical Center.

- **Bibb County Department of Human Resources**

The Bibb County Department of Human Resources (DHR) purchases transportation service for some of its clients. The agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) company for this service. The DHR provides social services to adults and children in the county.

- **Brent-Centreville Senior Center**

The Brent-Centreville Senior Center provides transportation service to senior citizens utilizing the facility. Approximately once a week, the center transports clients from Cahaba Trace, Brantwood Lane, and other areas of the community to the center. The center has one part-time driver, limiting the transportation service they provide. The center is able to serve wheelchair clients.

- **Indian Rivers Mental Health**

Indian Rivers Mental Health (IRMH) serves mental health and substance abuse clients by providing mental health treatment, job training, and employment services. The agency is located in Tuscaloosa. Its service area includes Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa County. The agency provides transportation to its clients but also contracts other transit providers. Generally, transportation service is provided Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, Indian Rivers manages numerous residential facilities where transportation service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The agency serves over 5,000 people annually.

- **West Alabama Public Transportation**

The West Alabama Public Transportation (WAPT) agency is the largest transit provider in the State. WAPT utilizes FTA Section 5311, 5311(f), 5316, and 5317 grants to fund their service. The agency also maintains numerous contracts to provide specialized transportation to different agencies. The WAPT serves nine

counties in West Alabama including Bibb, Greene, and Hale. The WAPT Administrative office is located in Demopolis in Marengo County. There are satellite office in Bibb, Greene and Hale County.

WAPT has no age or income limitations and customer charges vary. WAPT transports clients for medical/dental services, recreational activities, personal business, employment, and other services. The WAPT 5311 service operates from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., depending on scheduling Monday through Friday and provides limited weekend service.

The service has several fixed routes but also offers demand-response routes. The WAPT averages over 360,000 passenger trips per year in their nine county service area. The WAPT fleet consists of approximately 65 vehicles with capacities ranging from seven to 30 passengers. The fleet includes 12 wheelchair lift vehicles.

In Bibb County, WAPT contracts with the Alabama Kidney Foundation and the Alabama Department of Mental Health. WAPT is also on the Alabama Medicaid Agency transportation provider registry in Bibb County.

Private Systems

- **Cahaba Medical Care Foundation**

Cahaba Medical Care Foundation is a private company located in Centreville. The company provides gas cards and transportation vouchers to clients. The vouchers are accepted by West Alabama Public Transportation and CV Transerv.

- **CV Transerv - Bibb Medical Center**

The CV Transerv is a non-emergency transportation service provided by the Bibb Medical Center. The company serves nursing homes, clinics, and hospital patients in the Centreville area. In addition to local service, the company also provides transportation to Tuscaloosa and Clanton for dialysis treatments. The company operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The company has two wheel-chair accessible vans. On average, the company transports between 14 and 20 people per week.

- **South Mobile Area Regional Transit**

South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) is a private provider operating in Bibb County. The company provides on-demand transportation services within a 200 mile radius of the county with trips routinely made to Tuscaloosa, Shelby, Perry, and Jefferson County. SMART operates 24 hours a day, year round and has two wheelchair accessible buses, one regular van, and two cars. The company charges by the mile. SMART currently has a contract with the Bibb County DHR to provide service to clients in their JOBS program. In addition, the company is an as-needed service provider for the DCH Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Bibb County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Bibb County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Bibb County Contracts

- Alabama Department of Mental Health contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation
- Alabama Kidney Foundation contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation
- Bibb County DHR contracts with South Mobile Area Regional Transit company

2.4 Transit Needs

Figure 1 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups roughly cover the northern third of the county, area north of Centreville, and the southeast part of the county. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the incorporated areas of Brent, Centreville, West Blocton, and Woodstock. The transit routes of West Alabama Public Transit (WAPT) are included on this figure. The WAPT routes pass through Brent, Centreville, West Blocton, and Woodstock. Many of the highlighted block groups are not covered by transit routes.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional public and private providers
- Service to other counties
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles

- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)
- Reliable scheduling method
- Communication between clients and drivers
- Coordination of client trips that originate at a common community and end at common destinations
- Qualified drivers

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

2.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and using the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

2.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases, the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)
- Improve current transit service (Additional funding may be required) (**High**)
 - Scheduling
 - Communication between clients and drivers/providers
 - Trip coordination
 - Driver training

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

3.0 Fayette County

3.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 16,759 people living in Fayette County. This is a decrease of 482 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. The population density of the county is 27 people per square mile. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 4,046 disabled people, 3,119 elderly individuals, and 3,055 people below the poverty line in the county.

Fayette County has a land area of 628 square miles. At its widest section the county is 27 miles north-to-south and 30 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 1,150 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south routes are US-43/SR-13 and US-43/SR-171. The main east-west route is SR-18.

There are three areas of concentrated population in Fayette County. The largest of the three is the City of Fayette in the west-central part of the county. The second concentration is the Town of Berry located in the southeastern part of the county. The City of Winfield in the north-central part of the county is the third area of concentration. Figure 2 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 2 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 2 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

3.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Fayette County had 6,396 people in the labor force. Of this number 5,948 were employed and 448 were unemployed. The 2015 average unemployment rate (7.0 percent) was higher than the national and state averages of 6.1 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively. Major employers in the county include the Fayette County Medical Center, Fayette County Board of Education, Showa Best Glove Manufacturing, Ox Bodies, Inc., and Georgia-Pacific Corporation. In Fayette County, there are approximately 700 businesses with 78 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 38 percent of the employed workforce in Fayette County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 65 percent are employed in Marion and Tuscaloosa County. Only 46 percent of the total workforce live and work in Fayette County. An additional 16 percent of the workforce commutes into Fayette County from another county.



Fayette County

Figure 2

● Potential Transit Destinations

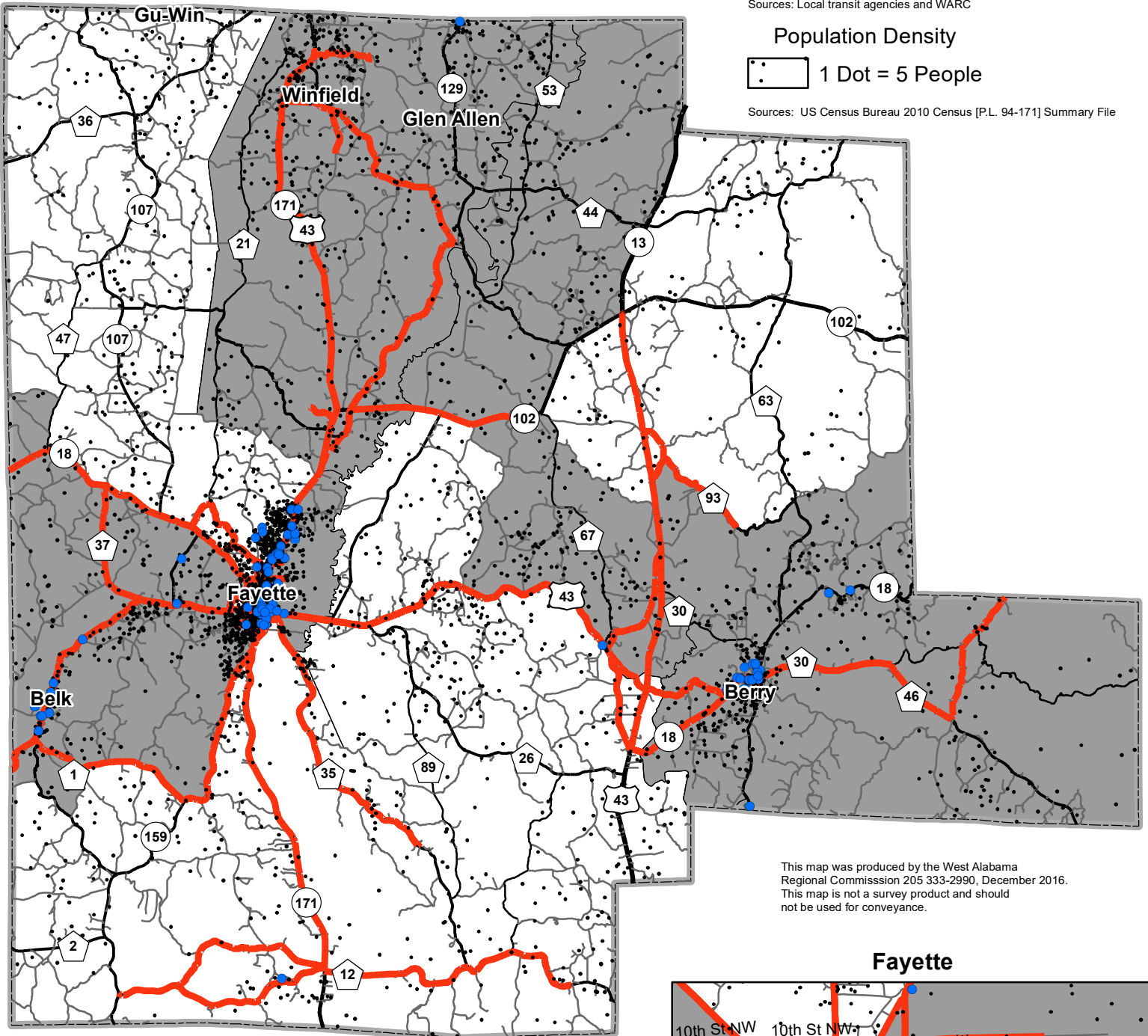
— Transit Routes

Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC

Population Density

□ 1 Dot = 5 People

Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

Concentrations of People in Fayette County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

■ Above Average

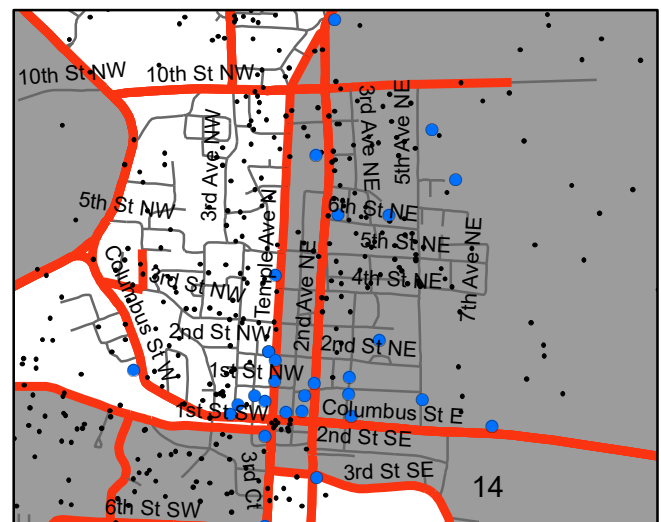
□ Below Average

In Fayette County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 568 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).

0 5 10 Miles



Fayette



3.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Fayette County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10. The public and non-profit transit providers in Fayette County limit service to a small section of the population, usually associated with a particular government or agency service program. The general population does not have a public transit option.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**

The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.

- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**

The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.

- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**

The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.

- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**

The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.

- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Counties**

The ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Counties (ARCFLM) provides transit service exclusively to their clients, individuals with developmental disabilities. The program makes frequent medical trips and weekly recreational trips. The ARCFLM provides transit service Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. but also offers 24-hour availability. The ARCFLM makes regular trips to Jasper, Northport, Tuscaloosa, Winfield, Guin, Hamilton, and Birmingham. The ARCFLM drivers serve as day habilitation and residential training assistants when they are not driving. The agency indicated that insurance problems would prevent any sharing of resources. The ARCFLM office is located in the City of Fayette and its transportation service area includes Fayette and Lamar County. The agency uses FTA Section 5310 grants to purchase vehicles.

- **Fayette County Aging Program**

The Fayette County Aging Program (FCAP) has a contract with the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to provide transportation to the AAA clients and to transport the clients to the three AAA senior centers. The FCAP provides transit service Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Due to contractual agreements and insurance, the FCAP service is limited to its AAA clients. The agency has used FTA Section 5309 and 5310 grants to purchase vehicles. The FCAP is located in the City of Fayette and its service area is Fayette County.

- **Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center**

The Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NWAMHC) is a comprehensive mental health program that offers adults and children outpatient services in Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Walker, and Winston County. NWAMHC operates day rehabilitation/day habilitation programs in Fayette and Winfield and adult mental illness residential services in Fayette and Berry. The center provides transit service exclusively to its consumers. Trips are provided for medical services,

shopping, and recreation. In Fayette County, NWAMHC provides approximately 31,000 transit trips per year. NWAMHC is a non-profit agency and is located in the City of Jasper in Walker County. The center uses FTA Section 5310 grants to purchase vehicles.

- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**

The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. The AAA provides transportation to their senior centers. The AAA contracts with the Fayette County Aging Program to provide this service in Fayette County.

Private Systems

- **Fayette County Nursing Home**

The Fayette County Nursing Home is a private company that purchases transportation service for its clients. The company currently works with Northstar EMS (Fayette EMS) for medical related transportation.

- **Generations of Vernon**

Generations of Vernon is a private company that provides transit service to its clients. Its service area includes Fayette and Lamar County. The company has one wheelchair-accessible van and provides demand response service for medical and recreational purposes.

- **Northstar EMS**

The Northstar EMS (Fayette EMS) provides non-emergency service to hospital patients, nursing home residents, and dialysis patients. Northstar EMS operates year round, 24 hours a day and serves Fayette, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties. The EMS has an office in the City of Fayette. The company is owned by Northstar EMS, located in Northport.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Fayette County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Fayette County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Fayette County Contracts

- Alabama Department of Mental Health contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo
- West Alabama AAA contracts with the Fayette County Aging Program

3.4 Transit Needs

Figure 2 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups are generally east, north, and west of the City of Fayette, and surrounding the Towns of Berry, Glen Allen, and Winfield. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the City of Fayette and to a lesser extent the Towns of Berry and Belk. The transit routes of the ARC of Fayette, Lamar, and Marengo, the Fayette County Aging Program, and the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NAMHC) are included on this figure. The routes generally cover the highlighted block groups. However, every highlighted block group is not served by every provider.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Weekend service
- Service to rural areas of the county including Bluff, Kirkland, and Wayside
- Additional public and private providers, including a Section 5311 provider
- Service to other counties including Tuscaloosa and Walker
- Shopping service
- Newer vehicles
- More frequent service
- Recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions, there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

3.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
 - Operating funds
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

3.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county including Bluff, Kirkland, and Wayside
 - Inter-county
 - Shopping
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, including a 5311 provider (Additional funding required) (**High**)

- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) **(High)**
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source **(High)**
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources **(High)**
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) **(Medium)**

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

4.0 Greene County

4.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 8,479 people living in Greene County. This is a decrease of 566 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 2,132 disabled people, 1,478 elderly individuals, and 3,479 people below the poverty line in the county. The population density of the county is 13 people per square mile.

Greene County has a land area of 646 square miles. At its widest section the county is 43 miles north-to-south and 27 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 637 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south route is SR-14/US-43. The main east-west route is I-20/59.

There are two areas of concentrated population in Greene County. The larger of the two is the City of Eutaw in the east-central part of the county. The second concentration is the Town of Forkland located in the southern part of the county. Figure 3 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 3 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 3 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

4.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Greene County had 2,895 people in the labor force. Of this number 2,576 were employed and 319 were unemployed. The unemployment rate (11 percent) is higher than the national and state averages, 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent respectively. Major employers in the county include the Greene County Board of Education, Southfresh Aquaculture, Rock-Tenn Mill Company, Greene County Hospital, and Alabama Power Company. In Greene County, there are approximately 300 businesses with 44 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 37 percent of the employed workforce in Greene County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 85 percent are employed in Tuscaloosa and Marengo County. Only 41 percent of the total workforce live and work in Greene County. An additional 22 percent of the workforce commutes into Greene County from another county.

Greene County

Figure 3

Concentrations of People in Greene County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

- Above Average
- Below Average

In Greene County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 709 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).

● Potential Transit Destinations

— Transit Routes

Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC



Population Density

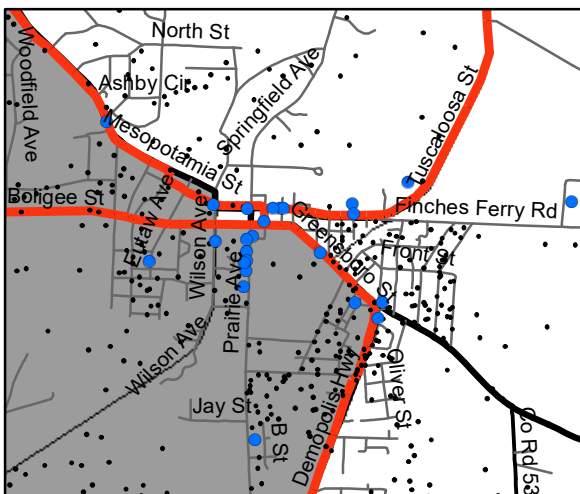
1 Dot = 5 People

Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File



0 5 10 Miles

Eutaw



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

4.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Greene County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**
The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.
- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**
The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.
- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**
The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.
- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**
The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.
- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**
The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be

used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **Community Service Programs of West Alabama**
The Community Service Programs of West Alabama (CSPWA) contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation for 90 Head Start students in Greene and Hale County. CSPWA operates Head Start programs in six of the seven west Alabama counties.
- **Greene County Commission**
The Greene County Commission provides transit service for senior citizens to the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) nutrition centers in Eutaw and Forkland. The service is provided through a contract with the AAA. The County has two vans that were purchased with federal funds dedicated to seniors.
- **Kid One Transport System, Inc.**
Kid One Transport System, Inc. is a non-profit transit provider that operates in numerous Alabama counties, including Greene. Kid One provides medical trips for children, 19 and under and expectant mothers. The agency generally operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The Kid One office is located in Birmingham in Jefferson County. Kid One has utilized Section 5310 and 5317 funds in the past.
- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**
The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. The AAA contracts with the Greene County Commission to provide transit service to its nutrition sites in Greene County.
- **West Alabama Mental Health Center**
The West Alabama Mental Health Center provides mental health and substance abuse treatment. It has offices in five counties including Greene and Hale County. It contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation to transport between 30 and 42 patients a day in these two counties.
- **West Alabama Public Transportation**
The West Alabama Public Transportation (WAPT) agency is the largest transit provider in the State. WAPT utilizes FTA Section 5311, 5311(f), 5316, and 5317 grants to fund their service. The agency also maintains numerous contracts to

provide specialized transportation to different agencies. The WAPT serves nine counties in West Alabama including Bibb, Greene, and Hale. The WAPT Administrative office is located in Demopolis in Marengo County. There are satellite office in Bibb, Greene and Hale County.

WAPT has no age or income limitations and customer charges vary. WAPT transports clients for medical/dental services, recreational activities, personal business, employment, and other services. The WAPT 5311 service operates from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., depending on scheduling Monday through Friday and provides limited weekend service.

The service has several fixed routes but also offers demand-response routes. The WAPT averages over 360,000 passenger trips per year in their nine county service area. The WAPT fleet consists of approximately 65 vehicles with capacities ranging from seven to 30 passengers. The fleet includes 12 wheelchair lift vehicles.

In Greene and Hale County, the WAPT has contracts with the West Alabama Mental Health Center. These contracts do not prevent WAPT from serving other segments of the population. WAPT is also on the Alabama Medicaid Agency transportation provider registry. The intercity bus transportation is also available (connector to Greyhound Bus Stations).

Private Systems

- **E&C Taxi Service**

E&C Taxi Service provides demand response service in Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company currently serves Medicaid clients. E&C operates Monday through Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. The company does not own a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

- **Greene County Ambulance Service**

The Greene County Ambulance Service is located in Eutaw. In addition to emergency trips the company provides non-emergency trips to hospitals and other medical facilities. The company does not serve wheelchair clients.

- **Greene County Nursing Home**

The Greene County Nursing Home is a 72-bed facility located in Eutaw. The facility owns a wheelchair-accessible van and two cars that are used to transport clients to medical appointments. In addition, WAPT serves between two and five of the nursing home residents a month.

- **Greyhound Bus Line**

The Greyhound Bus line has four stops in the West Alabama region. These stops are not stand alone bus stations, but are generally housed with small businesses. The stops and associated businesses are listed below:

- Eutaw, gas station
- Greensboro, gas station
- Moundville community center
- Tuscaloosa, gas station

The stops offer limited service and tickets can only be purchased at the Tuscaloosa location.

- **Northstar EMS**

Northstar EMS serves Fayette, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company provides emergency and non-emergency trips. The company operates Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The company has contracts with several nursing homes and medical facilities in the area. This company does not provide wheelchair service. This company is on the Alabama Medicaid transportation provider registry.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Greene County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Greene County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Greene County Contracts

- Greene County Nursing Home contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation
- West Alabama AAA contracts with the Greene County Commission
- West Alabama Mental Health Center contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation

4.4 Transit Needs

Figure 3 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups generally cover the southwest part of the county, south of I-20/59 and west of US-43. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the City of Eutaw and to a lesser extent the Towns of Boligee and Forkland. The transit routes of the West Alabama Public Transportation (WAPT) agency are included on this figure. The WAPT routes cover the bulk of the county including a large portion of the highlighted block groups.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee

used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

4.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

4.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

5.0 Hale County

5.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 15,068 people living in Hale County. This is a decrease of 692 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 2,913 disabled people, 2,447 elderly individuals, and 4,011 people below the poverty line in the county. The population density of the county is 23 people per square mile.

Hale County has a land area of 644 square miles. At its widest section the county is 36 miles north-to-south and 24 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 804 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south route is SR-69. The main east-west route is SR-14.

There are three areas of concentrated population in Hale County. The largest of the three is the City of Greensboro in the south-central part of the county. The second concentration is the City of Moundville located in the northern part of the county. The Town of Akron in the west-central part of the county is the third area of concentration. Figure 4 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 4 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 4 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

5.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Hale County had 6,102 people in the labor force. Of this number 5,624 were employed and 478 were unemployed. The unemployment rate (7.8 percent) is higher than the national and state averages, 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent respectively. Major employers in the county include the Hale County Board of Education, Westervelt Lumber, C & S Fabrication, Inc., and Plastics, Inc. In Hale County, there are approximately 1,000 businesses with 97 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 46 percent of the employed workforce in Hale County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 79 percent are employed in Tuscaloosa and Marengo County. Only 43 percent of the total workforce live and work in the county. An additional 11 percent of the workforce commutes into Hale County from another county.

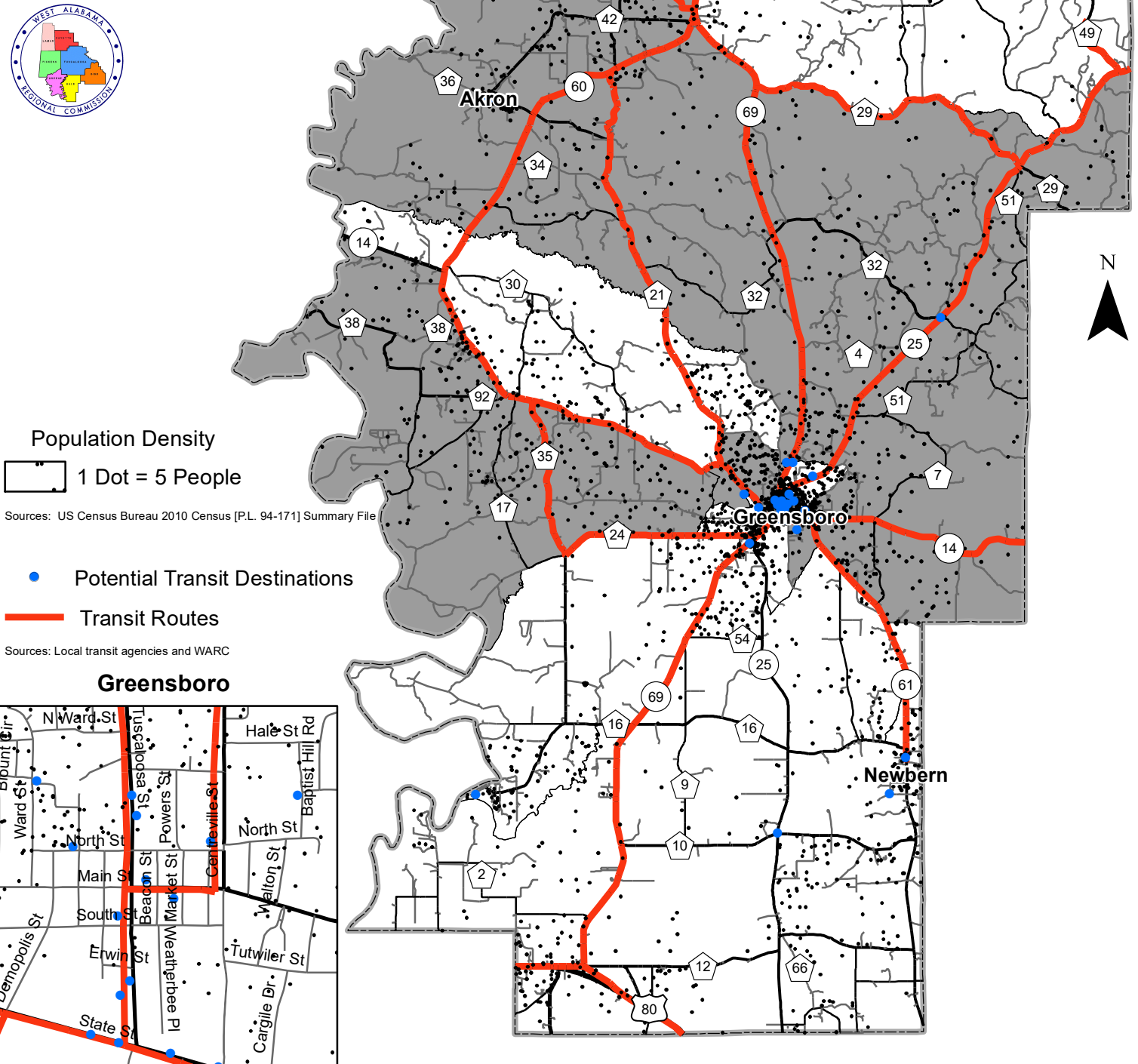
Hale County

Figure 4

Concentrations of People in Hale County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

- Above Average
- Below Average

In Hale County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 721 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).



Population Density

1 Dot = 5 People

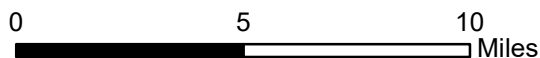
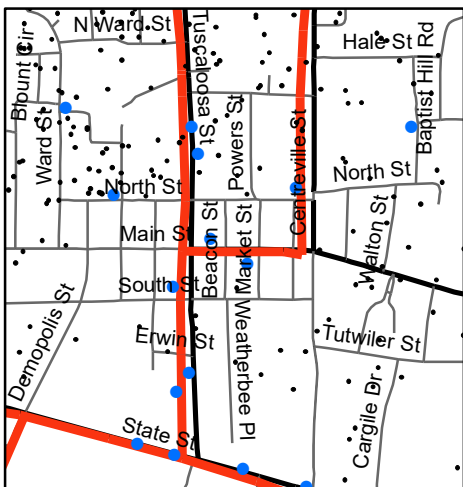
Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File

● Potential Transit Destinations

— Transit Routes

Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC

Greensboro



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

5.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Hale County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**
The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.
- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**
The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.
- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**
The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.
- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**
The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.
- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**
The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be

used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **Community Service Programs of West Alabama**

The Community Service Programs of West Alabama (CSPWA) contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation for 90 Head Start students in Greene and Hale County. CSPWA operates Head Start programs in six of the seven west Alabama counties.

- **RSVP of Tuscaloosa and Hale County**

The RSVP of Tuscaloosa and Hale County is a senior citizen volunteer program managed by FOCUS on Senior Citizens. FOCUS provides transportation to clients to and from Moundville daily and Akron and Greensboro once a month. Those clients not living in Moundville are reimbursed for the use of their personal vehicle for up to 100 miles a day. The program transports between three and five clients twice a week in Hale County.

- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**

The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. The AAA contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transit service to its elderly clients in Hale County.

- **West Alabama Mental Health Center**

The West Alabama Mental Health Center provides mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse treatment. It has offices in five counties including Greene and Hale County. It contracts with West Alabama Public Transportation to transport between 30 and 42 patients a day in these two counties.

- **West Alabama Public Transportation**

The West Alabama Public Transportation (WAPT) agency is the largest transit provider in the State. WAPT utilizes FTA Section 5311, 5311(f), 5316, and 5317 grants to fund their service. The agency also maintains numerous contracts to provide specialized transportation to different agencies. The WAPT serves nine counties in West Alabama including Bibb, Greene, and Hale. The WAPT Administrative office is located in Demopolis in Marengo County. There are satellite office in Bibb, Greene and Hale County.

WAPT has no age or income limitations and customer charges vary. WAPT transports clients for medical/dental services, recreational activities, personal business, employment, and other services. The WAPT 5311 service operates from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., depending on scheduling Monday through Friday and provides limited weekend service.

The service has several fixed routes but also offers demand-response routes. The WAPT averages over 360,000 passenger trips per year in their nine county service area. The WAPT fleet consists of approximately 65 vehicles with capacities ranging from seven to 30 passengers. The fleet includes 12 wheelchair lift vehicles.

In Greene and Hale County, the WAPT has contracts with the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging and the West Alabama Mental Health Center. These contracts do not prevent WAPT from serving other segments of the population. WAPT is also on the Alabama Medicaid Agency transportation provider registry. The intercity bus transportation is also available (connector to Greyhound Bus Stations).

Private Systems

- **Colonial Haven Care and Rehab Center**

The Colonial Haven Care and Rehab Center is a long-term care and rehabilitation facility located in Greensboro. Its service area includes Hale County. The company purchases transit service from the Hale County EMS and Northstar EMS. The company uses Medicaid to fund its transit purchases.

- **E&C Taxi Service**

E&C Taxi Service provides demand response service in Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company currently serves Medicaid clients. E&C operates Monday through Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. The company does not own a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

- **Greyhound Bus Line**

The Greyhound Bus line has four stops in the West Alabama region. These stops are not stand alone bus stations, but are generally housed with small businesses. The stops and associated businesses are listed below:

- Eutaw, gas station
- Greensboro, gas station
- Moundville community center
- Tuscaloosa, gas station

The stops offer limited service and tickets can only be purchased at the Tuscaloosa location.

- **Hale County EMS**

The Hale County EMS is an ambulance service serving Hale County. Its office is located in Greensboro. The company provides emergency and non-emergency trips for local nursing homes, hospital, and other medical facilities. The company does not serve wheelchair clients.

- **Moundville Health and Rehab**

The Moundville Health and Rehab (MHR) office is located in Moundville. Its service area includes Hale and Tuscaloosa County. The MHR purchases transit service from private providers. The MHR uses Medicaid to fund its transit purchases.

- **Northstar EMS**

Northstar EMS serves Fayette, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company provides emergency and non-emergency trips. The company operates Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The company has contracts with several nursing homes and medical facilities in the area. This company does not provide wheelchair service. This company is on the Alabama Medicaid transportation provider registry.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Hale County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Hale County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Hale County Contracts

- Colonial Haven Care and Rehabilitation Center contracts with Hale County EMS and Northstar EMS
- Moundville Health and Rehab contracts with Northstar EMS
- West Alabama AAA contracts with WAPT
- West Alabama Mental Health Center contracts with WAPT

5.4 Transit Needs

Figure 4 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups generally cover the northwestern corner of the county and the central part of the county, excluding the area northwest of Greensboro. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the City of Greensboro and the City of Moundville and to a lesser extent the Towns of Akron and Newbern. The transit routes of the West Alabama

Public Transportation (WAPT) agency are included on this figure. The WAPT routes cover a large portion of the county including some the highlighted block groups.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- More frequent service
- Service for senior citizens who are less than 60 years old
- Service to Shelton State Community College (Tuscaloosa) and Wallace Community College (Selma)
- Service to large employers in Tuscaloosa
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

5.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

5.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and

feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

6.0 Lamar County

6.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 13,886 people living in Lamar County. This is a decrease of 678 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 3,033 disabled people, 2,713 elderly individuals, and 3,382 people below the poverty line in the county. The population density of the county is 23 people per square mile.

Lamar County has a land area of 605 square miles. At its widest section the county is 37 miles north-to-south and 20 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 1,196 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south route is SR-17. The main east-west routes are US-278 and SR-18.

There are four areas of concentrated population in Lamar County. The largest of the three is the City of Vernon in the south-central part of the county. The second concentration is the City of Sulligent located in the north-central part of the county. The Town of Millport in the southern part of the county is the third area of concentration. The fourth area is the Town of Kennedy in the southeastern corner of the county. Figure 5 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 5 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 5 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

6.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Lamar County had 5,633 people in the labor force. Of this number 5,278 were employed and 326 were unemployed. The 2015 average unemployment rate (6.3 percent) was a little higher than the national and state averages of 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively. Major employers in the county include NAACCO Material Handling Group, Marathon Equipment Corporation, Lamar County Board of Education, Generations of Vernon, Steele Dust Recycling, and Weyerhaeuser Corporation. In Lamar County, there are approximately 500 businesses with 63 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 33 percent of the employed workforce in Lamar County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 38 percent are employed in Mississippi and 45 percent work in Fayette and Marion County. Only 51 percent of the total workforce live and work in the county. An additional 15 percent of the workforce commutes into Lamar County from another county.

Lamar County

Figure 5

Concentrations of People in Lamar County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

- Above Average
- Below Average

In Lamar County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 571 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).

Population Density

- 1 Dot = 5 People

Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File

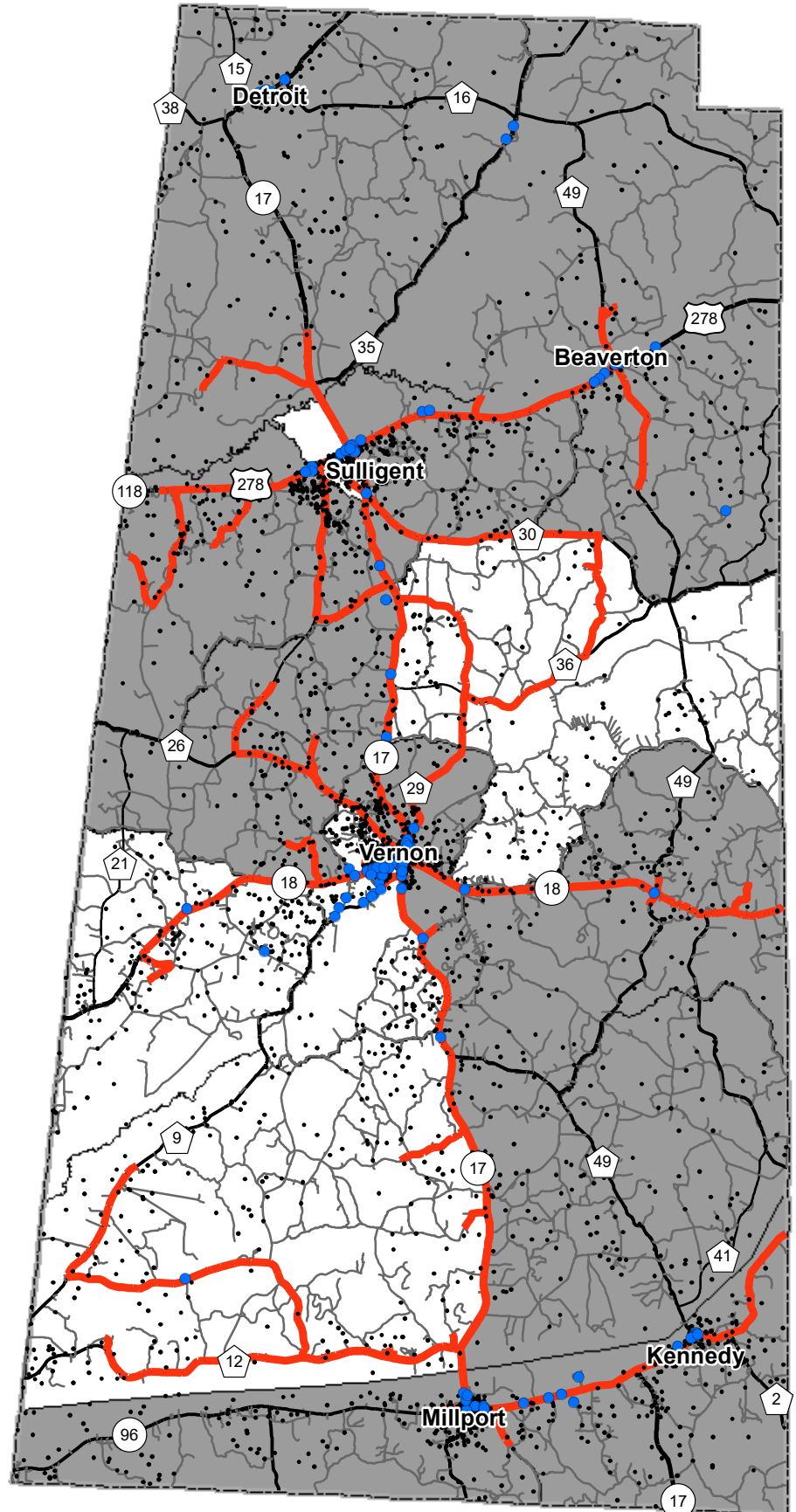
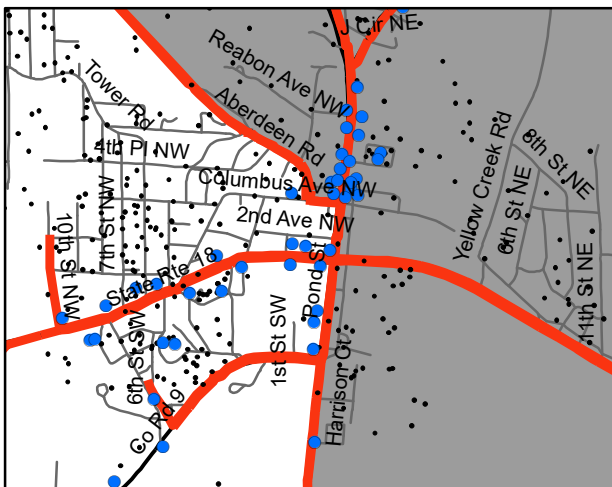
- Potential Transit Destinations
- Transit Routes

Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC

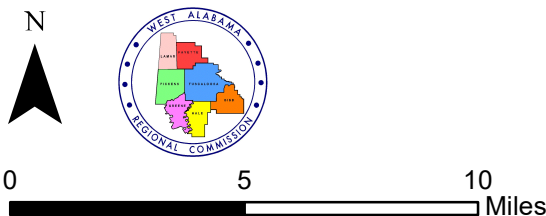
Sulligent



Vernon



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.



6.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Lamar County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10. The public and non-profit transit providers in Lamar County limit service to a small section of the population usually associated with a particular government or agency service program. The general population does not have a public transit option.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**

The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.

- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**

The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.

- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**

The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.

- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**

The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.

- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Counties**

The ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Counties (ARCFLM) provides transit service exclusively to their clients, individuals with developmental disabilities. The program makes frequent medical trips and weekly recreational trips. The ARCFLM provides transit service Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. but also offers 24-hour availability. The ARCFLM makes regular trips to Jasper, Northport, Tuscaloosa, Winfield, Guin, Hamilton, and Birmingham. The ARCFLM drivers serve as day habilitation and residential training assistants when they are not driving. The agency indicated that insurance problems would prevent any sharing of resources. The ARCFLM office is located in the City of Fayette and its transportation service area includes Fayette and Lamar County. The agency uses FTA Section 5310 grants to purchase vehicles.

- **Lamar County Aging Program**

The Lamar County Aging Program (LCAP) has a contract with the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging to provide transportation to the AAA clients and to transport the clients to the AAA senior centers. The LCAP provides transit service Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The AAA contract prevents the LCAP from providing transit service to other segments of the population. The LCAP drivers do not hold other positions in the agency. The LCAP is located in Vernon and its service area is most of Lamar County.

- **Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center**

The Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NWAMHC) is a comprehensive mental health program that offers adults and children outpatient services in Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Walker, and Winston County. NWAMHC operates a specialized child program in Vernon, out-patient and day rehabilitation programs in Vernon, and two adult mental illness residential programs in Sulligent. The center provides transit service exclusively to its consumers. Trips are provided for medical services, shopping, and recreation. In Lamar County, NWAMHC

provides approximately 20,000 transit trips per year. NWAMHC is non-profit agency and is located in the City of Jasper in Walker County. The center uses FTA Section 5310 grants to purchase vehicles.

- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**

The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. The AAA provides transportation to its senior centers. The AAA contracts with the Lamar County Aging Program to provide transit service to its elderly clients in Lamar County.

Private Systems

- **Generations of Vernon**

Generations of Vernon is a private company that provides transit service to its clients. Its service area includes Fayette and Lamar County. The company has one wheelchair-accessible van and provides demand response service for medical and recreational purposes.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Lamar County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Lamar County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Lamar County Contracts

- Alabama Department of Mental Health contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo
- West Alabama Area Agency on Aging contracts with the Lamar County Aging Program

6.4 Transit Needs

Figure 5 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups generally cover the northern third of the county, the area west of Sulligent and Vernon, the area between Vernon and Kennedy, and the area south of the Luxapallila Creek. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the Cities of Vernon, Sulligent, and Millport and to a lesser extent the Towns of Detroit, Beaverton, and Kennedy. The transit routes of the ARC of Fayette, Lamar, and Marengo, the Lamar County Aging Program, and the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NAMHC) are included on this figure. The routes cover a large part of the county. However, the routes do not serve many of the highlighted block groups.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers, including a Section 5311 provider
- Service to rural areas of the county including Kingville, Cody, Detroit, and Beaverton
- Additional service in Millport and Sulligent
- Out-of-county service including Tuscaloosa and Columbus, MS
- Shopping service
- Recreation service
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

6.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
 - Operating funds
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service

- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

6.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Millport and Sulligent
 - Rural areas of county including Kingville, Cody, Detroit, and Beaverton
 - Inter-county
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, including a 5311 provider (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**High**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

7.0 Pickens County

7.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 20,864 people living in Pickens County. This is an increase of 1,118 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. The increase is due to a new federal prison that opened outside of Aliceville in 2013. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 4,406 disabled people, 3,403 elderly individuals, and 4,801 people below the poverty line in the county. The population density of the county is 24 people per square mile.

Pickens County has a land area of 882 square miles. At its widest section the county is 38 miles north-to-south and 28 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 1,136 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south route is SR-17. The main east-west route is US-82.

There are five areas of concentrated population in Pickens County. The largest of the five is the City of Aliceville in the south-central part of the county. The Town of Gordo in the west-central part of the county is the second area of concentration. The third concentration is the Town of Reform located in the north-central part of the county. The Town of Carrollton, the county seat, is the fourth largest area of concentrated population. Carrollton is located in the center of the county. The final area is located in the Town of Pickensville, west of Carrollton on the state line. Figure 6 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 6 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 6 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

7.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Pickens County had 7,820 people in the labor force. Of this number 7,291 were employed and 529 were unemployed. The unemployment rate (6.8 percent) is higher than the national and state averages, 5.3 percent and 6.1 percent respectively. Major employers in the county include the Pickens County Board of Education, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Pickens County Medical Center, Aliceville Chips, Inc., Lavender, Inc., and Lewis Brothers Lumber Company. In Pickens County, there are approximately 600 businesses with 75 categorized as entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 46 percent of the employed workforce in Pickens County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group, 65 percent are employed in Tuscaloosa County and 28 percent work in Mississippi. Only 45 percent of the total workforce live and work in the county. An additional 9 percent of the workforce commutes into Pickens County from another county.

Pickens County

Figure 6

Concentrations of People in Pickens County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

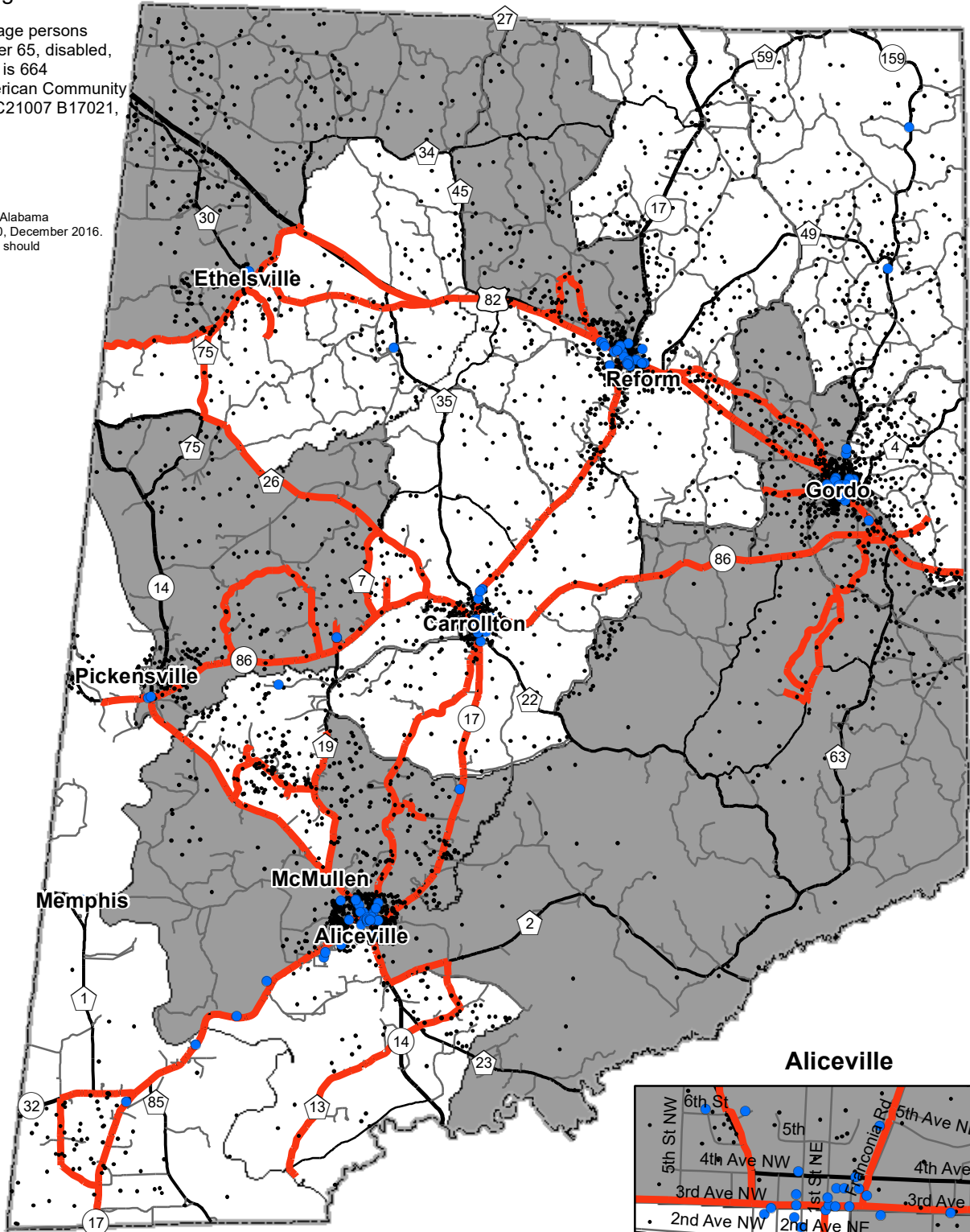
Above Average
 Below Average

In Pickens County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 664 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).

This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

• Potential Transit Destinations
— Transit Routes

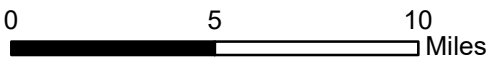
Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC



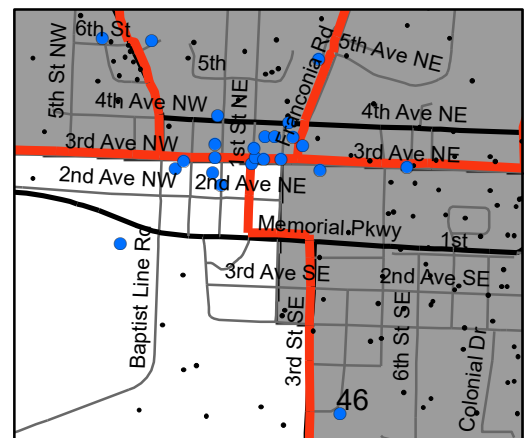
Population Density

1 Dot = 5 People

Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File



Aliceville



7.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Pickens County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**
The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.
- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**
The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.
- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**
The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.
- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**
The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.
- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**
The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be

used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **HELP Inc.**

HELP Inc. is the designated Section 5311 provider in Pickens County. The agency is located in Carrollton, the county seat. The agency provides transit service Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. The agency has a fleet of six vehicles, with two being wheelchair accessible.

HELP Inc. has a contract with the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to provide transportation to the AAA clients and to transport the clients to the AAA senior centers. The agency also has a contract with the Alabama Department of Human Resources to transport individuals participating in the JOBS welfare-to-work program. This contract is funded with a Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant. The contracts do not prevent the agency from serving other segments of the population.

The agency provides approximately 15,000 passenger trips per year to the general public, without age or income limitations. Transportation is provided for medical appointments, shopping, pharmacy visits, and other personal business and activities. A modest fare is charged for the service.

- **Indian Rivers Mental Health**

Indian Rivers Mental Health (IRMH) serves mental health and substance abuse clients by providing mental health treatment, job training, and employment services. The agency is located in Tuscaloosa. Its service area includes Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa County. The agency provides transportation to its clients but also contracts other transit providers. Most of the transportation service provided by the agency takes place Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, Indian Rivers manages numerous residential facilities where transportation service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The agency serves over 5,000 people annually.

- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**

The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. The AAA provides transportation to its senior clients and provides transportation to the AAA senior centers. The AAA contracts with HELP, Inc. to provide transit service to its elderly clients in Pickens County.

Private Systems

- **Arbor Woods Health and Rehab**

The Arbor Woods Health and Rehab (AWHR) is a private nursing facility that provides and purchases transit service for its clients. The facility is located in Reform and serves 81 clients. The AWHR has one van to transport clients for medical and recreation services and also purchases service from Northstar EMS (Pickens County Ambulance Service). The AWHR uses Medicaid to fund its transit purchases.

- **E&C Taxi Service**

E&C Taxi Service provides demand response service in Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company currently serves Medicaid clients. E&C operates Monday through Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. The company does not own a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

- **Northstar EMS**

Northstar EMS (Pickens County Ambulance Service) serves Fayette, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company provides emergency and non-emergency trips. The company operates Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The company has contracts with various nursing homes and medical facilities in the area. This company does not provide wheelchair service. The EMS has an office in the Town of Carrollton.

- **REACH**

The REACH program, located in Carrollton, offers transportation to its clients. REACH is a youth alternative treatment program that is part of the Pickens County Juvenile Court.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Pickens County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers and contracts. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations. The Pickens County providers did not identify any cases of sharing transit resources.

Pickens County Contracts

- Arbor Woods Health and Rehab contracts with Northstar EMS
- West Alabama AAA contracts with HELP, Inc.
- Alabama Department of Human Resources contracts with HELP, Inc.

7.4 Transit Needs

Figure 6 displays the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups generally cover the northwest corner of the county, the area northwest of Pickensville, the area north and west of Aliceville, and the southeastern part of the county. This figure also locates possible transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the Cities of Aliceville, Reform, Gordo, Carrollton, and to a lesser extent the Towns of Pickensville, Ethelsville, and Memphis. The transit routes of HELP Inc. are included on this figure. While the HELP Inc. routes cover the bulk of the county, some of the highlighted block groups are not served.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service, including early morning and early evening times
- Weekend service
- Additional public and private providers
- Decreased call-in times
- Additional shopping service
- Additional recreation service
- Service to rural areas of the county
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service
 - Medical trips
 - Work trips
 - Vocational training trips
 - Shopping trips
 - Recreation trips
 - Local trips
 - Out-of-county trips

Based on the survey responses and committee discussions there does not appear to be any duplication of service in the county.

7.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have

limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits
- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

7.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Rural areas of county
 - Additional service to reduce call-in times
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Low**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**Medium**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

8.0 Tuscaloosa County

8.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there are 203,976 people living in Tuscaloosa County. This is an increase of 9,320 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 21,304 disabled people, 22,301 elderly individuals, and 36,274 people below the poverty line in the county. The population density of the county is 154 people per square mile.

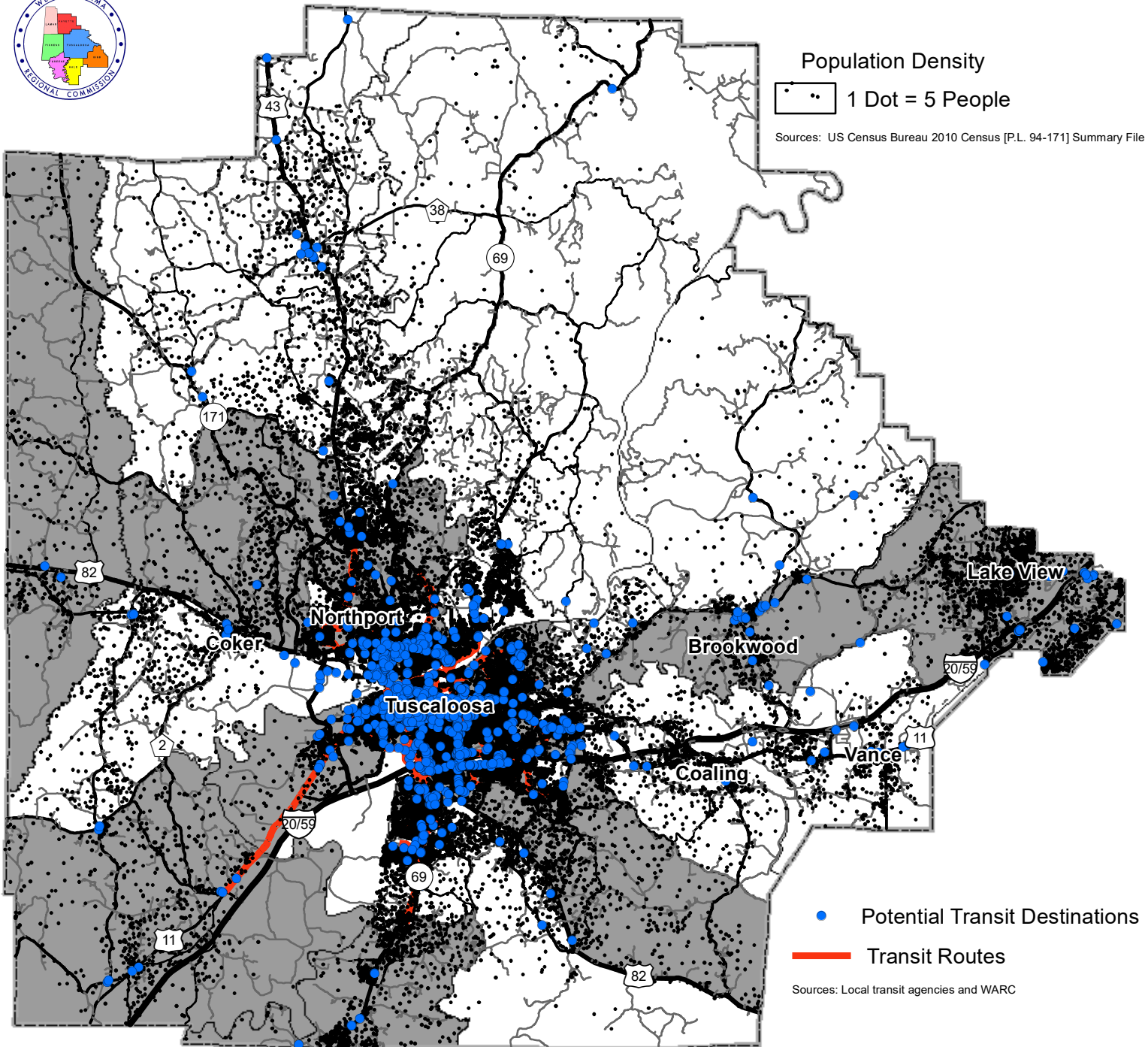
Tuscaloosa County has a land area of 1,325 square miles. At its widest section the county is 42 miles north-to-south and 45 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 2,493 miles of roads in the county. The main north-south routes are US-43 and SR-69. The main east-west routes are I-20/59 and US-82.

In Tuscaloosa County most of the population is concentrated in and around the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport. These cities are located in the central part of the county. The towns of Lake View, Brookwood, Vance, and Coaling in the eastern part of the county have smaller concentrations of population. The Town of Coker, west of Northport, also has a small concentration of population. Figures 7 and 8 depict these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figures 7 and 8 display potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figures 7 and 8 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

8.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 Tuscaloosa County had 98,051 people in the labor force. Of this number 92,704 were employed and 5,347 were unemployed. The unemployment rate (5.5 percent) is slightly higher than the national average (5.3 percent) and lower than the state average (6.1 percent). Major employers in the county include the University of Alabama, DCH Medical Center, Mercedes-Benz US International, Inc., Tuscaloosa County Board of Education, BF Goodrich Tire Manufacturing, Walter Energy, Tuscaloosa City Board of Education, Phifer Wire Products, and Veterans Administration Hospital. In Tuscaloosa County, there are hundreds of businesses that are considered entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 8 percent of the employed workforce in Tuscaloosa County commutes out of the county to their job. Of this group 59 percent are employed in Jefferson County. The majority of the total workforce, 77 percent, lives and works in Tuscaloosa County. An additional 15 percent of the workforce commutes into Tuscaloosa County from another county.



This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

Concentrations of People in Tuscaloosa County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

- Above Average
- Below Average

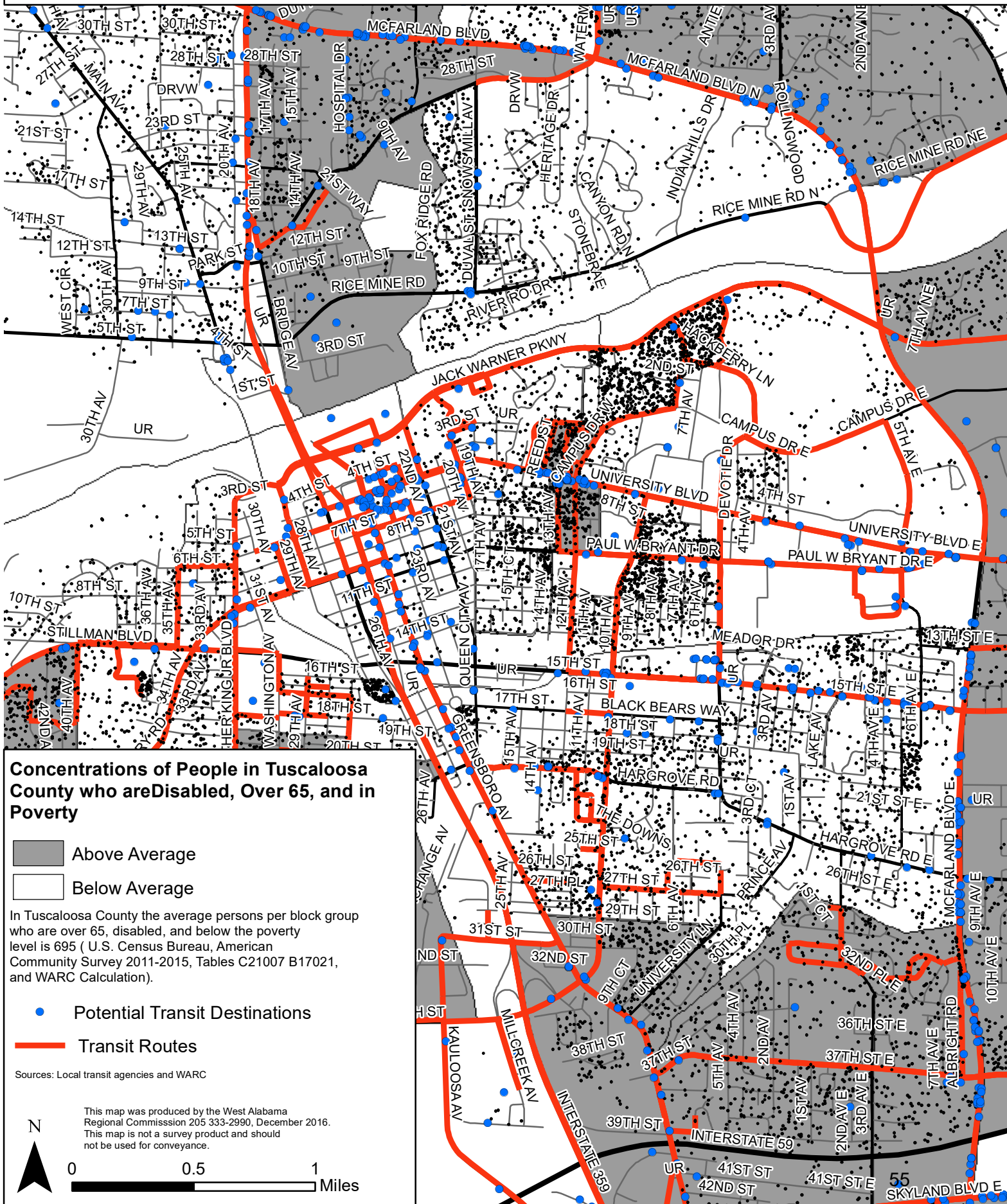
In Tuscaloosa County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 695 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).





1 Dot = 5 People

Sources: US Census Bureau 2010 Census [P.L. 94-171] Summary File



Concentrations of People in Tuscaloosa County who are Disabled, Over 65, and in Poverty

- Above Average
- Below Average

In Tuscaloosa County the average persons per block group who are over 65, disabled, and below the poverty level is 695 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Tables C21007 B17021, and WARC Calculation).

- Potential Transit Destinations
- Transit Routes

Sources: Local transit agencies and WARC

This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016.
 This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

0 0.5 1 Miles

8.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section provides a description of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in Tuscaloosa County. The agency descriptions are divided into public/non-profit and private. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Public and Non-Profit Systems

- **Alabama Department of Human Resources**

The Alabama Department of Human Resources maintains an office in all 67 Alabama counties. In west Alabama, the agency contracts with the South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) and HELP, Inc. to provide transportation services for its clients.

- **Alabama Department of Mental Health**

The service area for the Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II Community Services program includes Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County. In west Alabama the agency contracts with the ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, HELP Inc., and West Alabama Public Transportation to provide transportation service for their clients.

- **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**

The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) provides transportation services to people who are sensory impaired. The AIDB has a regional center in Tuscaloosa. Their main office is in Talladega. The AIDB Center in Tuscaloosa serves Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa County.

- **Alabama Kidney Foundation**

The Alabama Kidney Foundation purchases transit service for clients in all 67 Alabama counties. Their clients are limited to kidney patients who make \$1,000 or less per month. The transit service is funded by state appropriations and private contributions. The Foundation utilizes numerous transit providers throughout the state. The Foundation also reimburses client family and friends who provide transportation. The transit program operates from 5:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Foundation is located in Birmingham, Jefferson County. The Foundation indicated that they would like to provide service to individuals who are above the \$1,000 threshold but are not able to due to funding limitations. The Foundation also indicated that the lack of transit service in rural areas is a problem.

- **Alabama Medicaid Agency**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency offers non-emergency transit service to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries for Medicaid covered medical appointments. The agency provides Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to its clients to purchase transit service. The agency requires that public transit services be

used instead of for-profit companies if the service meets the needs of its clients. However, the EBT cards can be used for reimbursement of private vehicle use. This is the most common use of the Medicaid non-emergency transportation program in Alabama. Most of the service is associated with recurring medical needs such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not contract with transit providers. The Agency does maintain a registry of licensed transit providers for its clients. Registered providers in west Alabama include HELP, Inc., Kid One, Northstar EMS, SMART, and West Alabama Public Transportation.

- **Arc of Tuscaloosa County**

The Arc of Tuscaloosa County provides transit services for adults with intellectual disabilities and other disabilities including physical and mental disabilities. The Arc office is located in the City of Tuscaloosa and its service area is Tuscaloosa County. The agency serves individuals 21 and older. The Arc currently operates a fleet of 13 vehicles, most of which were purchased with FTA Section 5310 funds.

The Arc offers day programs and an employment program. The Arc transportation services are provided daily, Monday through Friday, 249 days a year, for the clients attending day programs. This includes transportation to and from their homes to programs for community and independent skills training.

The Arc operates the 26 demand response routes from Monday through Friday. Between 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. transportation is provided for mobile crews, enclaves, and for travel to community sites for training. Once a week the Arc transports a work crew at 4:00 a.m. The Arc provides daily, random trips for employment, shopping, grooming, and volunteer activities. The Arc averages about 45,000 annual trips per year. The Arc drivers also serve as direct care providers for the agency clients.

- **Arts 'n Autism**

Arts 'n Autism is an after-school and summer camp program that provides services for individuals with autism in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding counties. The program is housed in the City of Tuscaloosa and its transportation service area is Tuscaloosa County. The program currently serves 55 students for the summer camp, after-school and LIFEE (Learning Independence for Education and Employment) programs. Arts 'n Autism operates two buses purchased with Section 5317 funds and a donated SUV for its transportation services. Transportation is provided for after school pick-up, field trips, and activities and job training for LIFEE students. The vehicles operate 211 days per year, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clients are transported from 12 schools and two homes in Tuscaloosa County. The program also contracts with the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education and Tuscaloosa Charter Services to provide additional service.

- **Crossing Points (University of Alabama)**
 The Crossing Points Program provides post-secondary transition education to adults with intellectual disabilities. The program has a van that is used to transport participants to educational, employment, and recreational functions. The program is a collaborate effort between the University of Alabama and the Tuscaloosa City and County School Systems.
- **DCH Medical Center**
 The DCH Medical Center is a publically owned hospital in Tuscaloosa. The Center purchases transportation for clients on a limited basis. DCH maintains a contract with Alabama Sterling Limo-Cab. In addition, South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) is an as-needed service provider for the Center.
- **Eagles' Wings, Inc.**
 Eagles' Wings, Inc. (EWI) is a non-profit organization that provides day habilitation services to people, 21 years of age and older, with developmental disabilities. EWI operates four buses and two mini-vans purchased with FTA Section 5310 funds, as well as two donated vehicles. Transportation is provided for individuals attending the day program during the week, and for weekend community outings. Construction of the first EWI residential home is 95% complete, and construction of the second home is 30% complete. In order for the homes to open to residents, the waste water treatment system must be operational. This system is under construction at this time. Transportation will be provided to all people who live in residential homes at Eagles' Wings, Inc.
- **Easter Seals West Alabama**
 Easter Seals West Alabama is located in Tuscaloosa and utilizes Section 5316 grants and funds from the funds from the United Way of West Alabama, Alabama Department of Human Resources, and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide transit service in Tuscaloosa County. The program provides work or work related trips, exclusively. To be eligible, clients must have income below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. The program uses three mini-vans, which are wheelchair accessible, to provide transit service. The program operates from Monday through Friday, 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Annually, approximately 13,000 trips are provided by Easter Seals.
- **FOCUS on Senior Citizens**
 FOCUS on Senior Citizens provides door-to-door transit service to elderly and disabled individuals age 60 and older in Tuscaloosa County. FOCUS has a contract with the West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to transport clients to the AAA senior nutrition/activity centers, and also provides transit service for medical and social services appointments. In addition, FOCUS operates the RSVP of Tuscaloosa and Hale Counties and provides transportation to seniors who volunteer at community agencies. FOCUS operates six vehicles that were purchased with FTA Section 5310 grants and the agency provides an average of

17,000 trips per year. The transportation office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- **Indian Rivers Mental Health**

Indian Rivers Mental Health (IRMH) serves mental health and substance abuse clients by providing mental health treatment, job training, and employment services. The agency is located in Tuscaloosa. Its service area includes Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa County. The agency provides transportation to its clients but also contracts with other transit providers. Generally, transportation service is provided Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, Indian Rivers manages numerous residential facilities where transportation service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The agency serves over 5,000 people annually.

- **Kid One Transport System, Inc.**

Kid One Transport System, Inc. is a non-profit transit provider that operates in numerous Alabama counties, including Tuscaloosa. Kid One provides medical trips for children, 19 and under and expectant mothers. The agency generally operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The Kid One office is located in Birmingham in Jefferson County. Kid One has utilized Section 5310 and 5317 funds in the past.

- **Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority**

The Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority is the designated Section 5307 agency in Tuscaloosa County. The Authority is located in the City of Tuscaloosa. Since the City of Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama are the only local governments providing matching funds, the Authority only provides service within the city limits of Tuscaloosa.

The Authority operates six fixed routes in the City of Tuscaloosa. The fixed route service operates from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The routes begin in the Tuscaloosa Central Business District (CBD) at the Intermodal Facility, extend outward, and return to the CBD to form a series of loops. The Intermodal Facility is the only terminal for the fixed route system.

The Authority also maintains a demand response system for elderly and handicapped individuals. The Authority takes requests for this service and schedules trips on a first-come-first-served basis. The service covers the City of Tuscaloosa portion of the Tuscaloosa Urban Area. The service is provided between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Authority uses a fleet of handicapped accessible vans for this system.

The Authority has a contract to provide specialized transit service to clients of the Easter Seals West Alabama. The Authority also has a contract with the City of Tuscaloosa to provide transit service to a group of elderly and handicapped

individuals from a public housing development to an exercise and education program.

The Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority is the designated Section 5311 provider for Tuscaloosa County, but the Authority does not provide rural transit service because of the lack of financial support.

- **Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation Authority**

The Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation Authority (PARA) provides transit service to its recreation program participants. The service is limited to the days and times of the various program schedules. Some of the PARA vehicles are wheelchair accessible. The PARA drivers perform other tasks at the agency when they are not driving.

- **United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama**

The United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama (UCP) provides transit service to its clients with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. UCP is located in Northport and its service area includes all of the west Alabama counties. However, UCP only offers transit service in Tuscaloosa County. Its day-program transit service operates from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The agency also provides transit service to children for a summer camp program that runs from June through August. The summer camp service operates from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The agency uses four vans that each has 10 seats and two wheelchair spaces. The vans were purchased with FTA Section 5310 funds. The UCP drivers serve as direct support professionals and are not available to drive for other agencies.

- **University of Alabama**

In 2007, the University of Alabama created the Crimson Ride transit system. The University uses student fees to fund the operation of the system, in the past the University received FTA Section 5309 grants for capital purchases. The University currently maintains ten on-campus routes and seven off-campus routes. The seven off campus routes service eight apartment complexes. These routes operate between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, during the fall and spring semester. During the summer semester the system operates from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. A shopping shuttle is also offered from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. In addition to these routes, the University contracts with the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority to provide service from the Intermodal Center in Downtown Tuscaloosa to the University campus. There is no charge to ride the buses for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The University contracts with First Transit to operate the system.

- **Veterans Administration Medical Center**

The Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA) provides transit service for its clients with mental health issues in Tuscaloosa County. The VA service operates

from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The program is limited to disabled veterans who need transportation to VA activities, job interviews, and job assignments. The VA purchases its vehicles from the GSA Fleet Service program using VA funds. The VA staff indicated that many of their clients use the fixed route system operated by the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority. However, the lack of night and weekend service by the Transit Authority creates problems.

- **West Alabama Area Agency on Aging**

The West Alabama Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves senior citizens in west Alabama. In Tuscaloosa County, the AAA provides transportation to its senior centers through a contract with FOCUS on Senior Citizens.

- **Whatley Health Services, Inc.**

Whatley Health Services, Inc. is non-profit community health center that provides primary health care services to medically underserved residents in west Alabama. The center has a van that is used to transport clients to appointments at the center. The transportation service is limited to twice per week per client.

Private Providers

- **A1 Taxi Service**

A1 Taxi Service serves Tuscaloosa County.

- **Ambassador Limousine Service, Inc.**

Ambassador Limousine Service, Inc. generally serves Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County. The company provides limousine service and has a limited ability to serve wheelchair clients.

- **Crown Limousine Service**

Crown Limousine Service generally serves Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County but will transport anywhere. The company has nine vehicles but cannot serve wheelchair clients. The company charges by the hour, with rates dependent on the vehicle used. The company has no contracts with other agencies at this time.

- **Dunn's Taxi**

Dunn's Taxi provides service in Tuscaloosa County.

- **E&C Taxi Service**

E&C Taxi Service provides demand response service in Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company currently serves Medicaid clients. E&C operates Monday through Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. The company does not own a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

- **Greyhound Bus Line**

The Greyhound Bus line has four stops in the West Alabama region. These stops are not stand alone bus stations, but are generally housed with small businesses. The stops and associated businesses are listed below:

- Eutaw, gas station
- Greensboro, gas station
- Moundville community center
- Tuscaloosa, gas station

The stops offer limited service and tickets can only be purchased at the Tuscaloosa location.

- **Lee's Taxi**

Lee's Taxi serves Tuscaloosa County.

- **Lyft**

Lyft is a smartphone-based taxi company that provides service in Tuscaloosa County. With the Lyft App, anyone can summon a driver to their location. Riders have the option to choose the type of vehicle. The cost is based on the type of vehicle, miles driven, and time. The minimum fare is \$4.20 and the maximum is \$200. Payment is through the Lyft App with charges to a debit or credit card.

- **Moundville Health and Rehab**

The Moundville Health and Rehab (MHR) office is located in Moundville. Its service area includes Hale and Tuscaloosa County. The MHR purchases transit service from private providers. The MHR uses Medicaid to fund its transit purchases.

- **Northstar EMS**

Northstar EMS serves Fayette, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson County. The company provides emergency and non-emergency trips. The company operates Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. The company has contracts with several nursing homes and medical facilities in the area. This company does not provide wheelchair service. This company is on the Alabama Medicaid transportation provider registry.

- **Radio Cab**

Radio Cab generally serves Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County. The company operates year round, 24 hours a day. The company has five to six vehicles and eight to 10 drivers. The company provides limited wheelchair service. Radio Cab has a contract through the Veterans Administration.

- **Scuttle Shuttle**

The Scuttle Shuttle company provides service between Tuscaloosa and the Birmingham International Airport. The company offers nine departure trips and seven return trips daily. The departure times range from 2:27 a.m. till 9:40 p.m. The company has eight pick-up points in Tuscaloosa; five hotels, two University

of Alabama locations, and the Tuscaloosa Intermodal Facility. The company provides parking at one of the hotels. One-way tickets are \$45 and round-trip tickets are \$85.

- **South Mobile Area Regional Transit**

South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART) is a private provider operating in Bibb County. The company provides on-demand transportation services within a 200 mile radius of the county with trips routinely made to Tuscaloosa, Shelby, Perry, and Jefferson County. SMART operates 24 hours a day, year round and has two wheelchair accessible buses, one regular van, and two cars. The company charges by the mile. SMART currently has a contract with the Bibb County DHR to provide service to clients in their JOBS program. In addition, the company is an as-needed service provider for the DCH Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

- **Sterling Limo**

Sterling Limo provides taxi service to the Tuscaloosa area. The company maintains a contract with DCH Medical Center. The company owns three taxis and three limousines. The company does not serve wheelchair clients.

- **Tuscaloosa Charter Service**

Tuscaloosa Charter Service provides service throughout Alabama. The company is able to serve wheelchair clients. The company has a contract with the Arts 'n Autism program. Tuscaloosa Charter owns 11 vehicles.

- **Uber**

Uber, a smartphone-based taxi company, provides service in Tuscaloosa County. With the Uber App, anyone can summon a driver to their location. Riders have the option to choose the type of vehicle. Payment is through the Uber App with charges to a debit or credit card. Prices vary based on the current demand and driver availability.

Current Coordination Efforts

- In Tuscaloosa County, current coordination efforts include utilization of existing providers, contracts, and sharing of transit resources. These efforts address a previously identified transit gap. In many cases an agency that needs transportation for its clients will use an existing provider rather than start its own transit system. The transit purchasing agency can simply direct its clients to the providers or can enter into a contract with the provider. These mutually beneficial arrangements allow agencies that need transportation for their clients to take advantage of existing transit services. The transit purchasing agencies save money and time by using the existing providers. The providers gain revenue to support their operations.

Tuscaloosa County Contracts

- Alabama Department of Mental Health contracts with the Arc of Tuscaloosa
 - Alabama Kidney Foundation contracts with Northstar EMS
 - Arts 'n Autism contracts with Tuscaloosa Charter Service and the Tuscaloosa City School Board
 - City of Tuscaloosa contracts with the Transit Authority
 - DCH Hospital contracts with Alabama Sterling Limo-Cab
 - Moundville Health and Rehab contracts with Northstar EMS
 - Veterans Administration Medical Center contracts with Radio Cab
 - West Alabama AAA contracts with FOCUS
- The Arc of Tuscaloosa, FOCUS on Senior Citizens, and the United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama have an agreement to share vehicles for special events and when an agency has a vehicle out of service. The agreement also includes the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, the Tuscaloosa County PARA, a local mental health association, the Cancer Society, and the American Heart Association.
 - As part of a cooperative agreement, the United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama transports clients daily for Arts 'n Autism.
 - The 2008 update of this plan recommended that a centralized routing project be undertaken. The project was to feature a calling center that would allow potential transit clients in Tuscaloosa County to make one telephone call in order to schedule a trip regardless of who will provide the trip. The call center would then determine the best agency to provide the trip and make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the trip. The Easter Seals agency volunteered to lead the project with ARC, UCP, FOCUS, and the Transit Authority agreeing to participate.

During the fall of 2009, Easter Seals performed a two week simulation of the proposed project. Easter Seals used their licensed routing software and trip logs from all of the participating transit agencies to run the simulation. The simulation revealed that the project had the potential to reduce the use of two transit vehicles on most days but that the cost to implement and operate the program, including additional software licenses and personnel, would outweigh any cost savings. The use of counselors as drivers at several of the transit agencies limited the possible coordination opportunities.

8.4 Transit Needs

Figures 7 and 8 display the census block groups that have a higher than average population of disabled, elderly, and poor. These block groups generally cover the areas north and west of Northport, the eastern tip of the county, the area along SR-216, and most the southern part of the county. The figures also locate potential transit destinations. As expected, most of the destinations are in the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport and to a lesser extent the Towns of Brookwood, Vance, and Lake View.

The transit routes of the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, the Arc of Tuscaloosa County, the University of Alabama, Eagles Wings, and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) are also included on Figures 7 and 8. The Transit Authority and UCP routes generally cover the City of Tuscaloosa south of the Black Warrior River. The University routes are confined to the campus. The Arc and Eagles Wings routes cover the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport and in some cases extend into the rural part of the county. The highlighted block groups in the urbanized area of the county are served by these routes. However, the highlighted block groups in the rural parts of the county are not covered by the existing routes.

Surveys were provided to transit providers, social service organizations, and transit riders during the update of this plan during in 2015. The staff and transit committee used the survey responses to develop a list of needs in the county. In the Fall of 2016, the transit committee verified these needs.

Needs Not Currently Addressed

- Night service
- Weekend service
- Holiday service
- Decreased fixed route headways
- Additional public and private providers
- City of Northport service
- Service to rural areas of the county including Brookwood, Holt, Peterson, Vance, Lake Tuscaloosa area, Duncanville, Taylorville, and McCalla
- Out-of-county service including Jefferson County and Bibb County
- Additional service for shopping, medical appointments, recreational activities, and church
- Decreased call-in times
- Decreased wait times
- Maintaining schedules (pick-up and drop-off times) demand response service and fixed routes
- Vehicles that will accommodate larger people
- Service for senior citizens who are less than 60 years old
- Additional service from the UA campus to other areas of the community
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects, including telephone notification
- Additional accessible vehicles
- Alternative fuel options
- Additional fixed route bus stop shelters
- Education of general public (services available, how to use, application process, operations times, costs, contact information)

Needs Met or Partially Met with Current Service

- Daytime, Monday through Friday Service

- Medical trips
- Work trips
- Vocational training trips
- Shopping trips
- Recreation trips
- Local trips
- Out-of-county trips

The Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, the Arc of Tuscaloosa, Easter Seals West Alabama, FOCUS on Senior Citizens, and United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama indicated that there is some duplication of transit service in the county. All of the agencies have agreed to work together to reduce the duplication of services when economically feasible.

8.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Lack of financial support by the City of Northport
- Lack of financial support by Tuscaloosa County
- Dispersed population
- Large land area
- Training required to manage some clients
- Aides required for some clients
- Drivers sometimes serve as social workers and are not available to drive for other agencies

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

8.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current transit service (**High**)
- Maintain current transit contracts and coordination efforts (**High**)
- Expand current transit service (Additional funding required) (**High**)
 - Nights
 - Weekends
 - Holidays
 - Reduce fixed route headways
 - City of Northport
 - Rural areas of county including Brookwood, Holt, Peterson, Vance, Lake Tuscaloosa area, Duncanville, Taylorville, and McCalla,
 - Inter-county
 - Shopping, recreation, and church
 - Additional service to reduce call-times, wait times, and schedule delays
 - Additional service for senior citizens
 - Purchase or modify vehicles to accommodate larger people
 - Additional service from the UA campus to other areas of the community
 - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) (**Medium**)
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source (**High**)
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources (**High**)
- Support/Establish alternative fuel options for existing and future transit providers (**Medium**)
- Develop education/outreach programs (Additional funding may be required) (**Medium**)

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

9.0 West Alabama Region

9.1 Demographics and Geography

Based on a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate there were 301,615 people living in the west Alabama region. This is an increase of 7,688 from the number reported in the 2010 Census. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey there are 40,699 disabled people, 38,601 elderly individuals, and 58,490 people below the poverty line in the region. The population density of the region is 56 people per square mile.

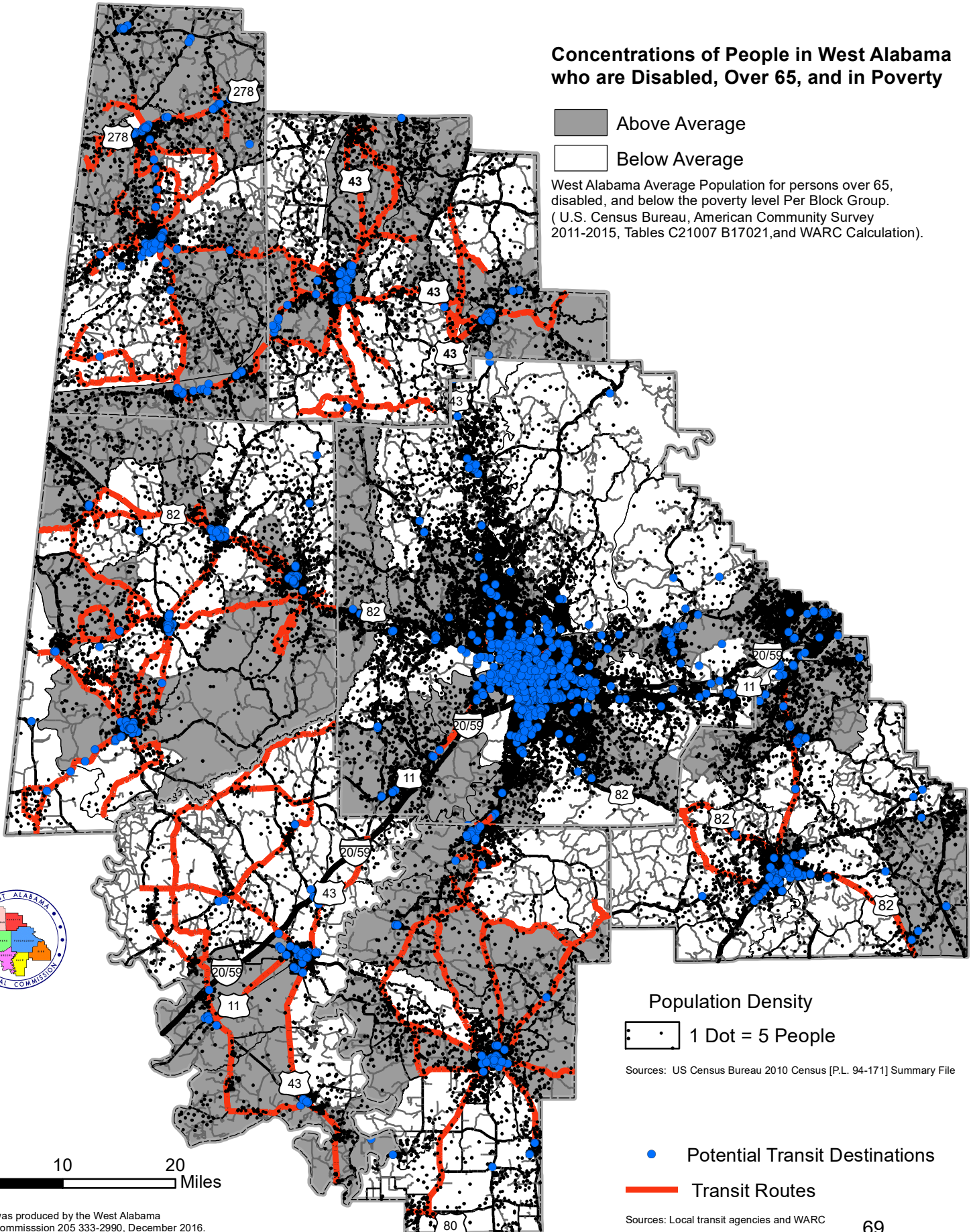
The region has a land area of 5,352 square miles. At its widest section the region is 100 miles north-to-south and 85 miles east-to-west. Based on numbers provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation, there are 8,304 miles of roads in the region. The main north-south routes are SR-17, US-43, SR-69 and SR-5. The main east-west routes are SR-18, US-82, and I-20/59.

The population of the region is concentrated in the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport in Tuscaloosa County. Outside of these communities, there are 22 municipalities where population is concentrated, but at lower levels. These areas are located along the major roads that cross the region. Figure 9 depicts these concentrations. These areas also contain the bulk of the potential transit destinations including government offices, social service organizations, schools, medical facilities, and large employers. Figure 9 displays potential transit destinations and transit system routes. In addition, Figure 9 includes concentrations of people who are disabled, over 65, and in poverty.

9.2 Employment

Based on figures from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in 2015 the region had 135,387 people in the labor force. Of this number 127,350 were employed and 8,008 were unemployed. The unemployment rate in west Alabama is 5.9 percent, which is higher than the national average (5.3 percent) and lower than the state average (6.1 percent). Major employers are concentrated in Tuscaloosa County. However, each county has at least a few businesses that employ more than 50 people. In region there are hundreds of businesses that are considered entry-level employers. Most of the employers, including major and the entry-level employers, are located within the municipal limits.

Based on information from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 18 percent of the workforce in the region commutes out of their home county to their job. About 67 percent of the total workforce live and work in their home county. An additional 15 percent of the workers commute into one of the counties in the region. Tuscaloosa County attracts thousands of workers from Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Jefferson, and Pickens County. Thousands of workers also commute from Bibb and Tuscaloosa County to Jefferson County every day. During this time frame, Lamar and Pickens County had almost 1,800 people travel to Mississippi for work.



0 10 20 Miles

This map was produced by the West Alabama Regional Commission 205 333-2990, December 2016. This map is not a survey product and should not be used for conveyance.

9.3 Transit Resource Assessment

This section includes a list of each agency or company that provides or purchases transit service in West Alabama County. The lists are divided into private-for-profit and public or non-profit. The public and non-profit agencies were grouped together because the non-profits are generally funded by public agencies or governments. Descriptions of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories used by the public and non-profit agencies are included in Chapter 10.

Private For-Profit Companies that Provide or Purchase Transit Service in West Alabama

Agency Name	Type of Transit Agency	West Alabama Counties Served
A1 Taxi Service	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Ambassador Limousine Service	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Arbor Woods Health and Rehab	Provider & Purchaser	Pickens
Cahaba Medical Care Foundation	Purchaser	Bibb
Colonial Haven Care and Rehabilitation Center	Purchaser	Hale
Crown Limousine	Provider	Tuscaloosa
CV Transerv	Provider	Bibb
Dunn's Taxi	Provider	Tuscaloosa
E&C Taxi Service - Formerly E&C Transport	Provider	Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Fayette County Nursing Home	Purchaser	Fayette
Generations of Vernon	Provider	Fayette, Lamar
Greene County Ambulance Service	Provider	Greene
Greene County Nursing Home/Medical Center	Provider & Purchaser	Greene
Greyhound	Provider	Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa
Hale County EMS	Provider	Hale
Lee's Taxi	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Lyft	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Moundville Health and Rehab	Purchaser	Hale, Tuscaloosa
Northstar EMS	Provider	Fayette, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Radio Cab	Provider	Tuscaloosa
REACH	Purchaser	Pickens
Scuttle Shuttle	Provider	Tuscaloosa
South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART)	Provider	Bibb, Tuscaloosa
Sterling Limo, Formerly Alabama Sterling Limo-Cab	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa Charter Service	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Uber	Provider	Tuscaloosa

**Public Agencies and Non-Profit Companies
that Provide or Purchase Transit Service in West Alabama**

Agency Name	Type of Transit Agency	West Alabama Counties Served
Alabama Department of Human Resources	Puchaser	Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Alabama Department of Mental Health, Region II Community Services	Puchaser	Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (Tuscaloosa Regional Center)	Provider & Purchaser	Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Alabama Kidney Foundation	Provider	Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Alabama Medicaid Agency	Puchaser	Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Am-Serv	Provider	Bibb
ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, Inc.	Provider	Fayette, Lamar
ARC of Tuscaloosa County	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Arts n' Autism	Provider & Purchaser	Tuscaloosa
Bibb County Department of Human Resources	Puchaser	Bibb
Brent-Centerville Senior Center	Provider	Bibb
Community Service Programs of West Alabama	Puchaser	Greene, Hale
Crossing Points (University of Alabama)	Provider	Tuscaloosa
DCH Medical Center	Puchaser	Tuscaloosa
Eagles Wings	Provider & Purchaser	Tuscaloosa
Easter Seals West Alabama	Provider & Purchaser	Tuscaloosa
Fayette County Aging	Provider	Fayette
FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Greene County Commission (Senior Centers)	Provider	Greene
HELP Inc.	Provider	Pickens
Indian Rivers Mental Health	Provider & Purchaser	Bibb, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Kid One Transport System, Inc.	Provider	Greene, Tuscaloosa
Lamar County Aging	Provider	Lamar
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	Provider	Fayette, Lamar
RSVP of Tuscaloosa and Hale County (FOCUS)	Provider	Hale, Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	Provider	Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation	Provider	Tuscaloosa
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama	Provider	Tuscaloosa
University of Alabama	Provider	Tuscaloosa
VA Medical Center (Tuscaloosa)	Provider	Tuscaloosa
West Alabama Area Agency on Aging	Puchaser	Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa
West Alabama Mental Health Center	Puchaser	Greene, Hale
West Alabama Public Transportation (West Alabama Health Services, Inc.)	Provider	Bibb, Greene, Hale
Whatley Health Services, Inc.	Provider	Tuscaloosa

Please see the appropriate county chapter for a description of the agencies.

Current Coordination Efforts

- Currently, there are no regional coordination efforts in west Alabama.

9.4 Transit Needs

In west Alabama there are limited inter-county transportation options. A reliable method to transport people from the rural west Alabama counties to Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Selma, Meridian, Mississippi, or other economic hubs is needed. This is especially true in Fayette, Lamar, and Pickens County. The hub communities offer national travel options (air, rail, and bus), employment opportunities, medical facilities, educational institutions, shopping, and recreation. Rural residents have to travel to these hubs for at least some of their needs.

West Alabama Public Transportation provides service from Bibb to Tuscaloosa and from Greene and Hale to the Selma. However, the other rural counties do not have access to a similar service. A public or private service could address this need.

The Greyhound Bus Line operates four stops in the West Alabama region (Greene, Hale, and Tuscaloosa County) and has facilities in Birmingham and Selma. Amtrak has stations in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Meridian, Mississippi. The closest commercial air service is located in Birmingham, Meridian, and Columbus, Mississippi.

Some of the transit gaps reviewed in the previous chapters could be addressed by eliminating or reducing the Alabama Public Service Commission regulation that prevents publicly funded systems from picking up riders in counties they pass through because they are not the designated transit provider for that county. Many of the rural transit providers transport their clients to appointments in larger communities such as Tuscaloosa. This regulation denies transit service to potential clients that live in unserved areas of counties, such as rural Tuscaloosa County. If this rule could be changed some of the identified transit gaps could be addressed.

Needs Not Currently Addressed or Only Partially Addressed

- Additional inter-county service to connect rural residents with national bus service, Amtrak service, commercial air service, jobs, medical facilities, shopping opportunities, recreation facilities, education and training opportunities; including west Alabama and out-of-region travel

9.5 Transit Service Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee and the survey responses, developed a list of barriers that prevent the needs from being addressed. These barriers are consistent across the rural counties in the region. The local agencies and governments have limited control over the barriers, which are often related to economic issues, personal choice decisions, and the nature of rural communities.

Barriers

- Lack of funding (local, state, federal, private)
- Small client base limits opportunities for profits

- Cost of for-profit service
- Dispersed population
- Alabama Public Service Commission service area restrictions

The challenge of the transit agencies and local governments is to find ways around these barriers. The funding to address every need will never be available. The economics of providing transit service to a small number of dispersed clients will never appeal to a for-profit business. Innovative ideas will be required, if the needs are to be met.

9.6 Strategies to Address Needs and Barriers

The staff, working with the transit committee, developed the following strategies. Several of the proposals are related to maintaining the current level of service. These were included because the existing services are addressing gaps that previously existed. The strategies are general in nature so as not to preclude any future projects. Many of the strategies indicate that additional funding will be required for implementation. In some cases the additional funding could be a reallocation of existing funds or programs. New funding streams may not always be needed.

Strategies

- Maintain current inter-county transit service in Bibb, Greene, Hale County **(High)**
- Add inter-county transit service (Additional funding required) **(High)**
- Support/Establish additional transportation providers, where needed (Additional funding required) **(Medium)**
- Support/Establish alternate transit options where transit service is not available or cost prohibitive, such as car/van pools and transportation stipends (Additional funding required) **(Medium)**
- Support efforts to establish a state transit funding source **(High)**
- Support efforts to combine and/or leverage funding sources **(Medium)**
- Support efforts to modify the Alabama Public Service Commission service area restrictions **(High)**

The list of strategies includes an implementation priority (High, Medium, Low) assigned by the transit committee. The priority is based on available resources, time, and feasibility. The priority assigned does not have a direct correlation to the amount of support or the amount of need. It simply reflects the existing reality based on the ranking criteria. If circumstances change, a low or medium priority strategy could be implemented prior to one that was ranked as a high priority.

10.0 Funding Opportunities

This chapter provides a basic description of common transit funding programs. These programs provide most of the transit funding in west Alabama and are likely to be the prime sources for future transit service. Each program and sub-program features a unique set of restrictions that hinders cooperation and coordination. However, without the programs very few, if any, public transit options would be available.

10.1 Federal

Administration on Aging Congregate Nutrition Services

- The Administration on Aging Congregate Nutrition Services is restricted to elderly individuals. Locally, it is administered by the Area Agency on Aging Department at the West Alabama Regional Commission. The program provides transit service to local nutrition centers.

Federal Transit Administration

Relevant Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding categories are listed below with a brief description.

- **Section 5307 (Urban Area)**

This FTA program provides funding to census designated urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. These funds are intended to be used for general public transit service (no qualifications are placed on riders). However, specialized transit service can be provided with these funds to address the needs of persons with disabilities that would involve rider qualifications.

These funds can be used for planning, capital purchases, and operating expenses. Under the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (Map-21), job access and reverse commute projects are also eligible activities. Planning and capital projects generally require a 20 percent local match. Operating funds require a 50 percent local match.

There is only one urbanized area in west Alabama. It encompasses the Cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa. The Section 5307 funds that are dedicated to the Tuscaloosa Urbanized Area are distributed by the Federal Transit Administration directly to the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, the designated recipient.

- **Section 5310 (Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities)**

This FTA program is intended to address the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. In Alabama the funding is distributed to the Alabama Department of Transportation who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. The funds are generally limited to capital purchases, which require a 20 percent local match. MAP-21 combined the

Section 5317 (New Freedom) program with the 5310 program. Eligible 5317-type projects now can be funded with this program.

- **Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area)**

This FTA program provides funding for areas with a population fewer than 50,000. These funds are intended to be used for general public transit service (no qualifications are placed on riders). In Alabama the funding is distributed to the Alabama Department of Transportation who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program.

The funds may be used for capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. Under Map-21, job access and reverse commute projects are also eligible activities. The local matching requirements are generally 20 percent for capital and administrative expenses and 50 percent for operating expenses. Government agencies, transit operators, and non-profit agencies are eligible recipients.

- **Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute)**

Under MAP-21 this program was combined with the 5307 and 5311 programs. However, Alabama has not used all of the funds made available under the previous transportation bill. The program will remain open until the remaining funds are exhausted.

The purpose of this FTA program is to provide job-related transportation services to welfare recipients, low-income individuals, and reverse commuters. In Alabama the funding is distributed to the Alabama Department of Department of Transportation (ALDOT) who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. Eligible program charges include planning, capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. The local matching requirements are generally 20 percent for planning, 20 percent for capital projects, and 50 percent for operating expenses.

- **Section 5317 (New Freedom)**

Under MAP-21 this program was combined with the 5310 program. However, Alabama has not used all of the funds made available under the previous transportation bill. The program will remain open until the remaining funds are exhausted.

The purpose of this FTA program is to provide additional transportation options to persons with disabilities. In Alabama the funding is distributed to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. The funds may be used for planning, capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. The local matching requirements are generally 20 percent for planning, 20 percent for capital projects, and 50 percent for operating expenses.

- **Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities)**

The 5339 program provides capital funding for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities. The funds are limited to capital purchases and generally require a 20 percent local match. Designated recipients, sub-recipients, and states are eligible for these funds. This program had previously been labeled Section 5309.

Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program

- The Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program is limited to full-covered Medicaid beneficiaries. Transit service is restricted to Medicaid covered medical appointments. The program is managed by the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Clients use Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to retrieve funds. The program allows the use of public or private transportation options.

Medicaid Waiver Program

- The Medicaid Waiver Program is limited to non-institutionalized individuals three and older who have been diagnosed with intellectual disabilities or with related conditions. The program is focused on providing personal care transportation, day habilitation service, and residential habilitation service. This program is managed by the by the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

10.2 State

Alabama is one of a few states that do not provide any funding for transit service. State law prevents fuel taxes from being used for anything except road maintenance or construction. In addition, the bulk of the state general funds are earmarked for specific programs.

10.3 Local

The funding supplied by the local sources is generally used to match the federal grants reviewed in this chapter. Of the 44 local governments in the west Alabama region only four support transit service in their community. In many cases the local transit providers could not survive without the social service contracts.

- **Fayette County Commission**

The Fayette County Commission provides local matching funds to the Fayette County Aging Program.

- **Greene County Commission**

The Greene County Commission provides local matching funds and in-kind services to provide transportation to the Greene County AAA nutrition centers.

- **Lamar County Commission**

The Lamar County Commission provides local matching funds to the Lamar County Aging Program.

- **Pickens County Commission**
 The Pickens County commission provides local matching funds to HELP, Inc.
- **City of Tuscaloosa**
 The City of Tuscaloosa provides local matching funds to the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority. The City also provides funds to numerous non-profits that provide transit service.
- **United Way of West Alabama**
 The United Way of West Alabama provides funds to the ARC of Tuscaloosa County, Arts 'n Autism, Easter Seals West Alabama, FOCUS on Senior Citizens, and United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama. In some cases the funds may not be used for transportation services.
- **University of Alabama**
 The University of Alabama uses student fees to operate the campus transit system, Crimson Ride. In the past, student fees have also been used to match FTA Section 5309 Capital Grants. The grants were used to build parking decks and bus stops. The University also provides matching funds to the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority for the University Shuttle route.
- **Contracts with Social Service Agencies**
 Many of the transit providers in the region maintain contracts with social service agencies. The contracts ensure that the clients of the social service agency are provided transportation. The contracts also eliminate the need for the social service agency to develop or expand a transit program. In addition, the arrangement provides local match for federal grants that are utilized by the transit provider.

11.0 Continuing Efforts

After the adoption of this plan the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will monitor transit issues in the region in order to determine if this plan needs to be modified. Changes to existing transit conditions could require the addition, deletion, or re-prioritization of strategies or projects. Any necessary adjustments to the plan can be accomplished through amendments adopted by the Policy Committees of the MPO and RPO. The joint MPO and RPO transit committee, which helped develop this plan, will meet as needed to assist in these efforts and to facilitate the implementation of the identified strategies.

The committees of the MPO and RPO will continue to meet on a regular basis. The MPO committees meet every other month and the RPO committees meet once per quarter. The Section 5307 and 5311 providers in the region are voting members on the MPO and RPO technical coordination committees. At the meetings the committees discuss various transportation issues, usually focusing on federally funded projects, including transit programs.

Based on the current ALDOT contract, this plan will be updated in fiscal year 2019. The MPO and RPO Policy Committees should adopt the update in August 2019. If the federal planning requirements continue past 2019 and funds are available, the plan will likely be revised in 2021.

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017

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Developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)
in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation

August 2017

Appendix A

West Alabama Transit Committee Membership List

West Alabama Transit Committee - Condensed List

Name

Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Alabama Department of Mental Health - Montgomery
Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II
Alabama Department of Public Health
Alabama Department of Public Health - Montgomery
Alabama Department of Public Health - Selma
Alabama Department of Public Health - Tuscaloosa
Alabama Department of Senior Services
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind
Alabama Kidney Foundation
Alabama Medicaid Agency
Alabama State Children's Rehab Services
Alabama Vocational Rehab
ALDOT Multimodal Bureau
Am-Serv EMS
ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Counties
Arc of Tuscaloosa County
Arts 'n Autism
Bibb County BOE Transportation
Bibb County DHR
Bibb County Extension Office
Brent-Centreville Senior Center
Bryce Hospital
Cahaba Medical Care
Cahaba Valley Health Services
Community Service Programs
Crimson Ride - U of A
Eagles Wings
Easter Seals West Alabama
Eutaw Senior Center
Fayette County Aging
Fayette County BOE Transportation
Fayette DHR
Fayette EMS - Northstar
Fayette Medical Center (Ambulance)
FHWA Alabama Division
FOCUS on Senior Citizens
FTA Atlanta Region
Governor's Policy Office
Greene Co Ambulance Service
Greene DHR
Greensboro Tours
Hale County DHR

Name

Hale County EMS
HELP, Inc.
HERO
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center
KidOne
Lamar County Aging
Lamar County DHR
Northstar Paramedic Service
Northwest AI Mental Health Center
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
Pickens County Ambulance - Northstar
Pickens County DHR
Tuscaloosa City BOE Transportation
Tuscaloosa County DHR
Tuscaloosa County PARA
Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama
United Way of West Alabama
University of Alabama Civil Engineering Department
VA Medical Center - Tuscaloosa
West AL Mental Health - GC
West AL Mental Health - HC
West Alabama Area Agency on Aging
West Alabama Mental Health Center
West Alabama Public Transportation

Appendix B

**West Alabama
Transit Plan
News Release List**

Transit Plan News Release - Condensed List

Name	Group
Adriana Dunn	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Alyce M. Spruell	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Anne Wynn	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Ashton Greer	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Bill Herz	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Brian Gurney	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Celia O'Kelley	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Charlene Wilkinson	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Christine Bassett	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Dan Wolfe	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Dorothy Peacock	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Eric Courchesne	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Erin Wiggins	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
FOCUS/Foster Grandparent	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Harold Stowell	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Heike Schad	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Joshua Medina	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Lisa Marshall Thomas	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Michelle Montgomery	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Paula Marques	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Pixie Hicks	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Rebecca Fulks	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Robert P. Hoggle	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Ronnie Kelley	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Ronnie Sanders	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Sam Rombokas	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Teresa Lewis	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Xabier Granja	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Zachary Heard	MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
A. D. Christian	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Ashley B. Broughton	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Charlene Wilkinson	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
David Hartin	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Glenn Griffin	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Harold Horton	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jill Hannah	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jimmie Cain	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jimmy Hamner	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Joe Robinson	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
John Myers	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Joyce Clements	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Lenny Fulmer	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Leon Tucker	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee

Name	Group
Lew Drummond	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Marvin Cherry	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Mike Wright	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Robert Green	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Thomas Peters	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Tommy Nix	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Willis Reynolds	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Wyman Turner	MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
A1 Taxi Service	MPO Groups
AARP Tuscaloosa	MPO Groups
Ability Alliance of West Alabama	MPO Groups
ADEM	MPO Groups
Alabama Children's Rehab Services	MPO Groups
Alabama Conservation & Natural Resources	MPO Groups
Alabama Department Of Commerce	MPO Groups
Alabama Department of Mental Health - Region II	MPO Groups
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program	MPO Groups
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program	MPO Groups
Alabama Environmental Council	MPO Groups
Alabama Head Injury Foundation	MPO Groups
Alabama Historical Commission	MPO Groups
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	MPO Groups
Alabama Medicaid Agency	MPO Groups
Alabama Vocational Rehab	MPO Groups
Alabama Wildlife & Fisheries	MPO Groups
Ambassador Limousine Service, Inc.	MPO Groups
American Red Cross	MPO Groups
Arc of Tuscaloosa County	MPO Groups
Arts 'n Autism	MPO Groups
Big Brothers-Big Sisters	MPO Groups
Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama	MPO Groups
Bryce Hospital	MPO Groups
Catholic Social Services of West Alabama	MPO Groups
Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama	MPO Groups
Christian Ministries	MPO Groups
Clara Verner Tower & Senior Center	MPO Groups
Community Service Program of West Alabama	MPO Groups
Community Soup Bowl	MPO Groups
Compassion Coalition	MPO Groups
Crimson Ride - U of A	MPO Groups
Crown Limosine Service	MPO Groups
CSP Village	MPO Groups
Druid Hills Un Meth Seniors	MPO Groups
Dunn's Taxi	MPO Groups
E&C Taxi Service	MPO Groups
Easter Seals West Alabama	MPO Groups

Name	Group
Elizabeth Baptist Church - Project Care	MPO Groups
Family Counseling Services	MPO Groups
FOCUS on Senior Citizens	MPO Groups
Friends of Hurricane Creek	MPO Groups
Friends of the Arboretum	MPO Groups
Gilgal Bap. Ch. XYZ Club	MPO Groups
Good Samaritan Clinic	MPO Groups
Grand Taxi	MPO Groups
Greyhound Bus Lines	MPO Groups
Habitat for Humanity Tuscaloosa	MPO Groups
Hannah Home	MPO Groups
Head Start - CSP	MPO Groups
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center	MPO Groups
Lee's Taxi Service	MPO Groups
Legal Counsel for the Elderly	MPO Groups
Legal Services Corp of Alabama	MPO Groups
Martinview Assisted Living	MPO Groups
McConnell Hills Apts.	MPO Groups
Merrill Gardens	MPO Groups
Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa	MPO Groups
NAACP	MPO Groups
Northport Housing Authority	MPO Groups
Northriver Assisted Living Ctr.	MPO Groups
Northside Golden Agers	MPO Groups
Northstar Paramedic Service	MPO Groups
Oakmulgee Ranger District	MPO Groups
Palk Enterprises	MPO Groups
Presbyterian Apartments	MPO Groups
Radio Cab Service	MPO Groups
Regency Retirement Village	MPO Groups
Resources for Independence	MPO Groups
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	MPO Groups
Salvation Army	MPO Groups
Scuttle Shuttle	MPO Groups
Sierra Club - West Alabama	MPO Groups
Southside Senior Center	MPO Groups
Sterling Limo	MPO Groups
Sterling Limo	MPO Groups
Stillman College	MPO Groups
Temporary Emergency Services	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa Charter Service	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa Children's Center	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa City Schools	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa County DHR	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa County Health Department	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa County IDA	MPO Groups

Name	Group
Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa County Schools	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa PARA	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center	MPO Groups
Tuscaloosa's One Place	MPO Groups
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama	MPO Groups
United Way of Central Alabama	MPO Groups
United Way of West Alabama	MPO Groups
VA Medical Center Tuscaloosa	MPO Groups
Volunteers of America	MPO Groups
West Alabama Food Bank	MPO Groups
West Alabama Sickle Cell	MPO Groups
YMCA	MPO Groups
42 News	MPO Media
ABC 33/40	MPO Media
APR News	MPO Media
Clear Channel Radio	MPO Media
Moody Radio	MPO Media
Moody Radio	MPO Media
NBC 13	MPO Media
Northport Gazette	MPO Media
Tuscaloosa City Press Release Office	MPO Media
Tuscaloosa News	MPO Media
United Way of West Alabama	MPO Media
WCBI-Channel 4	MPO Media
West Alabama Gazette	MPO Media
WQZZ	MPO Media
WTUG, WTSK, WVEI, WANZ	MPO Media
WTWG	MPO Media
WUAL-FM	MPO Media
WVUA TV	MPO Media
James D. Brown	MPO Policy Committee
Judge W. Hardy McCollum	MPO Policy Committee
Mayor Donna Aaron	MPO Policy Committee
Mayor Walt Maddox	MPO Policy Committee
Robert Lake	MPO Policy Committee
Adriana Dunn	MPO Request
Alfedo Acoff	MPO Request
Alton Hyché	MPO Request
Alyce M. Spruell	MPO Request
Andrew Somers	MPO Request
Bob Portera	MPO Request
Bobby Kemp	MPO Request
Brian Hynniman	MPO Request
Carrie Summers	MPO Request

Name	Group
Chris Crawford	MPO Request
Chris D. Gunter	MPO Request
Christine Bassett	MPO Request
Cornelia Sanders	MPO Request
Donny Jones	MPO Request
Garcia A. Long	MPO Request
Gary Averett, Mayor of Coaling	MPO Request
George Putman	MPO Request
Jesse Chambless	MPO Request
Keith Mahaffey	MPO Request
Ken Faught	MPO Request
Kirk Mills	MPO Request
Lacey Ezekiel	MPO Request
Laurie Johns	MPO Request
Mark D. Bartlett	MPO Request
Marla Shaw, Mayor of Coker	MPO Request
Max Snyder	MPO Request
Michael Hamilton	MPO Request
Michelle Reeder	MPO Request
Nicole Bohannon	MPO Request
Paul Calhoun, Mayor of Lake View	MPO Request
Randy R. Stroup	MPO Request
Rob Quinney	MPO Request
Sam Wilson	MPO Request
Scott Tillman	MPO Request
Sonya R. Baker	MPO Request
Steven D. Anderson	MPO Request
Tony Lester	MPO Request
Tony W. Harris	MPO Request
University of Alabama	MPO Request
Vickie Gilliland	MPO Request
Wesley Bumpers	MPO Request
William Wallace	MPO Request
Yvette G. Taylor	MPO Request
Abigail Rivera	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Brad Darden	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Caroline Sandel	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Doug Behm	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Farrington Snipes	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Gerald Burton	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jeff Powell	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jeffrey Dodson	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jeremy Jones	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jim Doolin	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
John Powell Webb	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Katherine Holloway	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Name	Group
Lian Li	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Marty Hamner	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Northport Planning Commission	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Philip O'Leary	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Russell Lawrence	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Scott Anders	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Scott Stephens	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Tuscaloosa County Sheriff Department	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Tuscaloosa Planning Commission	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Wendy Shelby	MPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Al Elbert	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Allen Dunavant	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Bobbie Kemp-Driver	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Fay Meharg	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Freddie Shoults	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jacqueline Whitehead	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
James Pugh	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jerry Elkins	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Jerry Pow	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Joan Owens	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Joanne Craighead	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Joe Lancaster	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
John Downs	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Judy Jarvis	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Lane Gilliam	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Marva Gipson	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Sandy Rowland	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Wanda Deavours	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Wayne Baines	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Wayne Christian	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
William Thomas	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
Willie Smith	RPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee
ACES - Bibb County	RPO Groups
Akron Senior Center	RPO Groups
Alabama Assisted Living Center Inc.	RPO Groups
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program	RPO Groups
Alabama Environmental Council	RPO Groups
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	RPO Groups
Aliceville Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Aliceville Public Library	RPO Groups
Aliceville Senior Center	RPO Groups
Belk Senior Center	RPO Groups
Berry Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Berry Senior Center	RPO Groups
Bibb County DHR	RPO Groups
Bibb County Health Department	RPO Groups

Name	Group
Bibb County Nursing Home	RPO Groups
Bibb Medical Center	RPO Groups
Brent Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Brent-Centreville Library	RPO Groups
Brent-Centreville Senior Center	RPO Groups
Canterbury Manor	RPO Groups
Care Center of Vernon	RPO Groups
Carrollton Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Carrollton Public Library	RPO Groups
Carrollton Senior Center	RPO Groups
Colonial Haven	RPO Groups
CSP Head Start of Fayette	RPO Groups
Eunice Kelly Worthington Public Library - Woodstock	RPO Groups
Eutaw Elderly Village	RPO Groups
Eutaw Senior Center	RPO Groups
Fayette Co BOE Transportation	RPO Groups
Fayette County Aging	RPO Groups
Fayette County Health Department	RPO Groups
Fayette County Memorial Library	RPO Groups
Fayette County Nursing Home	RPO Groups
Fayette DHR	RPO Groups
Fayette Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Fayette Needs	RPO Groups
Fayette Senior Center	RPO Groups
Forkland Senior Center	RPO Groups
Garcia A. Long	RPO Groups
Gordo Gardens	RPO Groups
Gordo Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Gordo Senior Center	RPO Groups
Greene Co Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Greene County Health Department	RPO Groups
Greene County Nursing Home	RPO Groups
Greene County Senior Center	RPO Groups
Greene DHR	RPO Groups
Greensboro Health Care Inc.	RPO Groups
Greensboro Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Greensboro Senior Center	RPO Groups
Hale Co. Bus Shop	RPO Groups
Hale County DHR	RPO Groups
Hale County Health Department	RPO Groups
Hale County Public Library	RPO Groups
HERO	RPO Groups
Hillcreek Apartments	RPO Groups
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center	RPO Groups
James C. Poole, Jr. Memorial Library	RPO Groups
Kennedy Housing	RPO Groups

Name	Group
Kennedy Public Library	RPO Groups
Kennedy Senior Center	RPO Groups
Kimbrell Home	RPO Groups
Lamar Co BOE Transportation	RPO Groups
Lamar Convalescent Center	RPO Groups
Lamar County Aging	RPO Groups
Lamar County DHR	RPO Groups
Lamar County Health Department	RPO Groups
Lamar Head Start	RPO Groups
Lamar Home Care Inc.	RPO Groups
Lamar Home Health, Public Health	RPO Groups
Lawley Senior Center	RPO Groups
Lawrence Properties	RPO Groups
Magnolia Village	RPO Groups
Mamie McClary	RPO Groups
Mary Wallace Cobb Memorial Library	RPO Groups
Millport Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Millport Public Library	RPO Groups
Millport Senior Center	RPO Groups
Morningside Assisted Living	RPO Groups
Moundville Health and Rehab	RPO Groups
Moundville Nursing Facility	RPO Groups
Moundville Public Library	RPO Groups
Moundville Senior Center	RPO Groups
Northstar Paramedic Service	RPO Groups
Pickens County Cooperative Library	RPO Groups
Pickens County DHR	RPO Groups
Pickens County Family Resource Center	RPO Groups
Pickens County Health Department	RPO Groups
Reform Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Reform Public Library	RPO Groups
Reform Senior Center	RPO Groups
Reliance Health Care	RPO Groups
RSVP Greene County	RPO Groups
Ruth Holliman Public Library - Gordo	RPO Groups
Salem of Reform	RPO Groups
Sansing Country Home	RPO Groups
Sulligent Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Sulligent Public Library	RPO Groups
Sulligent Senior Center	RPO Groups
The McCafferty Home	RPO Groups
United Way of West Alabama	RPO Groups
Upward Bound - UWA	RPO Groups
Vernon Housing Authority	RPO Groups
Vernon Senior Center	RPO Groups
West Alabama Mental Health Center	RPO Groups

Name	Group
West Blocton Library	RPO Groups
West Hill Apartments	RPO Groups
Woodstock Senior Center	RPO Groups
Yester Oaks Apartments	RPO Groups
42 News	RPO Media
ABC 33/40	RPO Media
APR News	RPO Media
Centreville Press	RPO Media
Clear Channel Radio	RPO Media
Commercial Dispatch	RPO Media
Cumulus Broadcasting, Inc.	RPO Media
Greene County Democrat	RPO Media
Greene County Independent	RPO Media
Greensboro Watchman	RPO Media
Lamar Democrat	RPO Media
Lamar Leader	RPO Media
Moody Radio	RPO Media
Moundville Times	RPO Media
NBC 13	RPO Media
Northport Gazette	RPO Media
Pickens County Herald	RPO Media
Times Record	RPO Media
Tuscaloosa News	RPO Media
Tuscaloosa News	RPO Media
Tuscaloosa News	RPO Media
Tuscaloosa News	RPO Media
WCBI-Channel 4	RPO Media
West Alabama Gazette	RPO Media
WJEC/WVSA	RPO Media
WLDX	RPO Media
WQZZ	RPO Media
WTBC Radio	RPO Media
WTUG, WTSK, WVEI, WANZ	RPO Media
WTWG	RPO Media
WUAL-FM	RPO Media
WVUA TV	RPO Media
Arthur Crawford	RPO Policy Committee
Craig Patterson	RPO Policy Committee
Dennis Stripling	RPO Policy Committee
Frederick Kennedy	RPO Policy Committee
James D. Brown	RPO Policy Committee
Joe Acker	RPO Policy Committee
Mark D. Bartlett	RPO Policy Committee
Mike Roney	RPO Policy Committee
Randy R. Stroup	RPO Policy Committee
Ray Nelson	RPO Policy Committee

Name	Group
Raymond Steele	RPO Policy Committee
Ricky Hubbard	RPO Policy Committee
Robert Lake	RPO Policy Committee
Stanley Allred	RPO Policy Committee
Tennyson Smith	RPO Policy Committee
Tony Lester	RPO Policy Committee
Adriana Dunn	RPO Request
Alyce M. Spruell	RPO Request
Bob Portera	RPO Request
Cathy Roberts	RPO Request
Chris D. Gunter	RPO Request
Eric LaFoy	RPO Request
Gary Mosley	RPO Request
George Putman	RPO Request
Lacey Ezekiel	RPO Request
Lynn Norris	RPO Request
Max Snyder	RPO Request
Mike and Chenoa Clardy	RPO Request
Rob Quinney	RPO Request
Scott Tillman	RPO Request
Selena Rodgers	RPO Request
Toni M. Arrington	RPO Request
Willis Reynolds	RPO Request
Allen Dunavant	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Bennie Harton	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Bobby Armstead	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Brad Darden	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Brian Latham	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Charlie McAlpine	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Chris Bedwell	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Clint Terry	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Daniel Sims	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Danny Miles	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Dewayne Roby	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Donald Sherrod	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Eddie Pickle	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Evelyn Hinton	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
George Newman	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Glenn Crawford	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Haywood Stokes III	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
James Gaines Jr.	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
James Garner	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jeff McKinney	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jeffrey Dodson	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jim Doolin	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jimmy Madison	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Name	Group
Johnnie Washington	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Jonathon Anderson	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Josh Knight	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Keith King	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Kimberly McCaa	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Lian Li	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Linwood Hughes	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Louis Harper	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Luke Porter	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Marva Gipson	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Mickey Walker	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Northwest Al Mental Health Center	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Patricia McCafferty	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Ronald Waldrop	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Rose McDaniel	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Russell Lawrence	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Scott Anders	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Scott Boman	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Shelia Kennedy	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Talbert Essary	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Terry Morton	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Tracy Fletcher	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
Willie Branch	RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Appendix C

Example Surveys

**Survey 1
For Agencies that Provide Transit Service**

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan - 2015 Update

Contact Person: _____
Agency: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
FAX: _____
E-mail: _____

1. Service Area (List County or Counties):

2. Other counties regularly visited - Provide specific destination if possible

3. Clients Served (Circle all that apply.)

- a. Elderly
- b. Disabled
- c. General public
- d. People going to work, looking for work, or undertaking employment training
- e. Other _____

4. Funds Used (Circle all that apply.)

- a. FTA Section 5310 (elderly and disabled)
- b. FTA Section 5311 (rural transit)
- c. FTA Section 5307 (urban area)
- d. FTA Section 5316 JARC (job access / reverse commute)
- e. FTA Section 5317 New Freedom (disabled)
- f. Other _____

5. Days (of week) and Hours of Service

6. Known un-served populations (such as areas of a county, times, days)

7. Major, non-vehicle, purchases or contracts expected over the next 10 years.
Examples: buildings, dispatch / routing software, multi-year maintenance contracts.

8. Please complete/update the enclosed Bus / Van Inventory sheet.

9. Please complete/update the enclosed Bus / Van Purchase Schedule. Include all buses and vans your agency plans to purchase from fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014) through fiscal year 2024 (September 30, 2024).

10. Please complete/update the enclosed route map(s).

Please return the survey by December 1, 2014
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476-0509
FAX 205-333-2713
E-mail: david.norris@westal.org

Survey 2
For Agencies that Purchase Transit Service for Their Clients
West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan - 2015 Update

Contact Person: _____
Agency: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
FAX: _____
E-mail: _____

1. Service Area (List County or Counties): _____

2. How many clients do you serve with the transit service you purchase? _____

3. At what times do your clients need service? Please list days of the week and time of the day. _____

4. What is the source of funding for the transit purchases? Please list all.

5. Who do you purchase transit service from (List name and address)? _____

6. Do you have any unmet transit needs? Please list all (such as areas of the county, times, days). _____

Please return the survey by December 1, 2014
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476-0509
FAX 205-333-2713
E-mail: david.norris@westal.org

**Survey 3
For People Who Use Transit Services**

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan - 2015 Update

1. What is your home county? _____

2. What agency or agencies do you use for transit service? _____

3. Are there places that you need to go that the transit provider does not serve (Please List)?

4. Are there times or days that you need to go places and the transit provider does not operate (Please List)?

5. Are there any ways that the transit provider could improve their service (Please List)?

6. Please list any other comments or concerns related to transit service in west Alabama.

**Please return the survey by December 1, 2014
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476-0509
FAX 205-333-2713
E-mail: david.norris@westal.org**

Appendix D

Public Participation Items

Public Participation

Committee Meetings

The transit committee that helped to develop this plan followed the same public involvement procedures as the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) committees. The transit committee held three meetings as part of the plan update process. All of the meetings were preceded by news releases indicating the time, date, place of the meeting, and agenda.

The news releases were sent to local media contacts, organizations that assist elderly and handicapped individuals, community organizations, transit providers, and groups that have contact with minority and low-income people. Over 200 news releases were sent for each committee meeting. The newspapers in the region frequently carried articles or reprints of the news releases. The news releases indicated that if a person needed special assistance to attend the meeting they could contact the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Any person who attended the committee meetings was given an opportunity to participate. Non-committee members had the option to participate during any discussion. In addition, the committee recognized non-members during every meeting and provide them the opportunity to speak on items not addressed on the agenda.

Public Meetings

The MPO and RPO provided an additional opportunity for public participation by holding a series of public meetings regarding the plan during July 2017. Information on the public meetings was included in news releases that were provided prior to the meetings. Excluding the WARC staff, twenty-three people attended the meetings.

Public Meetings

1. Bibb County - July 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall
2. Fayette County - July 25, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber
3. Greene County - July 27, 2017, 2:00 p.m. - James C. Poole Library, Eutaw
4. Hale County - July 18, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library
5. Lamar County - July 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Lamar County Commission Chamber
6. Pickens County - July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission Chamber
7. Tuscaloosa County - July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center

The draft plan was available at the meetings, by mail, at the West Alabama Regional Commission, and on the Commission website. The MPO and RPO received no comments regarding the plan. The news releases, sign-in sheets, slides, and newspaper articles from the meetings are presented on the following pages.



NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:

Robert B. Lake, Executive Director
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
Northport, AL 35473
(205) 333-2990 * FAX (205) 333-2713

October 20, 2016

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Agenda

1. Review plan update schedule
2. Review/correct transit resource section of plan
3. Verify next meeting date

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For **special assistance**, call the WARC at 333-2990.



NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:

Robert B. Lake, Executive Director
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
Northport, AL 35473
(205) 333-2990 * FAX (205) 333-2713

February 22, 2017

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of plan
3. Schedule
4. Review and revise draft plan
5. Verify next meeting date

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For **special assistance**, call the WARC at 333-2990.



NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:

Robert B. Lake, Executive Director
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
Northport, AL 35473
(205) 333-2990 * FAX (205) 333-2713

June 21, 2017

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017

The Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following public meetings for the *Draft West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017*:

1. **Bibb County** - July 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
2. **Fayette County** - July 25, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1st Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
3. **Greene County** - July 27, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
4. **Hale County** - July 18, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
5. **Lamar County** - July 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Lamar County Commission Chamber, 44690 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
6. **Pickens County** - July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission Chamber, 20 Phoenix Avenue, Carrollton, AL
7. **Tuscaloosa County** - July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center, 601 23rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL

The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan by the MPO and RPO staff as well as a question and answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments.

The plan will be available at the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC), 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, for public review from May 8 through July 28, 2017. The plan is also available on the internet at (www.warc.info/transportation-planning/tuscaloosa-area-mpo/documents) and by mail (205-333-2990, extension 213). All comments must be received prior to July 28, 2017.

The plan records coordination opportunities for publicly funded transit agencies in west Alabama. The plan provides a review of the current transit systems and includes improvement strategies, project lists, and maps. In order to be eligible to receive certain Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants, transit agencies must participate in the plan development. The affected grants include Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, and Section 5317 - New Freedom Program.

The MPO is scheduled to adopt the draft plan at their August 28, 2017 meeting and the RPO is scheduled to adopt it at their August 4, 2017 meeting. Prior to adopting the plan, the MPO and RPO will review all comments from the public and make changes to the plan if warranted. If major revisions are required the public will be given another opportunity to inspect the plan.

The meetings are open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For **special assistance** call the WARC at 333-2990.

- End -
D-5



NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:

Robert B. Lake, Executive Director
West Alabama Regional Commission
4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1
Northport, AL 35473
(205) 333-2990 * FAX (205) 333-2713

July 26, 2017

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of plan
3. Review of public comments
4. Review and revise draft plan
5. Committee meeting schedule

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For **special assistance**, call the WARC at 333-2990.

West Alabama Transit Committee
 Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
 West Alabama Regional Commission, Northport, AL

Telephone

Address

Email

	Name	Position/Occupation	Representing
1	Fay McInry	Director Fayetteville	Fayette CD Affinity
2	Frances Welch	Administrator	Kanna-Cocata Aging
3	Keith Jenkins	Therapeutic Programs Dir.	Tuscaloosa PARA
4	Rickey Foster	Transportation Supervisor	AREDE Tuscaloosa
5	Edna Fulbright	Director	Tuscaloosa PARA
6	Kobbe Skurt	Director	AIDS
7	Jamie Ryan	Trans Director	FOCUS
8	Russell Lawrence Din	Tuscaloosa Trans. Mgmt.	Tuscaloosa Trans. Mgt.
9	TERENCE Butts	Maintenance Director	ARC of Fayette
10	Patricia McCafferty	Director	H.E.L.P., Inc.
11	Henry Powers	Admin.	WAPT
12	Sandra Wilson	Bookkeeper	Arts in Autism
13	David Moran	WVAC	
14	Jill Hannah	WVAC	
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West Alabama Transit Committee
 Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
 West Alabama Regional Commission, Northport, AL

	Name	Position/Occupation	Representing	Address	Telephone	Email
1	Fay McHarris	Payette Co Aging Director				
2	Frances Melick	Kenon Co Aging				
3	Cindy Collins	Board AIDB				
4	Kath Jenkins	PARA				
5	Rickey Foster	ARC of Tuscaloosa County				
6	RUSSELL Lawrence	TUSCALOOSA TRANSIT				
7	Juanice Truitt	Transp Director	MVAMHC			
8	Jerry S. Eckins	Ames Co CTR				
9	Math Holdbrooks	Kid One Transport	→ President			
10	Jessica Beckwith	CM/Ability Alliance	AL			
11	Dolly McMillin	Sol. Dist.	6 LG WING PEOPLE FIRST			
12	Becky Johnson	Ex. Assistant	Cochise Wires			
13	Robert Chaudron	Trans Dir. E	Easter Seals West Ala			
14	Clayton McMillin	Spec. Pub. Cox	West AL Mental Health			
15	Jamie Ryan	TRANS DIR	FORKS & SERRAVALLO			
16	BETTY HARRISON	Mentorship	ARC of Fayette Lamar			
17	TERENCE BUTTS	TRANSFORMATION AND MAINT. DIRECTOR	ARC OF FAYETTE, LAMAR-MARY			
18	Daryl Narry	WALC	WALC			
19	Jill Hannah	WARC	war c			
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West Alabama Transit Committee
 Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
 West Alabama Regional Commission, Northport, AL

	Name	Position/Occupation	Representing	Address	Telephone	Email
1	NICHOLAS PHILIP	NFT Coordinator	AL Medicaid Agency			
2	Rickey Foster	TRANSPOSITIONAL Supervisor	The ARC of Tuscaloosa County			
3	Kyle Jenkins	PARA Supervisor	PARA			
4	Erin Wilgins	DEV. Dir. PARA	PARA			
5	Jamie Ryan	TRANS. DIR.	FOCUS on Senior Care			
6	Marica Bethley	Program Specialist	Dept. of Human Resources			
7	Patricia McAfferty	Director	HELP, Inc. Pickens Co.			
8	FEITH GARRITT	ES-School Manager	Tuscaloosa Transit			
9	Janice Trotter	Transportation Director	ARC of Fayette, Lamar			
10	Melissa Ferris	Transportation Specialist	ESWA			
11	Deborah Chandler	Transportation Director	ESWA			
12	Abbie Stewart	Director/AIDB	AIDB			
13	TERENCE BUTTS	Transportation Director	ARC of Fayette, Lamar			
14	Belle Harrison	Marketing Assistant	ARC of Fayette Lamar			
15	Daniel Norris	WARC				
16	Zane Davis	WARC				
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting

Location: Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent

Date: July 24, 2017

Name (Please Print) Address E-mail Telephone

1	Gayle Pow		
2	Karl McMullen		
3	Soren Coughhead		
4	John Bowers		
5	Dennis Stripling		
6	Zane Davis		
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1st Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
Date: July 25, 2017

Name (Please Print) Address E-mail Telephone

1	Luke Porter			
2	WANDA DEANOURS			
3	Allen J. DUNAWANT			
4	Bobbie Kemp - Driver			
5	Joe D. Acker			
6	Zane Davis			
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
Date: July 27, 2017

	Name (Please Print)	Address	E-mail	Telephone
1	Judy Jarvis			
2	RIS SERMON			
3	Zac Davis			
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
Date: July 18, 2017

Name (Please Print) Address E-mail Telephone

1	Jerry S. Elkins		
2	William Thomas		
3	Walth Bond		
4	Zane Davis		
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: Lamar County Commission Chamber, 44690 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
Date: July 20, 2017

Telephone

E-mail

Address

Name (Please Print)

1	Lane Gilliam		
2	AK Ebbert		
3	Renee Peaves		
4	Zane Davis		
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: Pickens County Commission Chamber, 20 Phoenix Avenue, Carrollton, AL
Date: July 27, 2017

Name (Please Print) Address E-mail Telephone

1	JAMES PUGH		
2	Patricia McCafferty		
3	Zane Davis		
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 - Public Meeting
Location: Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center, 601 23rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Telephone

E-mail

Address

Name (Please Print)

1	David Norris		
2	Zane Davis		
3	Russell Lawrence		
4	Tamika Alexander		
5	SCOTT STEAKENS		
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West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan

1

What is the purpose of the plan?

(1) to determine transit gaps and coordination opportunities among publicly funded, human services transportation programs in west Alabama

(2) to develop strategies to address the identified gaps and coordination issues

2

Why was the plan developed?

- The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
 - Section 5310 - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities
 - Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute
 - Section 5317 - New Freedom
- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)
 - Section 5310 - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities

3

Who was responsible for developing the plan?

- Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

4

What area is covered in the plan?

- The seven counties of west Alabama (Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa).



5

When was the plan developed?

- The first plan was developed in 2006
- Three other plans were developed in 2008, 2011, and 2015
- This update has been developed this fiscal year (October 2016 – July 2017)
- An update will be prepared in 2019

6

How was plan developed?

- The MPO-RPO staff working with the regional transit subcommittee
- Development Process section of the plan provides more details

7

Public Involvement

8

Past Public Involvement Opportunities

- Past MPO-RPO transit committee meetings
- MPO and RPO committee meetings
- Draft plan on the WARC website

9

This Public Meeting

- Formal opportunity for public review of the draft plan
- MPO-RPO staff available for questions
- Comment forms and tape recorder
 - All written comments will be addressed by the MPO and RPO and included in the final plan

10

Future Public Involvement Opportunities

- West Alabama Transit Committee meeting
 - August 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
- RPO meetings
 - CTAC (July 2017)
 - TCC (August 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.)
 - Policy Committee (August 4, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.)
- MPO meetings
 - CTAC (August 22, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.)
 - TCC (August 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.)
 - Policy Committee (August 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.)
- MPO-RPO staff will forward any comments to the MPO and RPO committees

11

How can I comment on the plan?

- Comment forms
- Tape recorder
- Letter
- E-mail
- August RPO and MPO committee meetings

12

The Coordinated Public Transit Plan

13

Format

- Introduction
- County Chapters
 - Demographics and Geography
 - Employment
 - Transit Resource Assessment
 - Transit Needs
 - Transit Service Barriers
 - Strategies
- Funding Opportunities
- Continuing Efforts

14

Appendices

- Transit Plan Committee Membership List
- Transit Plan News Release List
- Example Surveys
- Public Participation Items
- Project Lists
- Acronym List
- Vehicle Inventories
- Transit Providers
- MPO Description
- RPO Description

15

Contact Information

David Norris
West Alabama Regional Commission
P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476-0509
205/333-2990, extension 213
david.norris@westal.org
www.warc.info

16

Questions?

17

Message.

We are finally down to the last element. Last week I begin discussing know Him through the element of the message.

The Message of the Bible - The message of the Bible is a call to action. Its message is to do what God wants us to do. Its basic, overarching message is to accept the rescue from eternal damnation that He has provided through the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. But there are many other messages in the Bible

how difficult, frightening, or pagan the setting is. He expects this from His children and honors those who make the right choice.

This principle is based on truths we should know before we read this story: (1) God as our Maker and Sustainer has a right to demand first place in our lives; (2) He has the power and wisdom to bless those who honor Him; (3) He possesses the moral integrity to do what is right with us.

Next week, I summary how to put these principle elements to work!

Northport Gazette
October 26, 2016
Page 7A

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aistries, Inc.

West Alabama Transit Committee to meet

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 9, at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Agenda

1. Review plan update schedule
2. Review/correct transit resource section of plan
3. Verify next meeting date

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access

and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

Editor:

It is my honor and pleasure to write this letter in the strongest support possible for my friend Dennis Stevenson for District Attorney of my home, Tuscaloosa County.

Dennis is the candidate with the broadest qualifications and experience to become District Attorney. He was in the Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's Office for over eight (8) years. During that time, he was an outstanding trial attorney prosecuting an extensive workload of serious violent felonies including Capital Murders. After leaving the District Attorney's Office Dennis served as a Circuit Court Judge presiding over Criminal and Civil cases. Dennis served as Drug Court Judge for over six (6) years and has served as a Municipal Court Judge for Vance, Brookwood, Woodstock, Coaling and the City of Tuscaloosa handling criminal cases.

I have known Dennis

for over thirty (30) years. I personally worked with Dennis in the Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's office. He is a man of great honor and ability. He works hard but was always ethical in handling his cases. When Dennis left the District Attorney's office I prosecuted cases where Dennis was on the other side. Dennis was just as hard working, effective and ethical. Dennis always did the right thing.

I spent a lot of time knowing the person Dennis Stevenson and his character and actions were and are above reproach. Dennis is a devoted and committed husband and father.

Dennis has a heart for helping others. Dennis has been extremely involved in our community. He has worked on numerous agencies and charitable organizations. A list of just a few of those can be found on his website and facebook page.

To keep our home safe, you have to have a strategy, a plan. Dennis has a great

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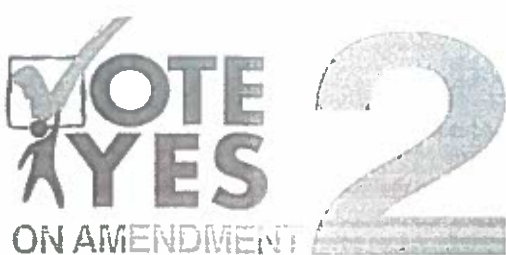
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Modern Woc largest frat looking fo without : area. Ca ager's i

On November 8

Protect Alabama State Parks funding.

About 90% of the State Parks budget comes from user fees. Amendment 2 will ensure that money stays where it belongs - in the parks.



Amendment will appear on the general election ballot on November 8th
Vote2ProtectParks • P.O. Box 13485 • Birmingham, AL 35202

ont Wilson, 25, 239 Woodland Hills, Fayette, SORNA violation;

• Oct. 14, Victoria Faith Swindle, 21, 9459 Hwy. 18 E. Bankston, alias - warrant;

• Oct. 14, Valine Williams, 31, 3400 Calument Rd., Jasper, theft of property;



Valine Williams



Dominique L. Wilson



Carson Keen Witten

Bevill State EMS program awarded grant for mobile ambulance lab

An \$81,000 grant has been awarded to Bevill State to provide an authentic mobile ambulance training laboratory to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department.

"This mobile laboratory will support educational programs that will allow Bevill State students to experience training in a real-life ambulance environment, before working with live patients in clinical settings," explained Scott Karr, director of Emergency Medical Services.

The mobile lab will help Bevill State students complete the short-term EMS certificate then move forward in the program to gain stackable credentials. "The lab will serve as not only a training unit but will be utilized as a recruiting tool. High school students will be introduced to EMS career field through career fairs and other events," said Penne Mott, dean of Health Sciences at Bevill State.

The grant was made possible by the Appalachian Regional Times-Record October 26, 2016 Page 3A



"at-risk" coun-serve Walker ll four of these I communities. s excited about

the new addition. "This is an outstanding opportunity for the Bevill State service area. Dual enrollment students can now have the lab come directly to them," said Ferguson.

The objective of the grant is to support educational programs that train healthcare professionals who will locate in Appalachian Alabama and will allow the mobile ambulance unit to be purchased and will pay for an instructor to operate.

"I am pleased to have worked with Bevill State in securing this grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission," remarked Senate Majority Leader Greg Reed. "Bevill State is a tremendous place for our young people to acquire skills that will lead to quality jobs upon graduation. One of my highest priorities as a legislative leader is advocating for the college to state and national leaders."

A trauma mannequin was purchased in 2013 via a previously funded ARC grant. This mannequin will now have a home in the new, ARC funded mobile ambulance training lab.

For more information on the Emergency Medical Services program at Bevill State please call, 1-800-648-3271 ext. 5534 or visit www.bscc.edu

Again, I'd li support in the continued sup My motto ha District 6 to th motto hasn't e If you need r

THANK YOU

"BJ UND

Pd. Pol. Ad by John Und



TOPIC: All About Injuries

GUEST: Chip Nation

Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Email your leg questions anytime lawcall.com/tusca

No representation is made th than the quality o

RPO and transit committee to meet at WARC

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold a meeting on Friday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m. and the West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m. Both meetings will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North

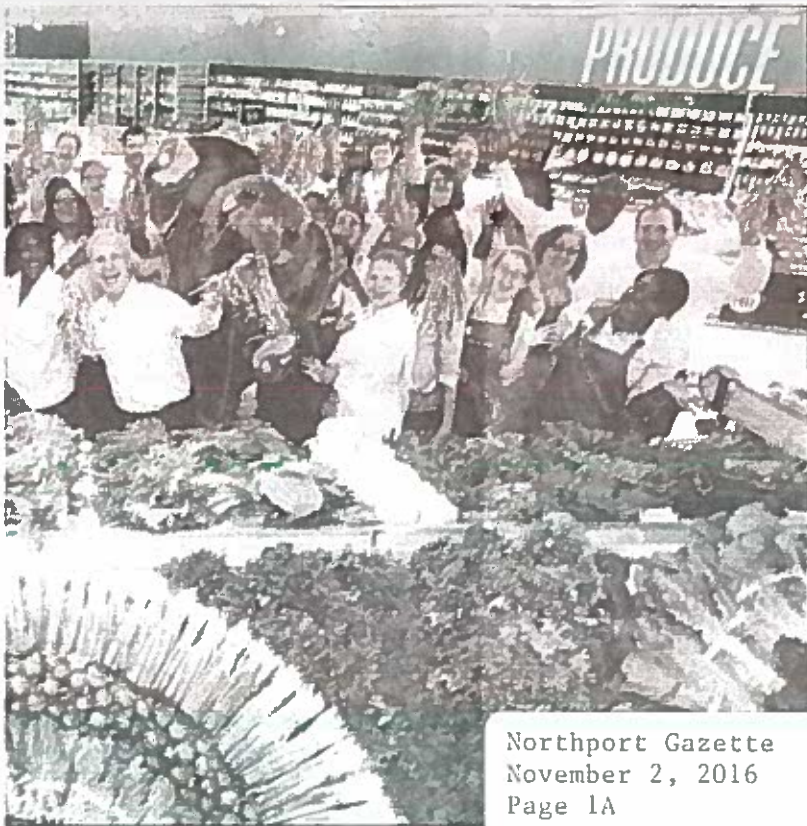
in Northport.

These meetings are open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at (205) 333-2990.

Correction

In the city council article published Wednesday, Oct. 19, Councilman Jason Cowart was quoted as saying, "At the end of the day the votes are not there to go in the physical direction you are thinking. For me I agree 100 percent with some of what you said," and "From a physical standpoint I hear what you are saying. I would submit that I think if anyone can have [an aging program] like this county has it is great, but relative to needs we have, the monies coming to city government are to fund city services."

The word fiscal should have been used in both quotes, not physical. *The Times-Record* is happy to make this correction and apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

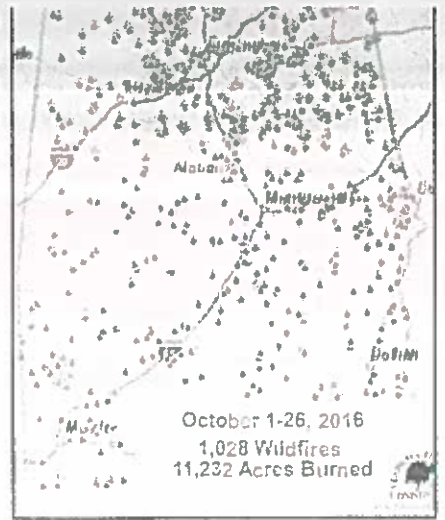


Northport Gazette
November 2, 2016
Page 1A

f Southeastern Grocers, in the new and im

acres across the state of Alabama. And the situation is only getting worse as there is no rain in sight. Yesterday at the site of a recent wildfire in Walker County, Governor Robert Bentley appealed to citizens regarding the seriousness of the situation. Earlier this month he signed a Drought Emergency Declaration into effect, often referred to as a "No Burn Order," which prohibits ALL outdoor burning.

A total of 46 counties in north and central Alabama remain under the burn ban. Effective since October 12, the or- all outdoor burning. It is illegal for any person any forest, grass, woods, wildlands, or marshes; mpfire or bonfire; or to burn trash, debris, or al that may cause a forest, grass, or woods fire.



October 1-26, 2016
1,028 Wildfires
11,232 Acres Burned

● See FIRES, Page 3A

TRIVIA TEST

1. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the longest mountain chain on Earth above sea level?
2. **ASTRONOMY:** Europa is a moon of which planet in our solar system?
3. **TRADITIONS:** What is the traditional birthstone for February?
4. **CHEMISTRY:** What element has the chemical symbol Hg?
5. **ANATOMY:** How many chromosomes do human beings normally have?
6. **MOVIES:** What was the first film directed and produced by a black filmmaker to win the Academy Award for Best Picture?
7. **FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** What award-winning singer/songwriter once said, "I consider myself a poet first and a musician second. I live like a poet and I'll die like a poet"?
8. **MATH:** What two letters are symbols for 1,000?
9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** By what title is Jorge Mario Bergoglio better known?
10. **GAMES:** What is the name of the casino employee who takes bets and spins the wheel in roulette?

ANSWERS, PAGE 2B

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

▲ WEST ALABAMA TRANSIT COMMITTEE

The Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m. at the West AL Regional Commission, 4200 Hwy. 69, Northport. Open to the public. For special assistance contact WARC at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Call WARC at 333-2990.

▲ TEAM DESIGN AND BUILD STUDENT COMP.

Tuscaloosa is hosting the second annual event to be held on November 3-5. The public is invited to attend and watch students demonstrate their skills. Following the end of the contest, building will be sold to the public for approximately one-half of the retail cost. Anyone interested in purchasing a building should call 205-345-2725 for details. The contest will be held at the Tuscaloosa Local 372 Apprentice Center, 9410 Hwy 82 East, Duncanville, AL. Events begin Thursday, November 3, and continue until Saturday at noon.

▲ BOSTON BUTT AND HAM SALE

The United Methodist Women of First Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa is taking orders for Boston butts and Smoked hams. Hams \$45 and Boston butts \$35. Robertsons' BBQ, Ralph, preparing Boston Buss and Hams. Order deadline is Monday, Oct. 31. Pick up is 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Nov. 12, during the UMW's craft bazaar. Call the church at 205-345-7261 for more info. There will also be a Turkey and Tinsel Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. in the Church Activity Center. The church is located at 800 Greensboro Ave. in downtown Tuscaloosa. Parking is on site and entrance is FREE. For more info., including a list of vendors, go to <http://fumct.org/ministries/turkey-and-tinsel>.



Holy Spirit Pumpkin Patch. See more inside.

PROUDLY SERVING NORTHPORT AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS SINCE 1998



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PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Monday

32nd Annual Juried Show Exhibit for West Alabama Artists: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and during Bama Theatre events through Nov. 15 in the Junior League Gallery. Enter on second floor of PARA building, 614 Greensboro Ave., adjacent to the Bama Theatre. Presented by the Arts Council. Visit tuscarts.org or call 758-5195.

Free Kids Music Time: 2:45-3:30 p.m. at Morning Point Assisted Living, 1801 Rice Mine Road North. For babies and toddlers to have music time with music therapist Dawn Sandel. Parents can have pumpkin lattes or coffee with other parents during singalong. Call 345-1112.

Blue River Democrats: 5 p.m. Monday at Chuck's Fish, 508 Greensboro Ave. The public is invited. Call 248-9370.

Citywide Prayer Service: 6 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, 3003 25th St. Sponsored by The Tuscaloosa Prayer Network and the Tuscaloosa Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

Opening Reception for Don Buel Schuyler Exhibition: 6-8 p.m. at UA's Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum, 1901 Jack Warner Parkway. Includes items that were collected by two guest curators: Gene Ford, an architectural historian with UA's Office of Archaeological Research; and Jeanette Remaley, Schuyler's granddaughter and a

Tuscaloosa interior designer. Many of the images in the exhibit are from the Schuyler family archives, as well as from preservation newsletters and news articles. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Museum admission is free.

Black Warrior Winds: 7-8:30 p.m. in the Band Room at Tuscaloosa County High School, 12500 Wildcat Drive, Northport. This is a community orchestra and all West Alabama musicians are encouraged to join in every Monday.

Tuesday

Tuscaloosa Farmers Market: 7 a.m.-noon at Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway. Call 248-5295.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group: 12:15 -1:15 p.m. (bring your lunch) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Rice Mine Road North. Come talk with others in the community who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Terrific Tuesday Concert Series: 1 p.m. in the Alabama Power Recital Hall at Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Featuring the Cavell Trio with Jenny Mann, bassoon, Osiris Molina, clarinet and Shelly Myers, oboe. Free.

Business After Hours: 5-7 p.m. at Bank of Tuscaloosa Plaza, 2200 Jack

Warner Parkway. Join in for professional networking.

Tuscaloosa City Schools Called Board Student Hearing Meeting: 6 p.m. in the Regions Room at the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education, 1210 21st Ave. Call 759-3700.

Jazz Standards and Crimson Slides: 7:30 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors (55 and older) \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

University Singers: 7:30 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors (55 and older) \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

Wednesday

Veterans Remembrance Buddy Poppy Distribution: 8:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday and Thursday at Winn-Dixie stores at 4203 University Blvd. E. and 10 McFarland Boulevard, Northport. These small flowers are handmade by disabled veterans. The poppies are free but donations are accepted. All proceeds go to the Post Veterans Assistance Fund. Distributed by the VFW Post 6022 and Auxiliary.

West Alabama Transit Committee: 9 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. Purpose is to discuss the update of the

Send us your events



Around Town, compiled by n assistant Peggy Skelton Johns highlights community activit

To submit information, email peggy.skelton@tuscaloosane.com, call 205-722-0199, fax 20 722-0118 or write 315 28th Av Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Please submit calendar items at least week in advance.

coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours before the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

Soup Bowl: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Morning Pilgrim Baptist Church, 128 39th St. Free hot meal. People also register for a food box and shop for free clothes from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday through Saturday.

Open Mike Night with Brad and Friends: 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 67001 University Blvd. East, Cotdale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

NEWSMAKERS

Chesney to Beyhive: "I Love Beyonce!"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Country singer Kenny Chesney wants the Beyhive to know they've got it all wrong — he loves Beyonce.



Chesney

Some viewers watching the 50th annual Country Music Association Awards on Wednesday targeted the country star for his facial penumbrances or the evening.

— and give it drama when she's onstage."

Chesney added that her fans shouldn't be so quick to judge him or assume to know what he was thinking.

Musicians to honor Petty at MusiCares

NEW YORK — Foo Fighters, Stevie Nicks, Norah Jones and Don Henley will honor Tom Petty when he's named MusiCares Person of the Year next year. **D-23**

pay tribute to

two days before the 2017 Grammy Awards. T Bone Burnett will work as musical director. Others set to perform Petty tunes include Jackson Browne, Kings of Leon, the Bangles, Gary Clark Jr., Jeff Lynne, Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, Regina Spektor and Elle King.

Petty and the Heartbreakers will close the show. Ringo Starr and Olivia Harrison, the event's tribute chairs, will attend.

Additional performers will be announced at a later date.

Buble can diagnosed their 3-year-old son has been

Noah, is undergoing treatment the U.S.

"Luisana and I have put our careers on hold in order to devote all our time and attention to helping Noah well," the statement said. "We have a long journey in front of us and hope that with the support of family, friends and fans around the world, we win this battle, God willing."



Buble

Buble didn't know what type Buble has been

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Tuesday

Tuscaloosa Farmers Market: 7 a.m.-noon at Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway. Call 248-5295.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group: 12:15 -1:15 p.m. (bring your lunch) and 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Rice Mine Road North. Come talk with others in the community who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

Terrific Tuesday Concert Series: 1 p.m. in the Alabama Power Recital Hall at Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Featuring the Cavell Trio with Jenny Mann, bassoon, Osiris Molina, clarinet, and Shelly Myers, oboe. Free.

Business After Hours: 5-7 p.m. at Bank of Tuscaloosa Plaza, 2200 Jack Warner Parkway. Join in for professional networking.

Tuscaloosa City Schools Called Board Student Hearing Meeting: 6 p.m. in the Regions Room at the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education, 1210 21st Ave. Call 759-3700.

Jazz Standards and Crimson Slides: 7:30 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors (55 and older) \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

University Singers: 7:30 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors (55 and older) \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

Wednesday

Veterans Remembrance Buddy

Poppy Distribution: 8:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday and Thursday at Winn-Dixie stores at 4203 University Blvd. E. and 10 McFarland Blvd., Northport. These small flowers are handmade by disabled veterans. The poppies are free, but donations are accepted. All proceeds go to the veterans assistance fund. Distributed by the VFW Post 6022 and its auxiliary. **West Alabama Transit Committee:** 9 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. Purpose is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for West Alabama area. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours before the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990. **Open Mike Night with Brad and Friends:** 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd. East, Cottondale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

Thursday

PARA4Life Trip to Windcreek Casino: Leave McAbee Center, 3801 Loop Road, at 7 a.m. and McDonald Hughes Center, 3101 MLK Blvd., at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$45. Call 562-3235. Register at any PARA office. Participants must bring ID. **Chamber in Session State of the State:** 7:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites, 2410 University Blvd. Special guests will be members of the Tuscaloosa

Send us your events



Around Town, compiled by news assistant Peggy Skelton Johnson, highlights community activities.

To submit information, email peggy.skelton@tuscaloosaneews.com, call 205-722-0199, fax 205-722-0118 or write 315 28th Ave., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Please submit calendar items at least a week in advance.

County legislative delegation. RSVP to 391-0551 or jill@tuscaloosa-chamber.com.

Veterans Remembrance Buddy Poppy Distribution: 8:30 a.m.-noon at Winn-Dixie stores at 4203 University Blvd. E. and 10 McFarland Boulevard, Northport. These small flowers are handmade by disabled veterans. The poppies are free, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to the veterans assistance fund. Wear it with pride in recognition and support of veterans and military members today. Distributed by the VFW Post 6022 and Auxiliary. **Mayor's Night Out:** 4-6 p.m. at Band of Brothers Brewing Co., 1605 23rd Ave. Tuscaloosa residents can discuss plans, ideas and concerns directly with the mayor. This is a come-and-go meeting. Call Tuscaloosa 311 at 248-5311.

West Alabama Food Bank's All Aboard Event: 6 p.m. at Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway. Restaurants from Tuscaloosa and surrounding counties will provide their favorite dish. Each ticket includes admission, two beverage

tickets and a night of fiddle music by Michael and the Presleys. Presale tickets are \$5. Any Alabama Credit Union or WestAlabamaFoodBank.com. **WAFB's All Aboard Facet Dance Showcase:** 6:30 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, Shelton State Community College, Greensboro Road. Presale tickets \$5. Guest performers include Dixie Rhythm Cloggers and Northside High School Dance. **PARA4Life Dance:** 6:45 -9:45 p.m. at the Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and the Coltrane Band will play. Call 562-3700. **"Art and Life Questions: A Search for Meaning":** Art Staley will be the speaker for a lecture at 7 p.m. at the Bob Sullivan Conference Center, 240 W. Bryant Drive. Call the Lifelong Learning Institute at 348-6482.

241st Anniversary of the US Marine Corps: 7 p.m. at the Levermore, 1 Bridge Ave., Northport. Mike Spann Detachment Marine Corps League is celebrating. Special guest: Lt. Gen. Willie Williams, USMC, a Hale County and Stillman alumna. Cake cutting ceremony shortly after 7 p.m.

Alabama Wind Ensemble: 7 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

9-Ball Tournament: 8 p.m. at VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd. East, Cottondale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

SOUVENIR PAPERS

Print newspapers are dead? Not after historic election

By Tali Arbel
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Print newspapers may be disappearing like the home telephone, but they're still here. Remembering the first time after



Obama the nation's first African American president. But convenience stores are still standing across the country. People descended on the streets to vote. But on election day, the

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Wednesday

Veterans Remembrance Buddy

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Soup Bowl: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday at Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, 128 39th St. Free hot meal. People also can register for a food box and shop for free clothes from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday through Saturday.

Tuscaloosa City Schools Community Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Central Elementary, 1501 Dinah Washington Ave. The meeting will share information about facilities and renovation projects related to the strategic plan. Call 759-3700.

Open Mike Night with Brad and Friends: 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd. East, Cottondale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

Thursday

PARA4Life Trip to Windcreek Casino: Leave McAbee Center, 3801 Loop Road, at 7 a.m. or McDonald Hughes Center, 3101 MLK Blvd., at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$45. Call 562-3235. Register at any PARA office. Bring an ID card.

Chamber In Session State of the State: RSVP TO 391-7551 or jill@tuscaloosa.com

Winn-Dixie stores at 4203 University Blvd. E. and 10 McFarland Blvd., Northport. These small flowers are handmade by disabled veterans. The poppies are free, but donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to the veterans assistance fund. Distributed by the VFW Post 6022 and Auxiliary.

Fall Tailgate: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Shelton State Community College, Fredd campus, 3401 MLK Jr. Blvd. Call 391-2959.

Mayor's Night Out: 4-6 p.m. at Band of Brothers Brewing Co., 1605 23rd Ave. Tuscaloosa residents can discuss plans, ideas and concerns directly with the mayor. This is a come-and-go meeting. Call Tuscaloosa 311 at 248-5311.

Shelton State Community College Technical Programs Preview Night: 6-8 p.m. at Fredd campus, 3401 MLK Jr. Blvd. Call 391-2959.

West Alabama Food Bank's All Aboard Event: 6 p.m. at Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway. Restaurants from Tuscaloosa and surrounding counties will provide their best dishes. Each ticket includes admission, two beverage tickets, and a night of food, fun and music by Michael and the Memories. Pre-sale tickets are \$45. Visit any Alabama Credit Union office or WestAlabamaFoodBank.org or WAFB's All Aboard Facebook Page.

Dance Showcase: 6:30 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre, Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Presented by the Shelton State dance department. Free. Guest performers will be the Dixie Rhythm Cloggers and the Northside High School Dance Line.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:45 p.m. at the Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Cost is \$5. Bob Sullivan and the Country Gold Band will play. Call 562-3235.

"Art and Life Questions: A Potter's Search for Meaning": Artist Chris Staley will be the speaker at the lecture at 7 p.m. at the Bryant Conference Center, 240 Paul W. Bryant Drive. Call the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute office at 348-6482.

D-25

Marine Corps League will host the

Send us your events



Around Town, compiled by news assistant Peggy Skelton Johnson, highlights community activities.

To submit information, email peggy.skelton@tuscaloosaneews.com, call 205-722-0199, fax 205-722-0118 or write 315 28th Ave., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Please submit calendar items at least a week in advance.

ceremony shortly after 7 p.m.

Alabama Wind Ensemble: 7:30 p.m. in Concert Hall at Moody Music Building, 810 Second Ave. General admission is \$10, seniors (55 and older) \$5, and students with ID \$3. Call 348-7111.

Veterans Appreciation Night-Southland Invitational Basketball Tournament: 7:30 p.m. in the Shelton State Community College Martin campus gym, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Free admission for all active military personnel, reservists, guardsmen and veterans, as well as for dependents and spouses. Call 391-2959.

9-Ball Tournament: 8 p.m. at VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd. East, Cottondale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

Friday

Tuscaloosa Christian School Veterans Day Program; 9 a.m. in the school gym, 1601 Prudes Mill Road, Cottondale. All active and inactive military men and women are invited to attend. There will be a program of special music, displays and presentations by the students.

Veterans Day Ceremony: 10 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 1701 University Blvd. Featured speaker will be John Merkle, director of the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. With presentation of colors by the Tuscaloosa County High Army JROTC Color Guard. The national anthem by Maggie Butler and the Armed Forces medley, a gun volley salute and "Taps" by the Tuscaloosa County High Army JROTC Color Guard. The ceremony will conclude at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park.

be presented to each veteran. Refreshments will be served.

Flag Retirement Ceremony and Yard Sale: 10:30 a.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Mine Road North. Presented by Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa Cub Scout Pack 85. If anyone has a flag they would like to dispose of, bring it to the ceremony and drop it off at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa. Yard sale will be from 7-11 a.m. The proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

International Story Time: 11 a.m. at The Capitol School, 2828 S. **Movie Night on Shepherd Hill:** 7 p.m. at the Shepherd Hill, 1 Fondred Road, Samantha. This is one of the special family reunions with John Berry, T. Goans, T. Graham Brown, R. Vincent, The Isaacs and more, sharing memories of growing up in church and performing their favorite gospel songs, all guided by Bill Anderson. Free event. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Little Closet Community Food Pantry. Popcorn and drinks available. Bring a lawn chair and blanket.

Skyland Seventh Day Adventist Church: 2211 Skyland Boulevard East. Free Veterans Day event 6:30 p.m. to honor and recognize local veterans. Free showing of the Desmond T. Doss documentary "The Conscientious Objector" well as gifts for veterans in attendance. Light refreshments. Call 242-6089.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:45 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Keith Porter and the Over the Hill Band will play. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 562-3235.

Country Music: 7-10 p.m. at the Ellettsville Community Center, 111 Highway 171 South, Fayetteville. Featuring Judy Moore and Goodtime Country Band. Call 393-8386.

Gordo Music House: 7-10 p.m. at 2001 Park St., Northport. Free admission. Dance floor. Free refreshments. Call 364-6197.

8-Ball Tournament: 8 p.m. at VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd. East, Cottondale. Call 553-8040 after 3 p.m.

income families who qualify for the program with the cost of spaying and neutering their pets.

Another way to donate

or neuter as many animals as possible, participating veterinarians accept a reduced fee for the surgeries. During the past seven years, more

Transit planning meeting to be held in Northport

Special to the Independent

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

The Agenda includes: Introductions; Purpose of plan; Schedule; Review and revise draft plan and Verify next meeting date.

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access

and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

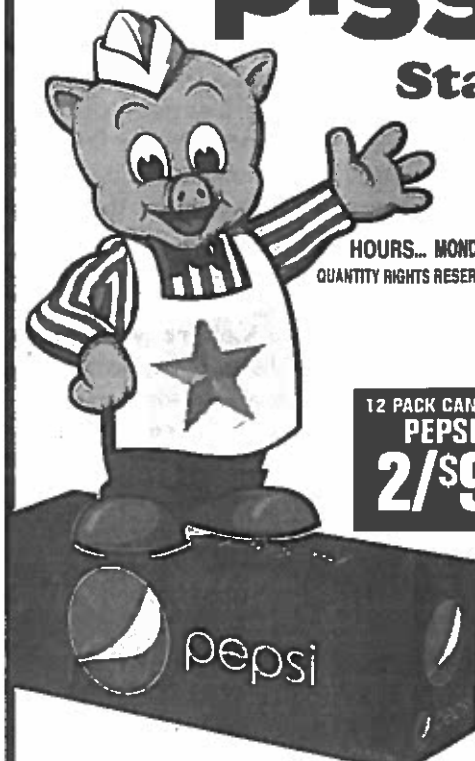
Greene County Independent
March 1, 2017
Page 3

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CHUCK ROAST
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- 18 OZ. KRAFT **BBQ SAUCE..... 4/\$5**
- 5 OZ. STARKIST IN OIL OR WATER **TUNA 69¢**
- 16 OZ. KRAFT **SALAD DRESSING 2/\$4**
- 32 OZ. **GATORADE..... \$1.00**
- 12 OZ. CRYSTAL **HOT SAUCE \$1.00**
- 1 LB. NABISCO PREMIUM **SALTINE CRACKERS..... 2/\$4**
- 48 OZ. CRISCO **VEGETABLE OIL..... \$2.69**
- 5 LB. MARTHA WHITE **FLOUR OR CORN MEAL..... 2/\$5**
- 16.3 OZ. PILLSBURY **GRAND'S BISCUITS 3/\$5**
- 1/2 GALLON. BLUE BELL **ICE CREAM..... 2/\$10**
- 64 OZ. CLOROX **BLEACH \$2.19**
- 14.75 OZ. DOUBLE Q **PINK SALMON 2/\$5**
- 8 OZ. KRAFT **SHREDDED CHEESE..... 2/\$5**



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LAND

LAND FOR SALE 849 Christian Road, Beaverton, AL 15 acres - no royalties 1,450 an acre - firm bear growth on timber 309-517-9701, leave message if no answer. 7/26

AUTOS

FOR SALE 05 Chevy Tahoe - Clean, trade, 3rd row seat, rear

04 Buick LeSabre Custom, 726 miles, leather, local, super nice
08 Pontiac G6 - Sunroof, 47,000 miles, local trade
08 GMC Acadia - Leather, tow seat, local trade in
01 Ford Fiesta - New tires, owner, local trade
Contact Mark Atkinson or Carl Reeves at (205) 932-5225
Visit our website at www.mikefreemanford.net

Ala-Scans

CTIONS

0) HEAVY Equipment auctions - Number 1 - Saturday Mar 18th, 9:30 AM. 279 cent Road, Blairsville, GA 2; CAT, Komatsu, John & Kubota, Trucks, Trailers and more. Number 2 - Friday March 24, 9:30 152 ev Road, Port Wentworth

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INSTRUCTION

MEDICAL BILLING and Coding career training at Sullivan and Cogliano Training Centers. Call 1-888-535-9909 or click learn.sctrain.edu. Financial Aid available to those who qualify. Sctrain.edu/disclosures.

HELP WANTED-DRIVERS

ATTN: DRIVER trainees needed now! Earn \$800-\$1000 week + benefits. No CDL, no problem! We'll train you. Call today 1-800-878-2546.

DRIVER TRAINEES needed! Learn to drive for Stevens Transport! No experience needed! New drivers can earn \$900+ per week! Paid CDL

First Fridays Downtown Florence Kicks off March 3rd

Florence, Ala. - Beginning in March, historic downtown Florence is the place to be the first Friday of each month. First Fridays Downtown Florence kicks off March 3, 2017, and the art event brings together people of all ages as well as artists and musicians for an evening of free, family friendly entertainment.

First Fridays has

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March 1, 2017
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in the center of Court Street and Mobile Plaza and the popular antique and vintage car shows. There will be some surprises as well as event organizers create new and unique ways to engage the community in the monthly event.

For the March 3rd event, festivalgoers can expect dozens of vendors to line Court Street while music fills the air from per-

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Hours are 5 to 8 p.m. and admission is free. The event will go on rain or shine. Parking is available on the streets and in the City of Florence public parking garage (behind Ricatoni's Restaurant).

Presented by Listerhill Credit Union, First Fridays is a committee of Downtown Florence Unlimited and takes place the first Friday of every month beginning in March through December. For more information, visit www.FirstFridaysFlorence.org or contact Heath Butler at 256.383.9204 ext 1336.

West Alabama Transit Committee to meet

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of plan
3. Schedule
4. Review and revise draft plan
5. Verify next meeting date

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Sec-

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The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

Alabama Crayfish Poster Now Available

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has recently produced a poster that highlights 30 of the state's 97 species of crayfish. The poster is available to the public for free at any Wildlife and Freshwater

unknown crayfish species. For more information about the importance of healthy aquatic ecosystems, visit outdooralabama.com.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) promotes wise stewardship,

management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.

Oak Legal, PC - 500 Towncenter Blvd. Ste. B, in Tuscaloosa. Educational workshop presented by local attorney G. Stephen Wiggins. Topics include wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advance directives, living wills, long-term care, Medicaid qualification, and probate administration.

ON GOING EVENTS AT VFW POST 6022

Open Mike Night - with Brad & Friends - Wednesday nights - 7:30 pm
9-Ball Tournament every Thursday @ 7 pm
8- Ball Tour

Friday @ 8 pm · Northport Gazette
pm March 1, 2017
VFW Post 6022
University Blvd East
AL. Call 553-8000 for information.

DIAPER NEED AWARENESS

The T-Town Diaper drive continues as usual. Please bring Diaper drop offs to The Northport Gazette office in Northport (behind Faucett's and Sue's Florist and APPLICO on 69S (beside Dunkin' Donuts). Call 205-331-9562 for more information about other drop off locations.

NORTHPORT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club meets 2nd Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., and 4th Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. For more info., call Will at 205-310-7671.

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARA JANUARY AND FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Overnight tours: New Orleans, LA, April 23-28-Spring in Washington, DC, June 9th-16 Inside Alaska Passage (new)

People keep calling and saying, do we have to be a member of PARA to go on these trip, the answer is NO! BUT! Just think of all the benefits you will have by becoming of the PARA4LIFE! At the McAbee we have a \$99 membership for seniors over 62 that includes all of the exercise classes we have to offer, Aqua Flex Plus, Aqua Power Flex, Aqua Flex, Zumba Gold Toning, Yoga Tune-up, Forever

WEST ALABAMA TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. 1. Introductions interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

2017 HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Shelton State Community College will host its annual Health and Wellness Fair on Tuesday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Martin Campus. Admission to the fair is free, and the event is open to the public. All are invited to attend this showcase of healthy living. For more information on the fair or the Shelton State Wellness Center, contact Dr. Milady Murphy at 205.391.2994.

Photos By Maddi Williams

er Rodney Lucio. Interim U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama ty Suzanne Spencer, Senior Trooper Harold Robinson and Tuscaloosa Police photo during Friday's annual Officer of the Year awards that is hosted by the at Indian Hills County Club.

ect twice, allowing the Department to the individual into custody.

"This arrest solved multiple sexual as-and robbery cases," read Nichol's nomination letter.

From the Alabama Law Enforcement ncy. Trooper Harold Robinson was reced at the banquet. Robinson was highed for his efforts in 2016: investigating accidents, initiating 583 enforcement ac;s and assisting 54 motoring.

"Senior Trooper Robinson has investi-d several high profile accidents which are ently awaiting trial. His skills as a Traffic nicide Investigator serves the Department and the Tuscaloosa Post superbly," read Robinson's nomination letter.

At the City of Northport Police Department, Lieutenant Tom Kimbrell, who has served the department since 1995, was awarded NPD's Officer of the Year. Kimbrell was highlighted at the banquet for his assignment of prescription fraud within the West Alabama Narcotics Task Force.

"Lt. Kimbrell has set the standard for investigating prescription fraud and as a result of his hard work, there are fewer fraudulent prescriptions in West Alabama," read

his nomination letter.

Last but not least, Deputy Suzanne Spencer from the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office was nominated for the Exchange Club's Outstanding Officer of the Year award. Spencer was highlighted for an incident where she stopped a vehicle, containing four suspects. Spencer was able to take two of the individuals into custody and give information on the other two who unfortunately were able to flee from the scene.

"Due to Deputy Spencer's excellent work ethic, these repeat offenders were charged with numerous offences, and the string of burglaries stopped," read her nomination letter.

After all the officers were awarded, Interim U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama Robert Posey spoke at the Exchange Club that was held at the Indian Hills County Club. Posey has more than 35 years of experience as a prosecutor, both at the state level and the federal, and he spoke about how role of law enforcement officers.

Posey emphasized the importance of community policing and forming valuable relationships between officers and civilians. Posey said since 1994, \$14 billion has been put into local law enforcement, highlighting changes in technology, and promoting the "less lethal" approach.

"This community policing, as it's called, is a principle that I know is practiced not only in Tuscaloosa, but widely in Alabama. And it's a philosophy that focuses on these community partnerships, problem solving and organization transformation within the department," said Posey.

The Exchange Club's Officer of the Year banquet is its biggest event of the year, which consisted of a catered lunch and several welcomed guests from the local community.

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contact me and I will address it with them." He went on to say "We saw many problems with the previous probate judge. You wanted a change."

Commissioner Anderson engaged in a lively dialogue concerning the status of Hale County's roads, many of which are in very bad condition. This question was directed to the panelists: "Who is willing to take a pay cut to help with some road work?" Although this question was not directly answered by anyone, Anderson did say that he and other commissioners use their own vehicles when they are out checking on roads. "We live here, too," he said, "and we drive those same roads. You won't see me going to the county yard to pick up a county vehicle for that." Senator Singleton offered some suggestions for ALDOT Rural Assistance Match Program (RAMP) projects, some of which have already been received in Hale County, but also noted that competition for state money is fierce, too, and "he's only one person" fighting for everything he gets with others who are fighting for their constituents.

This segued into a discussion about additional revenue from gasoline taxes, and the attendees were encouraged to "buy local" so that their gasoline purchases would go toward helping fund road work, too. However, as pointed out by a Mr. Huggins, of Greensboro, a veteran who also worked at Westervelt for 18 years, "Realistically, who is going to drive to Greensboro on their way to work to fill up, especially when they are going to be paying \$0.10 per gallon more to buy gas here?"

Vaughn Poe, Chairman of the Hale County Republican Party, a local cattleman, and also an employee of the University of Alabama, among other positions he holds, was the last panelist to speak. He was very positive about the meeting, calling it "important, and a good beginning." He explained that he lives here now, but spends most of his time in Montgomery walking the halls and talking to people, and not just the representatives from our district. "I grew up here; in fact my dad is here tonight." "I spent 20 years in the Marine Corps," he said, "and before I left here at the age of 17 - that's 21 years ago, I was hearing these same complaints. Jobs are fleeing, and when businesses come to Alabama they usually go to north Alabama or south Alabama, and Tuscaloosa is probably as far as they will go." That said, he encouraged all citizens to become involved, to attend local and county meetings, and also to come to Montgomery and speak up for Hale County. He even offered Bobby

funding and support; hand-written notes to one's own representative or senator usually get more personal attention than typed letters, and flyers sent to everyone in the House or Senate is much less likely to get anyone's attention.

Ford said that the budget has increased somewhat, but there are always many requests for funding. Therefore, requests should emphasize a need for

Singleton's office as a place for folks to gather. He reminded the citizens that there is only so much the few elected officials can do, and to support them in their endeavors.

The Rev. James Williams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Newbern, spoke quietly, but firmly, saying "You can't borrow your way out of debt. You have to pay your way out of debt." He also advised that "it is time to stop only. Action gets things done. Discussion closed out the discussion with a vision of "Leadership Alabama" program that almost every County has - but not in Hale County. Who's up for starting a Leadership Hale County?

Editor's note: Further personal observations about this meeting are included in "Becky's Banter" this week, but I speak very frankly. No doubt those who are easily offended will choose to be so.

Celebration of Life for Doris Yeager Torbert will be Sunday at FUMC

Doris Yeager Torbert, 86, of Greensboro, passed away Sunday, January 19, at Hospice of West Alabama in Tuscaloosa. A Celebration of Life will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Greensboro on Sunday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m. with a reception and visitation immediately following the service. The Reverend Ron Wilson, chaplain of Hospice will officiate, with Dr. Kevin Chance providing the music. A private interment will take place at a later time.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Thigpen; her sister, Joyce Thigpen; first husband, Glenn R. Yeager; son Dennis R. Yeager; grandson James R. Yeager; and second husband, Edgar C. Torbert, Jr. She is survived by her son Van Yeager and his wife, Alp; four grandchildren, Chris Hughes, Aubrey Glen Yeager, Ian Yeager, and Leona Yeager; as well as a stepson, Dr. Edgar C. Torbert, III, his wife, Julia, and grandson Samuel Torbert.

Active in the community of Greensboro, Mrs. Torbert was a mem-

ber of the Excelsior Sunday School Class and Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church, the Calliope Club and Music Study Club. She worked as secretary and bookkeeper of the Hale County Vocational Center and served as sponsor to the Scribbler's Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First United Methodist

Greensboro Watchman
March 2, 2017
Page 1

Committee will meet March 15 at WARC

The West Alabama Transit Committee will meet Wed., Mar. 15, at 9:00 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69 North, in Northport. The purpose is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

Discussion will include introductions, purpose of plan, schedule, review and revision of draft plan, and next meeting date.

Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

ning on the local, state, and national level providing an opportunity to win scholarship awards via Briggins, Sharlaide Hearn at 334 application and top

BCBS of Alabama Healthy Schools

In a commitment to reducing childhood obesity, Blue Shield of Alabama continues its Be Healthy Program. For the 2017 Blue Cross will award \$250,000 and award \$10,000 to 25 schools that enroll students through sixth grade. Since 2010, Blue Cross has awarded more than 114 Be Healthy grants statewide, impacting thousands of students.

"We are seeing the impact of healthy lifestyle programs implemented in our schools and faculty. The success of our school-based programs validates the investment in the long-term health of Alabama's children," said Community Relations Manager, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. The grants are for school-based health programs that encourage exercise, nutrition, and parental involvement throughout the school year. Applications completed on the Be Healthy website at AlabamaBlue.com. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, Mar. 17.

Each selected school will receive a grant of up to \$10,000. Blue Cross Be Healthy grants will be awarded in April 2018, and students must complete their school year to be presented with the award by Blue Cross.

G'boro Bible Society bake sale to raise money for dictionaries

The Greensboro Bible Society will hold a bake sale on Friday, March 3, at 8:00 a.m. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of an automated dictionary for the Vernon at (334) 621-1111 for more information.



Announcements
from

**Washington
and
Paige
Mortuary**



Fred D. McCollough

Brother Fred D. McCollough, 61, started this life on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. He was born in Greensboro on September 18, 1955, to the late Willie C. and Wash Jeffries.

His Homegoing Service was held on Saturday, February 25, at 11:00 a.m. at Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro with the Reverend Nathaniel Carter, pastor, the Reverend Bryan McCollough officiating, and Washington & Paige Mortuary directing.

Pallbearers were his nephews, and flower bearers were his nieces. Interment was at Pine Grove Cemetery, in Greensboro, and the funeral was held at Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church Family Life Center. As a young boy, Fred confessed to Christ and joined Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro under the leadership of the late Reverend W.E. Patton.

Fred attended Sunshine High School, in Newbern. He worked as a hospital parking attendant in Newbern and, after relocating to Allentown, Pennsylvania, he worked at a

Community Events Calendar

UPDATED 3-1 @ 1015

Sundays
Newbern Union Sunday School at the Newbern Baptist Church Educational Building
1st Sunday: Hobson Bethel Methodist Church
2nd Sunday: Newbern Baptist Church
3rd Sunday: Newbern Presbyterian Church

Mondays
Turning Point domestic violence female support group, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at G'boro Boys & Girls Club. This is a FREE service to the community.

Tuesdays
Technology Tuesday with Keann Tom. 5:00 p.m. at Hale County Library

Zumba class. 5:45 p.m. at Greensboro Elementary School gym

Boy Scout Troop 13 meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Greensboro Lions Park Scout Hut

Wednesdays
Bible study. 6:00 p.m. at Baptist Church of Newbern, for adults and youth

Thursdays
Zumba class. 5:45 p.m. at Greensboro Elementary School gym

Fridays
Narcotics Anonymous meeting every Friday 7 p.m. at Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For more information, call 205-361-3003.

Mar 2

Laird Auction. 6:00 p.m., 10% buyer's premium benefits Boys & Girls Club

Mar. 11
Greensboro Has Talent. Talent event sponsored by Greensboro Music Study Club. 6:00 p.m. at the Opera House, on Main St. Open to the public, tickets \$10. To take part, call Ann Langford at 334-624-9001 or Marsha Harrow at 624-4213

2nd annual March Madness Gospel Singing. 6:00 p.m. at Star of Bethlehem C.M.E. church in Havana

Singing at Pine Flat Church. Supper at 6:00, singing at 7:00

Mar. 13
Adult Mental Health First Aid Training. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at West Alabama Mental Health Center, 1215 South Walnut Ave., Demopolis. Register by Mar. 10

Greensboro Watchman
March 2, 2017
Page 2

Mar. 15
Homemakers Club meeting

West Alabama Transit Committee meeting. 9:00 a.m. at West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69N, Northport

Mar. 16
HERO annual meeting. 6:00 p.m. in Martin Stewart Schoolhouse

D-30 Mar. 17
First United Methodist Men's Annual Fish Fry. 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Mental Health First Aid training sessions for both adult and youth

West Alabama Mental Health Center will host a series of Mental Health First Aid training sessions for both adult and youth mental health. All sessions are at 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and will be held at the WAMHC, at 1215 South Walnut Ave., Demopolis.

YOUTH Mental Health First Aid Training

Thursday, Mar. 23, registration deadline is Mar. 17

ADULT Mental Health First Aid Training

Monday, Mar. 13, registration deadline is Mar. 10

Monday, Mar. 27, registration deadline is Mar. 24

Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, impulse control and misuse of alcohol and other drugs are shockingly common in the U.S. In fact, more than one in four American adults will have a mental health program in their year. The National Council on Community Behavioral Healthcare has begun working with communities throughout the county, including West Alabama Mental Health Center, to implement Mental Health First Aid to arm the public with skills to help individuals who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis.

Clinical and qualitative evidence demonstrates that the program helps the public better identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness, thus improving outcomes for the affected individuals.

West Alabama Mental Health Center is a regional mental health center serving the Black Belt area of West Alabama, serving Choctaw, Greene, Hancock, Marengo and Sumter counties. WAMHC is a comprehensive community mental health center providing services to people with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and substance abuse and to children with serious emotional disorders. The prevention program helps at-risk and other students stay off drugs and in school. The agency also works with many community agencies to bridge the gap between services.

For more information on Mental Health First Aid, visit www.thenationalcouncil.org.

Church & Community Announcements

The observation data collected during the bioblitz will be shared via the bioblitz's iNaturalist project page www.inaturalist.org/projects/2017-bioblitz-at-moundville-archaeological-park as well as other iNaturalist projects such as www.inaturalist.org/projects/moundville-archaeological-park-biodiversity-survey and www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-of-alabama.

Lock 6 River Fest March 25

Come out and join us for our 3rd Annual River Fest 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be fun and food for all, minute to win games, music, and more. Fishermen and boaters are welcome. Also, there will be community agencies on site: Sawyerville Outreach Unity Project (S.O.U.P.). For more information please call Mr. William Thomas at 334-507-1414 or Ada Webb at 334-507-0521.

West Alabama Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging is hosting a Town Hall Meeting in Greensboro

The event is being held to identify community needs to better assist seniors, people of all ages with disabilities, and their caregivers in Hale County Mon.,

March 20 at 2 p.m. at Greensboro City Hall, 1101 Main St., Greensboro. All members of the community are welcome to attend this meeting and are encouraged to speak up about what is important to them and could better the future of their community. The Area Agency on Aging of West Alabama is committed to promoting independence, dignity and quality of life for seniors, people of all ages with disabilities and their caregivers. For more information contact us: 4200 Hwy. 69 N, Northport, AL 35473, 205-333-2990, www.westalabamaaging.org.

West Alabama Transit Committee Meeting

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wed., March 15 at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds. Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs. The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

March Lunch & Learn Programs

The Demopolis Public Library is hosting two Lunch & Learn programs in March.

Lunch & Learn on Thurs., March 9 at Noon with author Sue Walker will feature the book *It's Good Weather for Fudge: Conversing with Carson McCullers*. In the book, Walker

imagines a friendship and conversation with McCullers as they share memories of two women growing up in the Deep South, McCullers in Georgia and Walker in Alabama. The past becomes the present in this poem that ranges from love and war to sickness and health, fudge and friendship. Its many allusions to the life and works of Carson McCullers make it a kind of poetic biography. Sue Brannan Walker is professor emerita at the University of South Alabama, where she taught literature and creative writing for thirty-five years. She has served as president of the Alabama Writers Forum, the Alabama State Poetry Society, and the Alabama Writers Conclave and is the editor and publisher of *Negative Capability Press*.

Bring your own lunch to this event or call the library at 334.289.1595 to reserve a plate lunch of poppy seed chicken from the Mustard Seed.

Lunch & Learn on Tues., March 14 at Noon will feature *Saving for Retirement* presented by Drew Martin from Regions Bank. Participants will learn why it is important to save for the future, when to start saving for retirement, and how to develop a savings plan. This event is free and will include a free pizza lunch. Call the library at 334.289.1595 to reserve your spot!

king volunteers to help for participants, and the identification of animals observed in Ideally we hope to f series of guided tours bioblitz where partic- xplore the park with a hat has some expertise up of organisms. The will serve as a guide to e bioblitz participants local flora and fauna, hem in identifying the they observe. of the guided tours ude things like morn- walks, herping walks, r walks, an evening vent using lights and Volunteers would be k their favorite taxo- p or habit type to lead

might be interested, ty to John P. Friel .edu and let him know of tour you would like nd when during the would be available toring, afternoon, We will then keep you as the planning for the inues. We also plan to r more orientation ses- to the bioblitz to help become familiar with of the park, and how to ralist to record the is made by volunteers pants during the event.

Attention of Y

Moundville Times
March 8, 2017
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a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Big Sandy United Methodist 11441 McPherson Landing Rd • Highway 69 S • Tuscaloosa, 759-3135 • Pastor - Rev Ryan Karr. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.; Youth Services 6:30 (supper) 7-8 MYF & Bible Explorers K & up; UMW (3rd Thurs) 6:30 p.m.
Havana United Methodist Havana, (334)624-8311 • Pastor: Nathan Elliott. Sun. a.m. Worship (1st and 3rd) 9:30 a.m.; Sun. School (2nd and 4th) 9:30 a.m.
Jackson Chapel UMC, Pastor Levi R. Morrow, Sr. 68 Jackson Rd., Sawyerville. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Sun. Worship 11:15 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.
Jefferson Chapel C. M. E. 51 Griffin Street • Moundville, Pastor: W.D. "Willie" Garnett. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 11 a.m.;

MOUNDVILLE HEALTH AND REHABILITATION LLC
NHs (205) 371-2252
BRETT MILLIGAN, Administrator
121 Union St. • Moundville, AL

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Ma. Sailor Reflects on Anniversary of World War II

1st Class Steve Watterworth, Navy Office of Community Outreach

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sake is the epitome of a naval officer," said Cmdr. Jamie A. Murdock, commanding officer, USS Forrest Sherman. "During the Second World War, especially in command of Wasp, Admiral Sherman demonstrated extraordinary heroism, leadership and courage. Every day, our Sailors work to live up to the example he set for us."

According to Navy officials, destroyers are tactical multi-mission surface combatants capable of conducting anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare, as well as humanitarian assistance. Fast, maneuverable, and technically advanced, destroyers provide the required warfighting expertise and operational flexibility to execute any tasking at sea.

Serving in the U.S. Navy has allowed Wallace to continue learning about the legacy of those who served during World War II and the pass on the tradition to the future of the Navy.

"There is no other job that pays you to see the world," said Wallace.

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Calendar of Events

MORNING POINTE ALZHEIMER'S MOVIE VIEWING

A special screening of the Alzheimer's and dementia documentary: *Do You Know Me Now?* Discussion following movie lead by: Leading Tuscaloosa Neurologist, Dr Daniel Potts and Gaines Brake, board member of Cognitive Dynamics. The meeting will be on Monday, March 27, 6 p.m. Light Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please call to RSVP. Items will be available for donation purchase, proceeds will benefit Cognitive Dynamics. Location 1801 Rice Mine Road North, Tuscaloosa, AL. Call 423-238-5330, Main Office, for more information.

9 am-2 pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church at 733 James I. Harrison, Jr. Parkway East in Tuscaloosa, AL. Sponsored by the Knight of Columbus (A Charitable Catholic Men's Group. All proceeds benefit: Catholic Social Services of West Alabama. Entry fee is \$20 - Dash plaques to first 100 entries. Pre-registration available call 205-239-4682. Call Jim Hoagland 205-239-8161 or John Pomerleau 205-861-6329.

MOTHER'S DAY IS COMING

Therapeutic Riding of Tuscaloosa (TROT) will be selling flowers for Mother's Day as a fund raiser. Receive a bouquet of 12 stems of daisies but with extra blooms so you will be receiving 3 to 4 dozen for your minimal contribution of \$15. Pay with paypal, credit cards and checks. Order flowers no

6th ANNUAL BROOKWOOD ALUMNI PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, the Brookwood Alumni Breakfast, 8am-11am Hardin Center 1 216, Brookwood can eat pancake grits! Tickets proceeds to benefit Brookwood schools. For more information call, Amelia Heath Yessick at 205-657-2779.

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March 8, 2017
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WEST ALABAMA TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. 1. Introductions interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PARA4LIFE

PARA4LIFE is a program Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation provides for seniors. The Leroy McAbee Center is our PARA4LIFE Center. PARA offers a \$99 a year membership for the McAbee Center that entitles all seniors over the age of 62 to enjoy. Seniors enrolled in this membership may enjoy the aqua flex classes that are given by Caroline Williams from 8 am until 11 am, then we have lap swim, therapeutic swim and open swim. We offer many fitness classes out at the McAbee, Zumba Gold Toning, Yoga Tune-up, Forever Young and Zumba classes, McAbee also has a weight room that provides many ways to tone up your body. PARA4LIFE also has a travel program where PARA offers many day away, overnight

THE WEST ALABAMA GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Saturday, March 18 - PARA Parks Tour: Come see what the Tuscaloosa area has to offer in





CUB SCOUT ADVENTURES – On Feb. 4, Gordo Cub Scout Pack 82 visited the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park. The Alabama Wildlife Center is Al on facility, caring annually for almost 2,000 es. On The Treetop Nature Trail the Cub d Birds of Prey that are un-releasable back did not heal properly making them unable an up close and personal introduction to

Pickens County Herald
March 8, 2017
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Haley Rebecca McDaniel and

McDaniel, Wil Saturday, M

Mitchell and Stacey McDaniel, of Reform, and Chuck and Sandy McDaniel, of Carrollton, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Haley Rebecca McDaniel, of Reform, to Dustin Lee Wilson, of Fayette, son of Daniel and Suzanne Wilson.

Haley is the granddaughter of Allen and Shelby McDaniel, of Reform, Becky Griffin, of Reform, and the late Jerry Duckworth, of

Ethelsville. The bride-elect graduate of Pickens and 2015 graduate University of Alaba degree in Elementa tion. She is employe Pickens County Boe ucation.

Dustin is the gra Jimmy Ayres and Connie Ayres, of Fa the late Raymond Wilson, of Fayette. The prospective g

Transit Committee to meet Wednesday, March 15

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, at 9 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds.

The agenda includes:

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of plan
3. Schedule

4. Review and revise draft plan

5. Verify next meeting date. Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs.

The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropoli-

tan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

The Gordo Town Council regularly meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the



Announcements
from

Washington
and
Paige
Mortuary



Johnny McCalpine

Johnny McCalpine, 53, died on February 26, 2017, at a hospital in Birmingham. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julia, and his daughter, Joe.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 4, at Spring Street Church in Sawyerville. The officiating minister was Larry Williams of the Washington & Paige Mortuary. Interment was in the Spring Street Cemetery in Sawyerville. A graveside service was held at Higher Ground Church in Sawyerville.

Mr. McCalpine was a firefighter and a member of The Class of 1983. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julia, and his daughter, Joe. He is survived by his wife, Julia, and his daughter, Joe.

He is survived by his wife, Julia, and his daughter, Joe. He is survived by his wife, Julia, and his daughter, Joe.

Community Events Calendar

<p>Sundays Newbern Union Sunday School at the Newbern Baptist Church Educational Building 1st Sunday: Hobson Bethel Methodist Church 2nd Sunday: Newbern Baptist Church 3rd Sunday: Newbern Presbyterian Church Greensboro Watchman March 9, 2017 Page 2</p> <p>Mondays Turning Point domestic violence female support group 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Greensboro Boys & Girls Club. This is a FREE service to the community.</p> <p>Tuesdays Technology Tuesday with Keann Tom. 5:00 p.m. at Hale County Library Zumba class. 5:45 p.m. at Greensboro Elementary School gym Boy Scout Troop 13 meetings. 7:00 p.m. at the Greensboro Lions Park Scout Hut Hale County Caregiver Support Group, 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the DHR (FS) Office Conference Room. Contact Nikki Poe (205) 333-2990, ext. 203 for information</p> <p>Wednesdays Bible study. 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Newbern, for adults and youth</p> <p>Thursdays Zumba class. 5:45 p.m. at Greensboro Elementary School gym</p> <p>Fridays Narcotics Anonymous meeting every Friday 7 p.m. at Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For</p>	<p>Mar. 14 Lunch & Learn program on Saving for Retirement with Drew Morgan, Regions Bank. Noon at Demopolis Library. Call 334-289-1595 to reserve a spot and lunch</p> <p>Mar. 15 Homemakers Club meeting West Alabama Transit Committee meeting. 9:00 a.m. at West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69N, Northport Shelton State's Mobile Workforce Unit at Greensboro Piggly Wiggly 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sign up in West Alabama Works Career Connect system for education and employment resources</p> <p>Mar. 16 HERO annual meeting. 6:00 p.m. in Martin Stewart Schoolhouse</p> <p>Mar. 17 First United Methodist Men's Annual Fish Fry. 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Greensboro First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets \$10. Eat in or pick up curbside. 334-624-8311</p> <p>Mar. 19 Artist Showcase. 2:00 p.m. at Demopolis Public Library. Carolyn Cowling, cowling@mind-spring.com or 334-341-3375</p> <p>Mar. 20 Area Agency on Aging Town Hall Meeting. 2:00 p.m. at</p>
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Next week's happenings for seniors at Horseshoe Farm Clubhouse

Monday: Imagine all your favorite things about spring – pretty flowers, sunshine, and bright colors. We'll be making paper flowers and custom vases that you can display in your home to bring in the spring. If that's not enough to draw you into the Clubhouse, we'll also be having delicious peanut butter dip and fruit for a snack.

Tuesday: Join us for two of the classics – balloon volleyball and Pictionary! The Church of Christ will be providing chicken tenders, and your favorite fellows will be cooking up some sides.

Thursday: Gear up for St. Paddy's Day with us as we cook up some traditional Irish fare: falafel and colcannon! Then, we'll burn off all that delicious food with some Irish jigs.

Friday: It's St. Patrick's Day and country-style breakfast at Horseshoe Farm. Enjoy your favorite country breakfast foods while facing off against others in our St. Patrick's Day-themed Jeopardy!

HERO Annual Board Meeting is March 16

The Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization (HERO) Annual Board Meeting will be Mar. 16 at 6:00pm in the newly renovated Martin Stewart School. To be a voting member of the HERO board, annual dues are \$10. The building will be open for touring, and light refreshments will be on hand. Please join us to hear about our upcoming projects.

FUMC Men's Annual Fish Fry is March 17

The First United Methodist Men's Annual Catfish Fry will be Friday, Mar. 17, at 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the church Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$10 for a U.S. farm-raised catfish plate with beans, hush puppies, cole slaw; dessert and iced tea included. You may eat at the fellowship hall or drive through and pick up curbside in the church parking lot. Tickets are available from any Greensboro First United Methodist men or at the church office.

WARC Board of Directors will meet March 23

There will be a regularly scheduled

Church & Community Announcements

iversity-survey and www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-of-alabama.

Lock 6 River Fest March 25

Come out and join us for our 3rd Annual River Fest 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be fun and food for all, minute to win games, music, and more. Fishermen and boaters are welcome. Also, there will be community agencies on site: Sawycerville Outreach Unity Project (S.O.U.P.); for more information please call Mr. William Thomas at 334-507-1414 and Ada Webb at 334-507-0521.

West Alabama Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging is hosting a Town Hall Meeting in Greensboro

The event is being held to identify community needs to better assist seniors, people of all ages with disabilities and their caregivers in Hale County March 20 at 2 p.m. at Greensboro City Hall, 1101 Main St., Greensboro. All members of the community are welcome to attend this meeting and are encouraged to speak up about what is important to them and could better the future of their community. The Area Agency on Aging of West Alabama is committed to promoting independence, dignity and quality of life for seniors, people of all ages with disabilities and their caregivers. For more information contact us: 4200 Hwy. 69 N, Northport, AL 35473, 205-333-2990, www.westalabamaag-

West Alabama Transit Committee Meeting

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wed., March 15 at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the West Alabama Regional Commission located at 4200 Highway 69 North in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. Federal regulations require a coordinated transit plan be in place prior to the use of certain federal transit funds. Any agency that intends to pursue a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, or Section 5317 - New Freedom Program grant must participate in the plan development/update. Otherwise their grant will not be eligible for funding under these programs. The plan is a cooperative effort between the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The MPO and RPO staff will develop the plan with the assistance of the West Alabama Transit Committee. Anyone with an interest in transit service is encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the plan development. The meeting is open to the public.

Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

Alabama State Department Of Education Accepting Nominations For Marbury Technology Innovation Award

The Alabama State Department of Education Office of Educational Technology is accepting nominations for the 2017 Marbury Technology Innovation Award.

The award honors Chiquita Marbury, a passionate visionary in technology integration. Marbury spent many years in Alabama as a creative technology leader, helping educators innovate in their classrooms and prepare students for college, career, and life using the essential tools of technology.

Award Categories are: Elementary Teacher, Middle School Teacher, High School Teacher, School Administrator, District Technology Coordinator, Superintendent/Central Office Staff. Nominees will be judged based upon Innovation and Creativity, Impact on Teaching and Learning, Leadership, Teamwork, and Scholarship. If you know of one or more educators who meet these criteria, please take a moment to nominate them. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. April 6, 2017. The quick and easy nomination form is online at <http://bit.ly/2lNOUAT>. Nominators who submit winning entries will be notified by the end of May. The awards will be presented June 14, 2017, at the Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC). Each award

winner may be accompanied by their nominator, superintendent/board member, family, and local press (if desired).

Community Foundation Grant Applications

The Community Foundation of West Alabama announces its Spring Grant Cycle. Grant applications for the community grants are available for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations only. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1. Those interested are encouraged to download the grant applications from our website at www.thecfwa.org or you may call the CFWA office at 205-366-0698.

Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund

A catastrophe of dire measure has struck our friends to the west as wildfires have swept across the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado since the early morning hours of Monday, March 6. Over 1 million acres have burned leaving 500,000+ acres in Texas, 833,000+ acres in Oklahoma, 630,000+ acres in Kansas and 35,000+ acres in Colorado scorched and barren. Thousands, if not tens-of-thousands, of cattle have fallen victim to the raging wildfires that were fueled by 60 mph winds, and a known seven people have lost their lives. Thousands have lost homes, fences, barns, hay, and entire homesteads in a matter of hours. The Alabama Cattlemen's Association has a long history of offering relief to cattle producers who have experienced catastrophe. Cattlemen helping cattlemen is a story known all

Cont... Page 6-A

Attention of You

Moundville Times
March 15, 2017
Page 5-A

Church

- Sunday Psalm 23:1-6
- Monday Psalm 24:1-6
- Tuesday Psalm 24:7-10
- Wednesday Psalm 25:1-6
- Thursday Psalm 25:7-11
- Friday Psalm 25:12-16
- Saturday Psalm 28:17-22

a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Big Sandy United Methodist
 11441 McPherson Landing Rd • Highway 69 S • Tuscaloosa, 759-3135 • Pastor - Rev Ryan Karr. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.; Youth Services 6:30 (supper) 7-8 MYF & Bible Explorers K & up; UMW (3rd Thurs) 6:30 p.m.
Havana United Methodist
 Havana, (334)624-8311 • Pastor: Nathan Elliott. Sun. a.m. Worship (1st and 3rd) 9:30 a.m.; Sun. School (2nd and 4th) 9:30 a.m.
Jackson Chapel UMC, Pastor Levi R. Morrow, Sr. 68 Jackson Rd., Sawycerville. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Sun. Worship 11:15 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.
Jefferson Chapel C. M. E. 51 Griffin Street • Moundville, Pastor: W.D. "Willie" Garnett. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 11 a.m.;

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weight. We participate in voluntary contests and have weekly programs that help us to stay on track. If you would like more information, please call 698-9609 or 695-9080.

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Make it a weekend getaway by reserving one of 75 lodge rooms each with a private balcony with lake view or take advantage of one of the other deals offered for the weekend at our lakeside cottages, campground or cabins.

Lamar Leader
June 28, 2017
Page A3

celebration
with a fes-
spot Days

pageant, ok kun, car, truck and bike show, antique tractor and engine show, arts, crafts, children's art show, rides, music, food, and more. Free!

Come to Depot Days!

Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days in Athens Aug. 4-5

One of the best antique engine shows in the South-east- voted one of the TOP 20 EVENTS for AUGUST by the Southeastern Tourism Society. Featuring gasoline engines, steam engines, antique tractors, antique cars, antique trucks, horse-drawn equipment, parts vendors, flea market and collectibles vendors and much more! Activities include: parade of power, fast crank competition, slow races, ladies' skillet throw, kids pedal pull, live entertainment starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, and lots of fun for the entire family. A 20 mile tractor ride thru the countryside on Friday departing at 10 am (Call for details). Primitive camping available. Full concessions including pinto beans and corn bread. Always first weekend in August Children 10 years of age and under admitted free.

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For more information call 256-350-2028.

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Church & Community Announcements

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Springfield Baptist 138th Annual Homecoming
Springfield Baptist Church will host its 138th Annual Homecoming on July 2 at 11 a.m. Service delivered by Rev. Johnny Williams from Union Grove Baptist Church, Greensboro.

Review of Draft West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 Meeting
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We want your wildlife, outdoors, and weather photos!
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Saturday in the Park' is back at Moundville Archaeological Park
The event is a series of presentations and presentations related to Native arts, archaeology, nature, sustainable gardening more. Many of the topically relate to the recently exhibited exhibits in the Jones room of the archaeology, and fauna of the park. Moundville is located 13 miles west of Tuscaloosa, off Highway 69. The program is free with paid parking. Children 5 years of age and younger and Moundville residents are admitted. "Saturday in the Park" includes: July 1, Arrow Making with Drowningbear; July 8, Flute Making with Mato-Toyela; July 15, Plants and Foods with Minges; and July 22, Pottery Firing with Beane. The University of Alabama, the state's oldest public institution of education, is a student-research university that the best and brightest to democratic community com-

Attention of Y Moundville Times June 28, 2017 Page 7-A **rch ce**

spirit, the Lord is,

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11441 McPherson Landing Rd • Highway 69 S • Tuscaloosa, 759-3135 • Pastor - Rev Ryan Karr. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.; Youth Services 6:30 (supper) 7-8 MYF & Bible Explorers K & up; UMW (3rd Thurs) 6:30 p.m.
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weight. We participate in voluntary contests and have weekly programs that help us to stay on track. If you would like more information, please call 698-9609 or 695-9080.

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August 19, 2017.

Depot Days Festival in Hartselle

The Hartselle Depot Days Festival is a celebration

Lamar Leader
July 5, 2017
Page A3

is with a festive Depot Days antique tractor show, rides,

Come to Depot Days.

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For more information call 256-350-2028.

Lamar County is...
Sulligent - Vernon - Kennedy

Millport - Detroit - Beaverton

Crossville - Crews - Cody

Fernbank - Fairview - Vails

Pine Springs - Henson Springs

Spring Hill - Blooming Grove

Star - Kingville - Blowhorn

Melborne - Mansfield - Moscow

Campbell of Fayette, AL
Logan is a 2011 School and is currently at College, majoring in Nursing at Med Center Urgent Care School. He is also a 2015 graduate of College in Tuscaloosa, AL as a Nationally Registered Nurse employed by NorthStar Alabama.

The July 22nd reception will be at the First Free Will Baptist Church in bama. A reception will follow on Monday and Jamaica, the common name of Alabama.

Cook

Barbecue

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 onion, diced
- 5 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 (4 pound) boneless pork shoulder, cut into cubes
- 10 bamboo skewers, soaked

1. Whisk the sugar, soy sauce, and pepper together in a large bowl. Coat the pork with the sauce. Overnight is best if possible.
2. Preheat an outdoor grill to medium heat.
3. Thread the pork onto the preheated grill until the center is cooked, 3 to 5 minutes.

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Church & Community Announcements

and Foods with Kenric Minges; and July 22, Native Pottery Firing with Tammy Beane.

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Need to run a yard sale ad?
This size is only \$12.70 in black and white!
Email us at times@mound.net, stop by the office in Moundville on 2nd Ave under the Masonic Lodge or visit our website www.moundvilletimes.net on the ads page to get yours in the next edition.
Deadlines are Friday, so don't wait!

aylor's Chapel Special Guest From Africa
or's Chapel Church of zarene, Co. Rd. 46 will a special guest speaker Uganda, Africa for the service on July 9. We like to invite everyone to rt of this blessed event.

aturday in the Park' is ack at Moundville rchaeological Park

at: The event is a series of strations and presenta- related to Native cans, archaeology, natu- tory, sustainable garden- l more. Many of the top- ctly relate to the recently ted exhibits in the Jones m of the archaeology, nd fauna of the park. ville is located 13 miles of Tuscaloosa, off na Highway 69. The pro- are free with paid park ion. Children 5 years of and younger and ville residents are admit- a.

aturday in the Park" topics : July 8, Native Flute g with Charlie Mato- ; July 15, Native Plants

Moundville Times
July 5, 2017
Page 5-A

The Church for Choice

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PEOPLE PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Monday

Day Trip to Shark's Tooth Creek:

Meet at 8 a.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall. Travel to the Black Belt of Alabama in search of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils from the dinosaur age. Participants should be prepared to get wet and muddy. Participants will wade through shallow streams to collect sharks' teeth and other marine fossils from stream bed gravel deposits. Ages 10 and older. Cost is \$30 per person. Trip ends at 5 p.m. To register, call 348-7550 or email museum.programs@ua.edu.

Day Camp Seale Harris-Tuscaloosa for Children with Diabetes:

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the University of Alabama Student Activity Center at Presidential Village. The camp, offered by Southeastern Diabetes Education Services, is for children ages 5-15 with diabetes. A sibling or friend in this age range may pay to attend, if space is available. Fee is \$175 per child. Scholarships are available. Activities include swimming, rock wall climbing, sports, games, dance and karate classes and arts and crafts. Call 402-0415 or visit www.campsealeharris.org.

Summer Food Program in Greene County: Operation TBOC from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 113 Tuscaloosa St., Eutaw. Children ages 1-18 eligible.

Bibb County Commission Meeting: 6 p.m. at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville. Call 926-3114.

Summer Speaking Series, Estate Planning and Asset Protection: 6:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Rice Mine Road North. Featuring guest speaker G. Stephen Wiggins, attorney,

Red Oak Legal PC. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Call 345-1112.

Tuesday

Day Trip Tubing Little Cahaba:

Meet at 8 a.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall. Float on an inner tube down a shallow stretch of the Little Cahaba River and splash down rapids below limestone outcroppings. Enjoy a leisurely, wet day observing nature, eating a picnic lunch on a sandbar beach, and taking a swim at Limestone Park. Trip ends at 5 p.m. Ages 10 and older. Cost is \$30 per person. To register, call 348-7550 or email museum.programs@ua.edu.

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Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "The

Croods" and "Home."

Bama Art House Summer 2017:

7:30 p.m. Bama Theatre, 600 Greensboro Ave. Film is "The Lovers" (2017-Comedy). Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$7 for seniors and students and \$6 for Arts Council members. Visit bamatheatre.org or call 758-5195.

Wednesday

Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

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AARP TEK-Tuscaloosa Workshops: Attend a free hands-on workshop with tablets provided for practice at Tuscaloosa Public Library, 1801 Jack Warner Parkway. Friendly TEK guides will answer your questions. Seating is limited. Free parking. Intro to iPads from 10-11:30 a.m.; Beyond the Basics-iPad from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Staying Safe Online-iPad from 2:30-3:30 p.m.; and Privacy and Sharing on Facebook- iPad from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your Facebook Username and password. Call 345-5820.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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The Chamber After Hours: 5-7 p.m. at Home2 Suites, 2610 University Blvd. Join in for two hours of informal networking

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West Alabama Heritage Learning Center: 911 Main Ave., Northport. Open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Call 764-1101 or email wahlc4@gmail.com. Visit www.westalabamaheritage.org.

Homegrown Alabama Farmers Market: 3-6 p.m. at 812 Fifth Ave.

Country Dance Class: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at Old Time Fireman Lodge, 12684 Old Time Fireman Drive, Alabama Highway 171, Northport. Admission is \$5. Call 292-5770.
PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30

weekly programs that help us to stay on track. If you would like more information, please call 698-9609 or 695-9080.

MPO & RPO to meet in Lamar Co. July 20

The Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following public meetings for the Draft West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017:

1. Bibb County - July 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
2. Fayette County - July 25, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1st Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
3. Greene County - July 27, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
4. Hale County - July 18, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
5. Lamar County - July 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Lamar County Commission Chamber, 44690 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
6. Pickens County - July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission Chamber, 20 Phoenix Avenue, Carrollton, AL
7. Tuscaloosa County - July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center, 601 23rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL

The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan by the MPO and RPO staff as well as a question and answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments.

The plan will be available at the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC), 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, for public review from May 8 through July 28, 2017. The plan is also available on the internet at (www.warc.info/transportation-planning-tuscaloosa-area-mpo/documents) and by mail (205-333-2990, extension 213). All comments must be received prior to July 28, 2017.

The plan records coordination opportunities for publicly funded transit agencies in west Alabama. The plan provides a review of the current transit systems and includes improvement strategies, project lists, and maps. In order to be eligible to receive certain Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants, transit agencies must participate in the plan development. The affected grants include Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, and Section 5317 - New Freedom Program.

The MPO is scheduled to adopt the draft plan at their August 28, 2017 meeting and the RPO is scheduled to adopt it at their August 4, 2017 meeting. Prior to adopting the plan, the MPO and RPO will review all comments from the public and make changes to the plan if warranted. If major revisions are required the public will be given another opportunity to inspect the plan.

The meetings are open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance call the WARC at 333-2990.

tor & Prophet Foster Wallace of Alpha & Omega Ministries.

A full breakfast menu will be served with Biscuits, Brats, Scram-coffee, Milk.

Lamar Leader
July 12, 2017
Page A3

itor gives you

World's Longest Yard Sale

The southern-most start point of this multi-state yard sale begins in Gadsden and travels 93 miles along the Lookout Mountain Pkwy to Chattanooga, TN. More than 1,000 yard sale vendors in North AL offer everything from antiques, collectibles, furniture, dishwares, homemade jams and jellies, fresh garden produce and much more. Always starts the first Thursday in August.

Red Bay Founders Fest Sept. 15

Festival in Bay Tree Park in Red Bay is a one day tribute to the town's heriage provides a free day of fun for The day kicks off the king & queen ride at 8:30, followed by live music, best fried pie contest, with a cash prize. There will be other contests such as buck dancing, quilt, coloring, photography, fiddling and Bar-B-Que cook off. Other activities include 5K run, antique car-truck-tractor-motorecycle show.

Red Bay Museum will be open, along with sidewalk sales, specials and door prizes. Festival food, along with Cattleman's steak sandwich.

FREE Always 3rd Saturday in September. September 15, 2017.

Rockin the River in Rogersville

Rockin the River in Rogersville, AL is a family fun event to wrap up your Summer. From youth fishing rodeos and outdoor education sessions during the day to live music entertainment that evening, there is something for everyone.

Make it a weekend getaway by reserving one of 75 lodge rooms each with a private balcony with lake view or take advantage of one of the other deals offered for the weekend at our lakeside cottages, campground or cabins. August 19, 2017.

Depot Days Festival in Hartselle

The Hartselle Depot Days Festival is a celebration of our railroad community, est. 1870, culminates with a festival on the 3rd Saturday in September. Miss Depot Days pageant, 5k Run, car, truck and bike show, antique tractor and engine show, arts, crafts, children's art show, rides, music, food, and more. Free!

Come to Depot Days!

Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days in Athens Aug. 4-5

One of the best antique engine shows in the Southeast - voted one of the TOP 20 EVENTS for AUGUST by the Southeastern Tourism Society. Featuring gasoline engines, steam engines, antique tractors, antique cars, antique trucks, horse-drawn equipment, parts vendors, flea market and collectibles vendors and much more! Activities include: parade of power, fast crank competition, slow races, ladies' skillet throw, kids pedal pull, live entertainment starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, and lots of fun for the entire family. 0-20 mile tractor ride thru the countryside on Friday departing at 10 am (Call for details). Primitive camping

- 1/4 cup hot water
- 1 tablespoon corns
- 1/2 cup chopped or
- 2 large green bell p
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can
- 3 tablespoons soy
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- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions

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2. Mix bouillon cut then mix in cornste slow cooker with m stewed tomatoes, s
3. Cover, and cook for 6 to 8 hours.

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Church & Community Announcements

'Day in the Park' is at Moundville Geological Park

The event is a series of activities and presentations related to Native plants, archaeology, nature, sustainable gardening. Many of the topics relate to the recently exhibited in the Jones of the archaeology, fauna of the park. The park is located 13 miles from Tuscaloosa, off Highway 69. The price is free with paid parking. Children 5 years of age and younger and local residents are admitted.

"Day in the Park" topics include July 15, Native Plants; with Kenric Minges; July 22, Native Pottery with Tammy Beane.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest institution of higher education, is a student-centered university that draws the brightest to an academic community committed to a premier undergraduate education.

UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

Moundville Baptist Church Vacation Bible School

You're invited to the ultimate pep rally at Moundville Baptist Church Vacation Bible School July 23rd at 5 - 7:30 p.m., July 24 -27 at 5:30-8:30 p.m. "Courage, Obedience, Faith, Unity and Victory

Review of Draft West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017 Meeting

The Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following public meetings for the Draft West Alabama

Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017: Greene County - July 27, 11 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw; Hale County - July 18, 5 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville.; Tuscaloosa County - July 12, 9 a.m. - Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center, 601 23rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa.

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Department Launches New Bicentennial Farm Program and is Accepting Century & Heritage Farm Applications


The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is launching a new program to recognize family farms that have been in the same family for at least 200 years. On December 14, 2019, our state will officially observe its 200th birthday. With the state-wide bicentennial celebration in mind, the department felt special recognition should

Need to run a yard sale ad?
This size is only \$12.70 in black and white!
 Email us at times@mound.net, stop by the office in Moundville on 2nd Ave under the Masonic Lodge or visit our website www.moundvilletimes.net on the ads page to get yours in the next edition.
Deadlines are Friday, so don't wait!

Attention of Y

Moundville Times
 July 12, 2017
 Page 5-A

Church



Methodist/CME/AME Zion
 Bass Tabernacle CME 22890
 County Road 32 • Akron, 205-372-0769 • Pastor - Paul L. Horton. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Big Sandy United Methodist
 11441 McPherson Landing Rd • Highway 69 S • Tuscaloosa, 759-3135 • Pastor - Rev. Ryan Karr. Sun. School 9:30 a.m.; Sun. a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.; Youth Services 6:30 (supper) 7-8 MYF & Bible Explorers K & up; UMW (3rd Thurs) 6:30 p.m.
Havana United Methodist
 Havana, (334)624-8311 • Pastor: Nathan Elliott. Sun. a.m. Worship (1st and 3rd) 9:30 a.m.; Sun. School (2nd and 4th) 9:30 a.m.
Jackson Chapel UMC, Pastor
 Levi R. Morrow, Sr. 68 Jackson Rd., Sawyerville. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Sun. Worship 11:15 a.m.; Wed. Bible


Northport Urgent Care
 FAMILY PRACTICE MEDICINE
 JEFFREY B. PARKER, MD


2010 LUREN B. WALLACE BLVD.
 NORTHPORT, ALABAMA 35476

205-333-7670 FAX 205-333-3161

STOP AND LOOK AT THIS KITTEN!

Now that we have your attention, think of all the people who looked at this kitten today. Our circulation is 9,000 and the website pursues the attention of 8,000 to 13,000 each week. These are your customers. Check out a price list on www.moundvilletimes.net or email us at advertising@yaboo.com and capture the attention of your customers. It's a guaranteed combination!
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Norris Radiator, Inc.
Automotive Center

Complete Auto Truck Repair
 205-759-8200 ~ 205-758-9013
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www.heartlandcatfish.com
DEMAND THE BEST.
DEMAND HEARTLAND.

OFFICE PHONE
553-4433

NIGHT PHONE
339-0705



PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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"The Croods" and "Home."

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Friday

Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association Maintenance Symposium: 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Bryant Conference Center, 240 Bryant Drive. Presented by the University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies, the symposium will update attendees on the latest in maintenance management. Register or learn more at <http://aama.ua.edu>.
Greensboro Farmers' Market: 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the corner of Highway 61 and State Highway 14 in Greensboro.

Day Trip to Coosa River Canoeing: Meet at 8 a.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall, with trip ending at 5 p.m. Splash through whitewater rapids and watch for birds of prey along the shoreline and among the moss-covered trees. Surf the waves at Moccasin Gap! This is a fun and adventurous trip for experienced canoeists. Swimmers only. Ages 12 and older. Cost is \$30 per person. To register, call 348-7550 or email museum.programs@ua.edu.

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University of Montevallo

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Department, 2440 Kauloosa Ave. Free movie, popcorn and refreshments will be served. This week's movie is "Wall-E."
Free Estate Planning & Asset Protection Workshop: 6-8 p.m. at Red Oak Legal, PC, 500 Towncenter Blvd., Ste. B. Presented by local attorney Steve Wiggins. Registration required. Call 205-764-1262 or go to www.redoaklegalpc.com and click the Workshops button. Information: ann@redoaklegalpc.com, www.redoaklegalpc.com, (205) 764-1262.

Live at the Plaza: 6-9 p.m. at Government Plaza, 7th Street and 22nd Ave. SE. Live concerts, which feature local musical talent. Local participating businesses will be able to sell alcoholic beverages in approved go-cups. While food and soft drinks may be brought into the festival, alcohol is only allowed in the approved cups. Live At The Plaza is children and pet friendly. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for comfort. Bands to be announced. Free parking is available inside the adjoining Intermodal Facility.

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Sunday

Bread of Life and Hot Breakfast: 10 a.m. Sunday at New Enoch Baptist Church, 3439 20th St. Free bread and pastries distributed to anyone in need. Free hot breakfast for homeless or anyone in need.

"Ragtime": 2 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22 and are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

Tannehill Trade Days: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, 12632 Confederate Parkway, McCalla. Outdoor flea market. Visit www.tannehill.org.

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Tea Talk: 11 a.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Rice Mine Road N. Tea Talks are free monthly talks on a variety of topics. Open to the public. Call 239-8929.

Youth Zone Ministry: 1-3 p.m. at New Enoch Baptist Church, 3439 20th St. Call 343-0107 or 368-9627.

Northport Community Engagement Dinner: 5:30 p.m. at The Levee, 1 Bridge Ave., Northport. Tickets are \$20. Semi-annual Chamber of Commerce event designed to keep Northport business leaders and citizens informed of current issues. Bruce Higginbotham, city administrator, will be the speaker. To register, visit www.tuscaloosachamber.com or email Carolyn@tuscaloosachamber.com.

Tuesday

Summer Food Program in Greene County: Operation TBOC from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 113 Tuscaloosa St., Eutaw. Children ages 1-18 eligible.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free

family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Ice Age: Collision Course" and "Kung Fu Panda 3."

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan meeting: 5 p.m. Moundville Library, 279 Market St., Moundville. Meeting will include a review of the Hale County plan by officials of West Alabama Regional Commission and a question and answer session. Copies of the plan will be available. For special assistance, call the WARC at least 48 hours in advance at 333-2990.

Tuscaloosa Kennel Club: 6 p.m. at the Tuscaloosa Public Library, 1801 Jack Warner Parkway.

Bama Art House: 7:30 p.m. Bama Theatre, 600 Greensboro Ave. Screening of the film "The Hero," a 2017 comedy-drama. Tickets are \$8 gen/\$7 seniors and students/\$6 Arts Council members. Visit bamatheatre.org or call 758-5195.

NEWSMAKERS

Coroner: 'The Walking Dead' stuntman dies after on-set fall

ATLANTA — A stuntman for "The Walking Dead" has died after falling on the Georgia set of the hit television show. It's the first on-set death in the U.S. in nearly three years.

John Bernecker, 33, died about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at an Atlanta hospital after falling on the show's set in Senoia, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Atlanta, Coweta County Coroner Richard Hawk said Friday.

Bernecker died from blunt force trauma and his death is considered accidental, Hawk said.

"The Walking Dead," the often-gory AMC show based

agency spokesman Michael D'Aquino said in an email Friday.

Winfrey, DuVernay tease 'A Wrinkle in Time'

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ava DuVernay says she wanted to direct an adaption of Madeleine L'Engle's fantasy classic "A Wrinkle in Time" because she saw herself in it. Speaking in Anaheim on Saturday at the biannual Disney fan expo, D23, DuVernay was joined on stage by her film's cast, including Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling, Chris Pine and newcomer Storm Reid, who plays the film's lead, Meg. They also showed a colorful, mind-bending teaser.

Cincinnati Zoo's baby hippo named honorary deputy sheriff

CINCINNATI — A popular baby hippo at the Cincinnati Zoo has been deputized.

Hamilton County's sheriff and several deputies presented Fiona and her team of caretakers with a certificate on Wednesday naming her honorary deputy sheriff.

It was the second milestone of the week for Fiona.

On Tuesday, her mother Bibi and father Henry joined her for their first time together as a trio.

The zoo says Fiona was underweight when she born on Jan. 24, coming in at 29 pounds. She overcame health scares and now weighs nearly 375 pounds. Her parents weigh about 10 times that. Video updates such

Hamill and Fisher were named Disney Legends during a ceremony Friday at the company's biannual fan convention, the D23 Expo in Anaheim, California. He said Fisher would have been making him laugh at the event and treating it with some irreverence.

"Well, I wish Carrie were here," he said. "She would be making me laugh and be off camera extending her middle finger - one of her favorite gestures."

Fisher died unexpectedly in December. Hamill said she would want the event to be celebratory and not sad.

"I really wish she were here," he said. "But, she would also want us to be having a good time and not be sad."

Hamill said that even hours

PEOPLE PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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Veterans Town Hall Meeting: 10 a.m. in the atrium of Building 137 at Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 3701 Loop Road E. For veterans and family members. Veterans can

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discuss their health care needs and give feedback to the medical center. Representatives of the Veterans Benefits Administration will answer questions related to benefits and provide claims assistance.

"Ragtime": 2 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22 and are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

NEWSMAKERS

'War for the Planet of the Apes' roars past 'Spider-Man'

NEW YORK — Monkey business still pays. "War for the Planet of the Apes" took down "Spider-Man: Homecoming" at the North American box office, opening with an estimated \$56.5 million in ticket sales.

Though some initially expected a closer race, "Spider-Man" dropped to second with \$45.2 million after its \$117 million debut last weekend. Led by Andy Serkis' celebrated motion-capture performance as the ape leader Caesar, "War for the Planet of the Apes"



"War for the Planet of the Apes." [TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX VIA AP, FILE]

in \$18.9 million in its third week, bringing its cumulative total to \$188 million domestically. Sony's Edgar Wright's 46 and Madison Parker were action comedy "Baby Driver" followed behind with \$8.8 million.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Floyd Canup says the 29-year-old Carter and Madison Parker were arrested Saturday. Carter was released on bail Sunday.

A tweet from his account hours before the show said he wouldn't make it because of "transportation issues."

Carter is the younger brother of Nick Carter of Backstreet Boys.

Visitation up at Italian museums after reforms

MILAN — Italy's Culture Ministry says the number of visitors to Italian museums continues to rise two years after reforms that included opening top museum positions to foreigners for the first time.

The ministry said Sunday that the number of museum

PEOPLE&PLACES

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"Ragtime": 2 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22. They are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

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Panda 3."

West Alabama Heritage Learning Center: 911 Main Ave., Northport. Open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Call 764-1101 or email wahlc4@gmail.com. Visit www.westalabamaheritage.org.

2017 Transportation Summit: 11:30 a.m. at the Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway. Tickets are #20. Reister at bit.ly/TransportationSummit17.

Summer Ice Cream Social: 2-4 p.m. in the Atrium at Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road.

Sponsored by the Alumni Association. Alumni and friends who register for membership in the alumni association will receive free ice cream. Other frozen treats will be available for purchase. To register visit sheltonstate.edu/alumni.

Homegrown Alabama Farmers Market: 3-6 p.m. at 812 Fifth Ave.

Tuscaloosa Builds Free Contractors Education Series: 5-7 p.m. at the McDonald Hughes Center, 3101 MLK Blvd. The theme of the meeting will be "Be Ready: Components of Entrepreneurship." Call 248-5725.

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contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting at 333-2990.

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PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and Country Gold Band will play. Cost is \$5. Refreshments appreciated.

Third Thursday Songwriters Showcase: 7 p.m. at the Black Warrior Brewing, 2216 University Blvd. Presented by Black Warrior Brewing Co. and 95.3 The Bear. It will feature local and Nashville-based singer/songwriters performing. Black Warrior Brewing will donate 20 percent of all sales on all beer and wine to Focus on Senior Citizens. There is no cover charge to enjoy the show, and everyone is welcome.

"Ragtime": 7:30 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22. They are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

MPO & RPO to meet in Lamar Co. July 20

The Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following public meetings for the Draft West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017:

1. Bibb County - July 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
2. Fayette County - July 25, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1st Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
3. Greene County - July 27, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
4. Hale County - July 18, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
5. Lamar County - July 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. - Lamar County Commission Chamber, 44690 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
6. Pickens County - July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission Chamber, 20 Phoenix Avenue, Carrollton, AL
7. Tuscaloosa County - July 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - Tuscaloosa Intermodal Center, 601 23rd Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL

The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan by the MPO and RPO staff as well as a question and answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments.

The plan will be available at the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC), 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, for public review from May 8 through July 28, 2017. The plan is also available on the internet at (www.warc.info/transportation-planning/tuscaloosa-area-mpo/documents) and by mail (205-333-2990, extension 213). All comments must be received prior to July 28, 2017.

The plan records coordination opportunities for publicly funded transit agencies in west Alabama. The plan provides a review of the current transit systems and includes improvement strategies, project lists, and maps. In order to be eligible to receive certain Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants, transit agencies must participate in the plan development. The affected grants include Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, and Section 5317 - New Freedom Program.

The MPO is scheduled to adopt the draft plan at their August 28, 2017 meeting and the RPO is scheduled to adopt it at their August 4, 2017 meeting. Prior to adopting the plan, the MPO and RPO will review all comments from the public and make changes to the plan if warranted. If major revisions are required the public will be given another opportunity to inspect the plan.

The meetings are open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance call the WARC at 333-2990.

Lamar Leader
July 19, 2017
Page A3

Mountain Parkway has been named a "Must See" by Reader's Digest, the National Geographic, and Southern Living magazines, providing a beautiful backdrop to the thousands of roadside sales.

Shoppers are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen and to bring plenty of water. For lodging information, directions, road closures, and more information, visit www.ShopLookoutMountain.com or call DeKalb Tourism at 888.805.4740 or Greater Gadsden Area Tourism at 888.565.0411.

Annual Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days

One weekend in August, folks are invited to experience the good ol' days during one of North Alabama's largest antique engine and tractor shows. Set for August 4-5, 2017, the Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days combines antiques, old-fashioned concessions, live music, and family-friendly fun and games taking visitors back to the "good ol' days".

Presented by the Piney Chapel Antique Engine and Tractor Association, the Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days is considered one of the best antique engine shows in Alabama offering festivalgoers a chance to see an array of farm equipment including gasoline and steam engines in action, horse-drawn equipment, antique tractors, cars, and trucks, and other farming memorabilia. This year's event features tractors and equipment manufactured by Case Corporation. A 20 HP Keck-Gonnerman Steam Tractor will also be displayed threshing wheat.

The two-day event also offers a variety of vendors, old-fashioned concessions including breakfast biscuits (Saturday morning only), pinto beans and cornbread, and fish fry on Friday night along with live music featuring local bands starting at 5:30 p.m. Other activities for families to enjoy include a Fast Crank Competition, Slow Races, Chain in a Box, a skillet throw for ladies, and pedal pull for the kids.

Sponsored by the Limestone County Farmers Federation, a 20-mile tractor ride is planned for Friday, August 4th departing at 10 a.m. Spectators can catch a glimpse of the tractor parade as riders make their way from the festival grounds along Elkton Road north to Sandlin Road. The ride will continue to Beulah Road and then on to Fort Hampton Road to the town of Elkmont for lunch at the Elkmont Town Hall furnished by the Limestone County Cattleman's Association. Upon leaving Elkmont, the ride will resume onto the Richard Martin Trail (Rails to Trails). Once off of the trail, the ride will head east on Carey Road to Elkton Road for the final stretch back to the show grounds at approximately 10:48 a.m.

Gates open at 7 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and

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Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 11 x 7 glass bakin
2. In medium frying pan, brown meat until done, add salt (if any), and some pepper.
3. In a medium bowl, combine milk, salt and pepper.
4. Layer into the baking dish: pour some soup over meat, then the cheese, potatoes, soup, meat and
5. Cover with lightly greased foil. If cheese doesn't stick, cook for 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until

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- * 3 Bedroom

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PEOPLE PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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Stillman College Women's Council Fundraiser: 6-8 p.m. at Zoe's Kitchen, 920 Paul W. Bryant, Ste. 101. Music by Lloyd Watson. All profits will be donated to Stillman College.

Country Dance Class: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at Old Time Fireman Lodge, 12684 Old Time Fireman Drive, Alabama Highway 171, Northport. Admission is \$5. Call 292-5770.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and Country Gold Band will play. Cost is \$5.

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Friday

Greensboro Farmers' Market: 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the corner of Highway 61 and State Highway 14 in Greensboro.

Food Truck Friday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Annette Shelby Park, 1614 15th St.

Science Day Camp: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall. All equipment provided, lunch is not included. This is the perfect camp for middle school students interested in the natural sciences. \$150 for week. To register call (Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 348-7550 or museum.programs@ua.edu.

Green Scene Indoor Summer Movies: 1 p.m. at Tuscaloosa's Environmental Services Department, 2440 Kauloosa Ave. Free movie, popcorn and refreshments will be served. This week's movie is "Moana."

Live at the Plaza: 6-9 p.m. at Government Plaza, 7th Street and 22nd Ave. SE. Live concerts, which feature local musical talent. While food and soft drinks may be brought into the festival, alcohol is only allowed in the approved cups. Live At The Plaza is children and pet friendly. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for comfort. Bands to be announced. Free parking is available inside the adjoining Intermodal Facility.

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171 South, Fayette. Featuring Judy Moore and the Goodtime Country Band. Call 393-8386.

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Acoustic Night with the Mulligan Brothers and the Parkers: 7:30 p.m. at the Bama Theater, 601 Greensboro Ave. Advance tickets at Brown Paper Tickets are \$15 (\$16.52 with service fee); remaining tickets available at the door for \$15 cash only. Bama Bar open. Limit of 125 people. Call 758-5195 or visit bamatheatre.org.

Ninth Annual Sokol Park Pro Rodeo: 7:30 p.m. at Munny Sokol Park, 5901 Watermelon Road, Northport. Professional rodeo Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Rain or shine event. Events will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-12, free for 5 and younger.

Free Movie Night: 8:30-11 p.m. at Bibb Medical Center Nursing Home, 208 Pierson Ave., Centreville. Grab a blanket or

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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Eat with a Cause: 5-10 p.m. at Jason's Deli, 2300 McFarland Blvd., Suite 10. Guest speakers will represent the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Kudzu Coalition of West Alabama.

For more information, visit the 10-4 Corp.'s page on Facebook.
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Greensboro Farmers' Market: 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the corner of Highway 61 and State Highway 14 in Greensboro.

Food Truck Friday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Annette Shelby Park, 1614 15th St.

Science Day Camp: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall. All equipment provided, lunch is not included. This is the perfect camp for middle school students interested in the natural sciences. \$150 for week. To register call (Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 348-7550 or museum.programs@ua.edu.

Green Scene Indoor Summer Movies: 1 p.m. at Tuscaloosa's Environmental Services Department, 2440 Kauloosa Ave. Free movie, popcorn and refreshments will be served.

This week's movie is "Moana."
Live at the Plaza: 6-9 p.m. at Government Plaza, 7th Street and 22nd Ave. SE. Live concerts, which feature local musical talent. While food and soft drinks may be brought into the festival, alcohol is only allowed in the approved cups. Live At The Plaza is children and pet friendly. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for comfort. This week's performer is Campbell Station. Free parking is available inside the adjoining Intermodal Facility.

Friday Night Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Keith Porter and the Over the Hill Gang will play. Admission is \$5.

Country Music: 7-10 p.m. at old Fayette Community Center, Alabama Highway 171 South, Fayette. Featuring Judy Moore and the Goodtime Country Band. Call 393-8386.

"Ragtime": 7:30 p.m. at

Send us your events



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Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22. They are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

Acoustic Night with the Mulligan Brothers and the Parkers: 7:30 p.m. at the Bama Theater, 601 Greensboro Ave. Advance tickets at Brown Paper Tickets are \$15 (\$16.52 with service fee); remaining tickets available at the door for \$15 cash only. Bama Bar open. Limit of 125 people. Call 758-5195 or visit bamatheatre.org.

Ninth Annual Sokol Park Pro Rodeo: 7:30 p.m. at Munny Sokol Park, 5901 Watermelon Road, Northport. Professional rodeo Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Rain or shine event. Events will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Admission is \$15 Adults, \$10 ages 6-12, free for 5 and younger.

Free Movie Night: 8:30-11 p.m. at Bibb Medical Center Nursing Home, 208 Pierson Ave., Centreville. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair watch the movie, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" under the stars. Free drinks and popcorn. Call 926-3292.

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Saturday

Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

Tuscaloosa Farmers Market: 7 a.m.-noon at Tuscaloosa River Market, 1900 Jack Warner Parkway.

Day Trip to Shark's Tooth Creek: Meet at 8 a.m. at Alabama Museum of Natural History, Smith Hall. Travel to the Black Belt of Alabama in search of fossils from the dinosaur age. Participants should be prepared to get wet and muddy while collecting sharks' teeth and other marine fossils from streams. Ages 10 and older. Cost is \$30 per person. To register, call 348-7550 or email museum.programs@ua.edu.

Saturday in the Park: Native Pottery Firing with Tammy Beane from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Jones Archaeological Museum at Moundville Archaeological Park. The program is free with paid park admission, which is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 55 years and older and \$6 for students. Children 5 years of age and younger and Moundville residents are admitted free.

TCHS Class of 1997 Reunion: Picnic at 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (cost is \$10) and alumni celebration (cost is \$69) from 8 p.m.-midnight Saturday at Indian Hills Country Club. Inspiration memorial service (free) at 11 a.m. Sunday at Echols Middle School Gym.

"Ragtime": 2 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22. They are

available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

Concert at Shepherd Hill Opry: 6:30 p.m. at Shepherd Hill, 13222 Fondren Road, Samantha. Featured singers are Shannon Knight of Guin, Clay Holmes of Hawkinsville, Georgia, Wayne Holcomb of Hawkinsville, Georgia, and Mike Till of Northport. Free admission with a non-perishable food item for the Little Closet Community Food Pantry. There will be a drawing for a ticket to see Kenny Chesney in concert on Aug. 4 at Tuscaloosa Amphitheater. Must be present to win. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. No pets allowed, except for service dogs.

Country Music: 7 p.m. at 919 Old Tuscaloosa Road, Gordo. Band is Country Club Band. Admission is \$5. Call 932-3537.

Ninth Annual Sokol Park Pro Rodeo: 7:30 p.m. at Munny Sokol Park, 5901 Watermelon Road, Northport. Professional rodeo, rain or shine event. Events will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 ages 6-12, free for 5 and under.

Screen on the Green: free outdoor movie series shown on an inflatable screen at 8 p.m. (or dusk) on the Green between Barnes & Noble Bookstore and Panera Bread in Midtown Village. Families are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to watch the movies. This week's movie is "The Boss Baby."

Sunday

Back to School Backpack Giveaway: 10 a.m. at Holly Spring Baptist Church, Gainsville Road, Romulus. There will be lots of food, door prizes and presentations. First come and first served. Call 345-2371.

J. Henry Ryan Reunion: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport with a covered dish luncheon.

"Ragtime": 2 p.m. at Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Road. Tickets are \$14/\$18/\$22. They are available online or at the box office. Call 391-2277. Recommended for children ages 12 and older.

Monday

Pre-Registration for the 13th Annual Vicki Kerr Walk 2 Remember: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Caring Days' Mal and Charlotte Moore Center, 943 31st St. East. Incentives include double door prize tickets, insured T-shirt size and no waiting in line on the day of the walk. Walk as individual or as a team. Individuals who collect \$40 or more will receive a 2017 Walk to Remember T-shirt featuring the art of one of the Caring Days clients. The walk will be 8-9:45 a.m. on Aug. 26 inside University Mall.

Bibb County Commission Meeting: 6 p.m. at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville. Call 926-3114.

Estate Planning and Asset Protection Workshop: 6-8 p.m. at Red Oak Legal, PC, 500 Towncenter Blvd. Suite B. RSVP to www.TedOakLegalPC.com or call 764-1262.

Send us your events



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Public Meeting on West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017: 6 p.m. Brent City Hall, 22 First St., Brent in Bibb County. The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan as well as a question-and-answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours before the meeting at 333-2990.

Monday Night Dance: 6:30-9:30 p.m. at McAbee Center, 3801 Loop Road. Lynn Box and the Sunshine Band will play. Cost is \$5. Call 553-3133.

Summer Speaking Series, Family Caregiver Panel: 6:30 p.m. at Morning Pointe of Tuscaloosa, 1801 Rice Mine Road North. Featuring stories and questions-and-answers from Family Caregivers. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Call 345-1112.

CHURCH EVENTS

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Sunday

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Monday Night Dance: 6:30-9:30 p.m. at McAbee Center, 3801

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Loop Road. Lynn Box and the Sunshine Band will play. Cost is \$5. Call 553-3133.

Tuesday

Breakfast & Biz: 7-8:30 a.m. at Trustmark, 2330 University Blvd. Networking event with fellow Chamber members and business leaders at area businesses. Grab some business cards and invite a colleague and join in.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10

a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" and "Penguins of Madagascar."

Food Pantry Ministry Distribution Day: 4-6 p.m. at 13222 Fondren Road, Northport. A ministry of the Good Shepherd Foundation, Samantha. Photo ID and proof of residence is required to receive services. Primary focus is the Samantha community within a 5-mile radius of the pantry. Call 534-3104.

Public Meeting on West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017: 5 p.m. Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 First Ave. NW, Fayette for Fayette County. The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan as well as a question-and-answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments. For more information, call 333-2990.

Actor John Heard, of 'Home Alone' movies, dies at 71

By David Bauder
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actor John Heard, whose many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" series and a corrupt detective in "The Sopranos," has died. He was 71.

Heard was found dead Friday in a hotel in Palo Alto, Califor-



Actor John Heard, who stars as Alex, rehearses for Steppenwolf Theatre's production of Don DeLillo's play, "Love-Lies-Bleeding," April 5, 2006, in Chicago. Heard, best known for playing the father in the "Home

He was born March 7, 1946, in Washington, D.C., and grew up performing in local theater. One of his memorable early roles was as a disabled Vietnam War veteran in the 1981 film "Cutter's Way."

He was active in film for the next decade, playing Tom Hanks' rival in "Big," actress Geraldine Page's son in "The

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

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Tuesday

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ID and proof of residence is required to receive services. Primary focus is the Samantha community within an nearly five-mile radius of the pantry. Call 534-3104.

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Wednesday

Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

13th Annual Vicki Kerr Walk 2 Remember: 8-9:45 a.m. inside University Mall, 1791 McFarland Blvd. East. This event is in honor of those that have been affected by Alzheimer's and other memory disorders as

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munity activities. To submit information, email peggy.skelton@tuscaloosaneews.com, call 205-722-0199, fax 205-722-0118 or write 315 28th Ave., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Please submit calendar items at least a week in advance.

well as their caregivers. Door prizes.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" and "Penguins of Madagascar."

Third Annual Red Cross and College Hill Missionary Baptist Church Blood Drive: 3-7 p.m. in the gymnasium at Leroy McAbee Activity Center, 3801 Loop Road.

NEWSMAKERS

'Wonder Woman' sequel gets a title

SAN DIEGO — Wonder Woman has a few reasons to celebrate.

As of Sunday, the superhero pic is now the highest-grossing film of the summer with \$398 million from North American theaters, and the sequel is official. Warner Bros. is not saying much about the inevitable follow-up to the smash hit, but the studio did flash a title

white-bearded Texan has won the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest in Key West, where Ernest Hemingway lived during the 1930s.

Retired real estate franchise owner Richard Filip of Fayetteville, Texas, prevailed Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a longtime Hemingway hangout.

The 71-year-old winner piloted a replica of Hemingway's fishing boat Pilar from Miami to Key West before



B-53

PEOPLE&PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Tuesday

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Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport

Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" and "Penguins of Madagascar."

Third Annual Red Cross and College Hill Missionary Baptist Church Blood Drive: 3-7 p.m. in the gymnasium at Leroy McAbee Activity Center, 3801 Loop Road.

Thursday

Public Meeting on West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017: 9 a.m. Pickens County Commission Chamber, 20 Phoenix Ave., Carrollton for Pickens County. The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan as well as a question-and-answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments. For more information, call 333-2990.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" and "Penguins of Madagascar."

West Alabama Heritage Learning Center: 911 Main Ave., Northport. Open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Call 764-1101 or email wahlc4@gmail.com. Visit www.westalabamaheritage.org.

Free Parent-Child Etiquette Class and Mini French Camp: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ernest and Hadley Booksellers, 1928 Seventh St., with Mom 'N' I Publishing, LLC co-owner Mary Sood. The classes are held in conjunction with the release of "Yellow Kitten Learns Good Manners" and "Yellow Kitten Goes to Paris." Participants are invited to bring their stuffed animals, preferably kittens, to the event. Practice table manners, meeting and greeting people, learn French phrases and complete an Effie Tower craft. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is encouraged. Visit momnipublishing@gmail.com.

Public Meeting on West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2017: 11 a.m. James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Ave., Eutaw, for Greene County. The public meetings will include a formal review of the plan as well as a question-and-answer session. Copies of the plan will be available at the meeting. Meeting attendees will also be given an opportunity to complete comment forms or to provide tape-recorded comments. For more information, call 333-2990.

West Alabama Regional Commission Board of Directors Meeting: 11:45 a.m. in the conference room at West Alabama Regional Commission, Building One, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. Presiding will be Ricky Hubbard, Bibb County commissioner and board chair. Those who plan to attend should call in advance. For more information, call

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333-2990, Ext. 215.

Financial Literacy Counseling Session: 3-4:45 p.m. at McKenzie Court's Community Center, 2525 Lanier Ave. Meet Regions banker Kenyatta Browne for discussion of budgeting, the importance of credit and the path to home ownership. Free. Prizes will be given. Hosted by nonprofit Community Works Tuscaloosa. Call 886-2305.

Homegrown Alabama Farmers Market: 3-6 p.m. at 812 Fifth Ave.

Country Dance Class: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at Old Time Fireman Lodge, 12684 Old Time Fireman Drive, Alabama Highway 171, Northport. Admission is \$5. Call 292-5770.

Tuscaloosa County Young Conservatives: 6 p.m. in the auditorium at the Tuscaloosa County Extension Office, 2513 Seventh St. Enter from the large parking lot on north side. Call 205-861-7070.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and Country Gold Band will play. Cost is \$5.

NEWSMAKERS

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ranging from players safety

D-54

of Ohio State and Corey

host "The 2018 Miss America

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Wednesday

Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport. Produce available includes tomatoes, onion, greens, grass-fed beef, plants and baked goods. **Summer Food Program in Greene County:** Operation TBOC from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 113 Tuscaloosa St., Eutaw. Children ages 1-18 eligible. **Kids Summer Movie Escape:** 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" and "Penguins of Madagascar." **Third Annual College Hill Missionary Baptist Church Red Cross Blood Drive:** 3-7 p.m. in the gymnasium at McAbee Activity Center, 3801 Loop Road.

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NEWSMAKERS

Kendrick Lamar is leader of MTV VMAs with 8 nominations

NEW YORK — Kendrick Lamar's "Humble" is giving the rapper reason to brag: He is the leader of the MTV Video Music Awards with eight nominations.

Lamar and his No.1 hit song are nominated for video of the year, artist of the year, best

Fonsi and Daddy Yankee — which includes a remix with Justin Bieber — as well as Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You." Both songs topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart this year.

Sheeran will compete for artist of the year though, along with Lamar, Mars, Ariana Grande, Lorde and the Weeknd. This year MTV



some time, and then failed completely. Even though funding is not 100% available at the beginning of the project, the project will take more than a year to complete, so waiting for all funding to be in place would seriously set back the timetable for aviation fuel to once again be available in Greensboro.

The first item of new business on the agenda was Resolution 2017-07, The City of Greensboro Personnel Policies and procedures, which has been in work by the council for the past several months. Cook mentioned that she had not included the final 110-page document in the council members' packages, but of course it is available for review. The council unanimously accepted the revised personnel and policies document.

Next discussed was Resolution 2017-08, Reference to Act 2017-367, which concerns one time lump-sum payment in October of 2017 to local unit retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees. The breakdown is \$2,378.74 for the Utilities Board and \$2,150 for the City of Greensboro. This agenda item, too, was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2017-09, Agreement - Municipal Intercept Services (MIS) Debt Recovery Program from the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR), was also unanimously approved. Council member Angela Morrison explained during the council workshop July 12 that this was a service free to the city, set up in a unique way to attempt to recover money owed to the city by "intercepting" an individual's Alabama State tax refund. However, there is a service fee charged to and paid by the debtor for each successful intercept on each debt. She stated examples of debts that can be intercepted include: court fee judgments, library fees, ordina-
lations, parking fees, sar
garbage fees and utility bills.
to participate the city must pas-
lution, complete the Memorar
Understanding and Agreement



Pattie Dismukes accepts Steve Gentry proclamation

During public comments council member Johnny Davis asked how much longer the scaffolding was going to remain on Main Street, observing that it had been in place for longer than a year. Mayor Washington told the council that he would talk to the building's owner and request a schedule of completion. Davis then commented on a large pile of junk on the sidewalk in front of the old Elmore's store, noting that it needed to be removed, too.

Other concerns mentioned were the city sign no longer being visible on Hwy 25 because the hedges have grown up in front of it. There was discussion as to whether the city needed to take action, but someone remembered that the Greensboro Garden Club had taken on that area as a project, and it was no longer being maintained by the city.

A question was asked of Aaron Evans as to bush-hogging and spraying out at the airport, and Evans replied that he was planning to be out there early this next morning. It was also agreed that the city could bush hog in cemeteries if they were non-profits.

Board of Registrars chair Mary Thomas said that the Board of Registrars members had recently attended mandatory training, and were asked during the meeting to tell about something special about their town. Thomas said that she talked about the Pic Lab, and invited everyone to come and sam-

Greensboro Watchman
July 27, 2017
Page 1

Mt. Hermon UMC 5th Sunday supper is July 30

Mt. Hermon UMC will host their fifth Sunday night supper at 5:30 p.m. on July 30. Everyone is invited to come and bring a covered dish and enjoy great food, fellowship, and Gospel music, following the meal. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends with them and plan on participating in the fun.

West AL Transit Comm. will meet Aug. 2

The West Alabama Transit Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 9:00 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Hwy 69 N in Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area.

The called meeting of the Board of Education July 20 was called to order by Chairman Dexter Thornton; all were present with the exception of Board member Brandi Lester. After the 60 seconds of silence, and the adoption of the agenda, board member Jamey Payne, obviously distraught, addressed the Board by saying "I want to announce my resignation as the Hale County Board of Education District 4 Representative. After much thought, prayers and talks with my family, I believe it is in the best interest of all that I remove myself from this position. I would like to thank all those people who elected me. I have worked hard during this time and I have had tremendous support. I will be forever grateful to all who helped me." With no further comment, he left the room.

There were no public comments. The Board called for an Executive Session for good name and character. Returning within 15 minutes, the Board approved the superintendents' personnel recommendations to rescind employment offers to GHS Social Science Teacher, Morgan Olive, and GHS Math Teacher, Marman Macham; to accept the resignation of GES Teacher, Jaminell Webb, and GES Teacher, Melena Chavie; and to employ HCHS Science Teacher, Lyndsey Golden. Due to the resignation of Board Member, Jamey Payne and the absence of Board member Brandi Lester, the anticipated announcement of Moundville Middle School Principle will have to wait until the special called board meeting on Wednesday, July 26 th.

Due to the resignation of Board Member Jamey Payne, a vacancy was announced for District 4 for the Hale County Board of Education. This position must be filled within 30 days. Qualifications for this position require an individual to have a high school diploma and or equivalent and to be of good moral character; not be on the National Sex Offender or the State Sex Offender Registries, and not having been convicted of a felony. All qualified individuals must not be currently employed by the Board of Education or serving on the Board of a private elementary or educational secondary educational institution. All qualified individuals interested must submit a Letter of Intent to Superintendent Osie Pickens ASAP.

The July 26 meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the call to order and 60 seconds of silence. The agenda was

adopted and there were no public comments. The Board then went into a session for good name character. When they returned, announced that a new principal Moundville Elementary School been chosen but could not be officially announced until he had accepted the job. If that information becomes available before the Watchman goes to next week, it will be posted on Watchman's Facebook page.

Jamey Payne's official letter of resignation was received by Chairman Dexter Thornton and reads: "I, Jamey Payne, resign my position as District 4 Hale County Board of Education member as of July 21, 2017, Jamey Payne." When I spoke to Mr. Payne he replied "I said what I wanted to do at the last meeting and this resignation letter makes it final." He declined to elaborate further. The next school board meeting is August 3, 5:00 p.m. at the R.E. Ramey Center in Greensboro.

Walls Chapel Youth Day Celebration is Sunday

Walls Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church cordially invites pastors and members to the Youth Day Celebration Program on Sunday, July 23, 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Elder Patrick Woods from Tusculum. We look forward to fellowship with you on this occasion.

Christian Education Department: Sister Lucy Carter, Sister Witherspoon, Sister Selena Thomas. Reverend Muriel R. Brown

Mt. Horeb M.B. Church revival service is July 31 - August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Horeb Missionary Church will hold revival service 31 - August 4 at 7:00 p.m. The church is located on County Road 31 in Newbern. Participating churches: Alex Chapel, Newbern - Monday; Newbern Mission - Tuesday; Horeb Male Chorus - Wednesday; Baptist, Newbern - Thursday; Greater New Destiny M. B. Church - Greensboro - Friday.

The Rev. James E. Carter is the guest minister. The Rev. Anthony Moore is the guest minister.

PEOPLE PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Monday

Summer Food Program in

Greene County: Operation TBOC from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 113 Tuscaloosa St., Eutaw. Children ages 1-18 eligible.

Monday Night Dances: 6:30-9:30 p.m. at McAbee Center, 3801 Loop Road. Lynn Box and the Sunshine Band will play. Cost is \$5. Call 553-3133.

Trail Life USA: 6:30-7 p.m. in the meeting room at the Church of Christ at Hillcrest, 1125 Englewood Village Drive. This is a Christian adventure, character, and leadership program for young men. The K-12 program centers on outdoor experiences that build a young man's skills and allow him to grow on a personal level and as a role model and leader for his peers.

Tuscaloosa Citywide Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, 3003 25th St. Sponsored by Tuscaloosa County Ministerial Alliance

and Tuscaloosa Prayer Network.

Tuesday

Adopt-A-School Kickoff Workshop and Lunch: Check-In and Workshops for coordinators only from 8:30-11 a.m. and lunch meeting open to everyone from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at University Church of Christ, 1200 Julia Tutwiler Drive. Tickets are \$25 person. Keynote address by Ed Nichols and awards at luncheon. To register visit bit.ly/2r2GSnB or call Carolyn at 391-0556.

Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Minions" and "The Secret Life of Pets."

Opening Exhibition of "Lafayette, We are Here! America Enters the First World War": 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Mildred Westervelt Warner

Transportation Museum, 1901 Jack Warner Parkway. Exhibition runs through Oct. 21.

National Night Out in Bessemer: 6-9 p.m. at the Bessemer Recreation Center, 1000 14th St. South, Bessemer. Free event. Come out and enjoy a night out with the Bessemer Police Department, Elected Officials and city and community partners.

Young Mister and Oh Jeremiah Concert: 9-midnight at Druid City Brewing Co., 607 14th St. Visit <http://www.druidcitybrewing.com/>.

Wednesday Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

West Alabama Transit Committee Meeting: 9 a.m. at West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for

Send us your events



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West Alabama. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call 333-2990.
Kids Summer Movie Escape: 10 a.m. at Cobb Hollywood 16 multiplex. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free family-friendly movie. This week's movies are "Minions" and "The Secret Life of Pets".

NEWSMAKERS

'Dunkirk' conquers 'Emoji,' 'Atomic Blonde'

LOS ANGELES — "The Emoji Movie" survived negative reviews but couldn't conquer "Dunkirk," which had enough fight left to conquer the box office for a second weekend in a row.

Down only 44 percent from its first weekend, director Christopher Nolan's World War II film earned \$28.1 million to take first place, according to studio estimates on Sunday. "Dunkirk" has grossed \$102.8 million domestically to date.

Sony Pictures Animation's "The Emoji Movie" finished second with \$25.7 million. The film featuring the voices

of comedy "Girls Trip," which fell a miniscule 36 percent from its debut weekend to take third place with \$20.1 million.

Even in weekend two, "Girls Trip" beat out the splashy new Charlize Theron actioner "Atomic Blonde," distributed by Universal's boutique label Focus Features. "Atomic Blonde" opened in fourth with \$18.6 million.

Nicole Kidman is dying to do a comedy

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Pratfalls, gags, or dry wit, Nicole Kidman says she'd love to give them a shot.

The Oscar-winner says she never gets offered comedic roles and she'd love to change

that. "I'm willing to fall on my face, I'm willing to get back up again. I want to keep trying," she said.

She also added that she's learning about comedy from her nine-year-old daughter with her husband Keith Urban, whom she's "sure has Lucille Ball in her."

Speaking to a group of reporters after the panel, Kidman said she grew up watching comedy shows like "I Love Lucy" and her father was a fan of the satirical MAD Magazine.

"The thing that makes me close to people is laughing with them, I love it," she added.

Fans flee huge fire at

music festival in Barcelona

electronic music festival held at Barcelona's Parc de Can Zam. Twelve firefighting units needed around an hour to extinguish the flames just before midnight.

Firefighters said they were investigating the cause. The "Tomorrowland" website published a statement saying the "stage caught fire due to a technical malfunction."

Barcelona firefighters said there were no serious injuries during the evacuation but the event's private security treated 20 people for minor injuries or anxiety.

Video images show the fire starting at the top of a tall temporary structure erected on the stage where a large screen showed a performance during

PEOPLE&PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Tuesday

Adopt-A-School Kickoff Workshop and Lunch: Check-in and workshops for coordinators only from 8:30-11 a.m. and lunch meeting open to everyone from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at University Church of Christ, 1200 Julia Tutwiler Drive. Tickets are \$25 person. Keynote address by Ed Nichols with awards presented at the luncheon. To register, visit bit.ly/2r2GSnB or call Carolyn at 391-0556.

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Wednesday

Northport Farmers Market: 6 a.m.-noon at Northport Farmers Market, 4150 Fifth St., Northport.

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West Alabama Transit Committee Meeting: 9 a.m. at West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the update of the coordinated transit plan for the west Alabama area. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact the WARC at least 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting. For special assistance, call the WARC at 333-2990.

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West Alabama Heritage Learning Center: 911 Main Ave., Northport. Open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Call 764-1101 or email wahlc4@gmail.com. Visit www.westalabamaheritage.org.

Technical Coordinating Committee: 10 a.m. at the West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Suite 1, Northport. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 333-2990 or email david.norris@westal.org.

Homegrown Alabama Farmers Market: 3-6 p.m. at 812 Fifth Ave.

Art Night: 5-8 p.m. at Kentucky Art Center, 503 Main Ave., Northport. Featuring Bryce Speed exhibition through Aug.

Send us your events



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23. Also, an ice cream social fundraiser will benefit Kentucky's Red Dog Potters during Art Night. Buy the ice cream and keep the bowl.

Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre Mock Audition Workshop:

6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Greensboro Ave. Prepare a monologue no longer than 1 minute and 16 bars of a musical theatre song. An accompanist will be provided. The workshop also includes a session of the callback portion of auditions. Free. Call 310-8010 or visit tuscaloosachildrenstheatre.org.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and Country Gold Band will play. Cost is \$5.

NEWSMAKERS

NEW YORK Clooney Foundation to open schools for Syrian refugees

George Clooney's foundation is planning to open seven public schools for Syrian refugee children.



The Clooney Foundation for Justice

and put them on a path to be the future leaders their generation desperately needs."

A UNICEF spokesman described the couple's support as "investing the future of the entire region."

George and Amal Clooney established the Clooney Foundation for Justice last year to support equity in courtrooms, classrooms and

pay TV networks for women and account for more than 20 percent share of women watching prime-time pay TV in the U.S.

The transaction is valued at \$90 per share, about a 4 percent premium to Scripps' Friday closing price of \$86.91. The per-share price includes \$63 per share in cash and \$27 per share in Discovery's Class

the goal is to "strengthen Belmont as a premier destination for entertainment, sports, recreation, retail and hospitality."

One idea that has come up at public discussions is a new home for the New York Islanders hockey team, which spent most of its existence based on Long Island but currently plays in Brooklyn

PEOPLE & PLACES

AROUND TOWN

Wednesday

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Tuscaloosa County Commission: 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers at Tuscaloosa County Courthouse, 714 Greensboro Ave. Call 349-3870.

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Homegrown Alabama Farmers Market: 3-6 p.m. at 812 Fifth Ave.

Art Night: 5-8 p.m. at Kentuck Art Center, 503 Main Ave., Northport. Featuring Bryce Speed exhibition through Aug. 23. Also, an ice cream social will raise money for Kentuck's Red Dog Potters. Buy the ice cream for \$10 and keep the bowl.

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Ave. Prepare a monologue no longer than 1 minute and 16 bars of a musical theater song. An accompanist will be provided. The workshop also includes a session of the callback portion of auditions. Free. Call 310-8010 or visit tuscaloosachildrentheatre.org.

PARA4Life Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Bob Sullivan and Country Gold Band will play. Cost is \$5.

Friday

Greensboro Farmers' Market: 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the corner of Alabama Highway 61 and Alabama Highway 14 in Greensboro.

Summer Food Program in Greene County: Operation TBOC from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 113 Tuscaloosa St., Eutaw. Children ages 1-18 eligible.

RPO Policy Committee: 10:30 a.m. at West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Alabama Highway 69 North, Northport. For more information, call 333-2990.

First Friday Reception at Drish House: 5-9 p.m. at the Historic Drish House, 2300 17th St. Featuring "Geo-Synergies," Mallorie Beth Roberts' bachelor of fine arts exhibition through Aug. 8.

Opening Reception: Janet

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Mego Exhibit "Dancing Round the Rabbit Hole": 5-8 p.m. at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center, 620 Greensboro Ave., during First Friday. Call 758-5195 or visit www.tuscartarts.org.

Friday Night Dance: 6:45-9:30 p.m. at Northport Community Center, 2001 Park St., Northport. Keith Porter and the Over the Hill Gang will play. Admission is \$5.

Kenny Chesney: 7:30 p.m. at Tuscaloosa Amphitheater, 2710 Jack Warner Parkway. Tickets are on sale at the amphitheater box office, through www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-745-3000. Cost is \$45, \$85 and \$125.

NEWSMAKERS

Cosby's defense attorney wants off the case before retrial

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Cosby's defense attorney in his sex assault trial that ended with a deadlocked jury wants off the case before a retrial that's scheduled to begin in November.

Lead defense lawyer Brian

Cosby's counsel. He says Cosby is taking steps to secure new lawyers.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill will consider the request at a pre-trial conference Aug. 22.

Cosby is being retried on charges he drugged and molested Andrea Constand more than a decade ago.

a mistrial. The jury failed to reach a verdict in more than 52 hours of deliberations.

The 80-year-old comedian has said his encounter with the former Temple University worker was consensual.

Stevie Wonder, Green Day to play Global Citizen Festival

Chainsmokers will perform at this year's Global Citizen Festival, an annual free event held in New York's Central Park.

Special guests Pharrell Williams, Big Sean, Andra Day and Alessia Cara will also perform at the Sept. 23 event. MSNBC and Comcast NBCUniversal will air a live simulcast of the full concert on MSNBC and

Appendix E

Project Lists

Proposed Projects

Section 5307 - Urban Area												
Capital Expenses - Section 5307												
County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Bus	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$350,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Bus	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$350,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Bus	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$350,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Bus	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$350,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Van	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$62,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	2018	N/A	Van	LNG	N/A	N/A	N/A	5307	Purchase	Replacement	\$62,000

Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled												
Capital Expenses - Section 5310												
County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
Fayette	ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo Co. Inc.	2018	Ford E350	Van	Unleaded	12	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$20,000
Fayette	Fayette County Aging Program	2017	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Fayette	Fayette County Aging Program	2019	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Fayette	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2017	N/A	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	2	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Fayette	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2017	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Fayette	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2019	N/A	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	2	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Fayette	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2019	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Lamar	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2017	N/A	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	2	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Lamar	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2017	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Lamar	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2019	N/A	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	2	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Lamar	Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	2019	N/A	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	Yes	N/A	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	Yes	1	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2021	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2021	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	ARC of Tuscaloosa County	2021	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	1	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2017	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	New Service	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2018	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2018	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	1	5310	Purchase	New Service	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	10	Yes	1	5310	Purchase	New Service	\$45,000
Tuscaloosa	FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	2019	Goshen Coach	Van	Unleaded	15	No	0	5310	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000

Section 5311 - Nonurbanized Area

Capital Expenses - Section 5311

County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2017	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2017	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2017	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2017	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2017	Goshen	Bus	Diesel	33	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$65,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	Goshen	Bus	Diesel	33	Yes	2	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$65,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2019	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
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Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2019	Goshen	Van	Diesel	10	Yes	8	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2019	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Bibb, Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2019	Goshen	Van	Diesel	15	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$45,000
Pickens	HELP	2017	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	Yes	2	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Pickens	HELP	2017	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	Yes	2	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Pickens	HELP	2018	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	Yes	2	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$50,000
Pickens	HELP	2018	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$47,000
Pickens	HELP	2018	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$47,000
Pickens	HELP	2019	Ford/E-450	Bus	Unleaded	25	No	0	5311	Purchase	Replacement	\$47,000

Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute

Capital Expenses - Section 5316

County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
None Reported	None Reported	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Operating Expenses - Section 5316

County	Agency	Year of Service	Projected Funding Source	Estimated Cost
Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	5316	\$270,000
Tuscaloosa	Easter Seals West Alabama	2017	5316	\$300,000

Section 5317 - New Freedom

Capital Expenses - Section 5317

County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
None Reported	None Reported	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Operating Expenses - Section 5317

County	Agency	Year of Service	Projected Funding Source	Estimated Cost
Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2018	5317	\$270,000
Greene, Hale	West Alabama Public Transportation	2020	5317	\$270,000

Section 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities Program

Capital Expenses - Section 5339

County	Agency	Year of Purchase	Make / Model	Bus or Van	Fuel Type	# of Seats	Wheelchair Lift (Yes or No)	# of Wheelchair Positions	Projected Funding Source	Lease or Purchase	New Service or Replacement Bus / Van	Estimated Cost
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2017	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2017	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2018	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2018	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2019	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2019	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2020	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2020	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2021	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2021	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2021	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2022	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2022	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2023	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2023	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2024	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000
Tuscaloosa	University of Alabama	2024	N/A	Bus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5309	Purchase	Replacement	\$400,000

Appendix F

Transportation Planning Acronyms and Terms

Transportation Planning Acronyms and Terms

5th Division - Alabama Department of Transportation 5th Division, office located in Tuscaloosa, includes nine counties in West Alabama, Replaced with West Central Region in 2014

AAA - Area Agency on Aging, West Alabama AAA

AADT - Average Annual Daily Traffic count

ACS - American Community Survey; U.S. Census Bureau product; replacement for the decennial long-form data

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

ADAP - Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

ADT - Average Daily Traffic count

ALDOT - Alabama Department of Transportation

ARC - Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC - Formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens, now known as The Arc

Bicycle / Pedestrian Scale Development - Development that consists of a mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public) in close proximity, where one could comfortably walk or ride a bicycle from their origin (e.g., residence, place of employment) to a destination (e.g., place of employment, store, government facility, park)

BPC - Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

BR - Bridge funding program; also BRON

CA - Capital funds (transit)

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee; now known as CTAC

Capacity Project - (Road) a project that adds through lanes to an existing road or builds a new road; (Transit) a project that adds new routes or expands demand response/para-transit fleet

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

CN - Construction - the final phase of a transportation project, the actual building of the project

CTAC - Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

DOT - Department of Transportation

DPI or DPIP - Innovative/Special funding program, applies to projects specifically named in federal legislation

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

ESWA - Easter Seals West Alabama

FAST Act - Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (PL 114-94)

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FOCUS - Focus on Senior Citizens

FTA - Federal Transit Administration

Functional Classification System - a system to distinguish roads according to the type of service provided

GHG - Greenhouse Gas

GIS - Geographic Information System - a computer system that links cartographic images with databases and allows the user to create new maps and databases through various means, including overlay and query operations

ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

ITS - Intelligent Transportation System

JARC - Job Access and Reverse Commute - Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 funding program

LAP - Language Access Plan, sometimes referred to as a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

LEP - Limited English Proficiency

LEP Plan - Limited English Proficiency Plan - outlines how the MPO and RPO integrates people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) into the transportation planning process - sometimes referred to as a Language Access Plan (LAP)

LOC - Local funding

Long-Range Transportation Plan - outlines projects that will be required to meet the needs of an area over an extended period of time usually 20 years, revised every four to five years

LRTP - Long-Range Transportation Plan

LVOE - Level of Effort

MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141)

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization, Tuscaloosa Area MPO

MPO-Portal - web-based software used to manage and integrate the TIP and STIP processes and databases; replaced TELUS

MO - Maintenance and Operation, same as federal O&M and TSMO, ALDOT preference

MO Project - Maintenance and Operation project, same as federal O&M project and TSMO project, ALDOT preference

NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards

New Freedom - Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 funding program

NHS - National Highway System, a transportation funding category, only projects on designated NHS routes can use these funds; also NHSP

O&M - operations and management, same as MO and TSMO

O&M Project - a project that improves the operation and/or management of a transportation system; examples include turn lanes, traffic signal optimization, ITS center, same as MO Project and TSMO Project

OP - Operating funds (transit)

PARA - Parks and Recreation Authority

PE - Preliminary Engineering - the first phase of most transportation projects, the study and design of the project

PL - Metropolitan Planning Funds

Public Forum - designated time during RPO and MPO meetings in which the public or interested parties may address the Policy Committee or Advisory Committees

Public Hearing - hearings to formally present information and gather public input for projects and plans - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO do not hold public hearings. The Alabama Department of Transportation and local governments conduct public hearings for specific projects.

Public Meeting - meetings held by the Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO to review draft transportation planning documents - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO holds public meetings for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Public Involvement Plan (PIP).

Public Review - public reviews allow anyone to examine and comment on draft documents during a specified period of time - The Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO holds public reviews for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. During the review period, draft documents are available on the internet, the West Alabama Regional Commission, and the Transit Authority. The review period extends from the date the MPO or RPO adopts the draft document for public review until the MPO or RPO adopts the final document, generally two months.

ROW - Right of Way - a phase of transportation projects, the purchase of right of way

RPO - Rural Planning Organization, West Alabama RPO

RW - Right of Way - a phase of transportation projects, the purchase of right of way

SAFETEA-LU - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users - (Pub. L. 109–59, August 10, 2005)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on the disability

Section 5303 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for technical studies

Section 5307 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for urban area transit capital and operating expenses, see Section 5339

Section 5309 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for capital transit improvements

Section 5310 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for elderly and disabled transit capital assistance

Section 5311 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for rural area transit capital and operating expenses

Section 5316 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for job access and reverse commute transit, also known as JARC

Section 5317 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for new Americans with Disabilities Act transit assistance, also known as New Freedoms

Section 5339 - Federal Transit Administration funding program for bus and bus facilities; replaced Section 5309 in MAP-21, eligible to 5307 recipients

SHSP - Strategic Highway Safety Plan

SPR - State Planning and Research funds

ST - State funding

STP - Surface Transportation Program

STAA - Surface Transportation Any Area funding category, represents funds that may be used anywhere in the state, ALDOT has the authority to allocate these funds

STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program

STOA - Surface Transportation Other Area funding category, represents funds that are used in Urban Areas with populations less than 200,000

STP - Surface Transportation Program, a transportation funding category, Urban Areas are allocated an amount of funds annually based on a specific per capita dollar amount

TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program

TARC - Tuscaloosa Association of Retarded Citizens, also known as The ARC

TAZ - Transportation Analysis Zone - districts used for computer traffic modeling

TCC - Technical Coordinating Committee

TCPTA - Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, also known as Tuscaloosa Metro Transit, Tuscaloosa Trolley, the Authority

TDOT - Tuscaloosa Department of Transportation

TEA-21 - Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century

TIP - Transportation Improvement Program - a list of funded MPO projects slated to begin over a four-year period, revised every four years

Title VI - Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d* (Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs)

TMA - Transportation Management Area, area designated by the Secretary of Transportation, having an urbanized area population of over 200,000

TR - Transit project

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds - Under pre-MAP-21 legislation, ten percent of all Surface Transportation Program funds allocated to a state are required to be spent on enhancement projects. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, acquisition of historic sites and construction of pedestrian or bicycle facilities

TSMO - Transportation System Management and Operations, same as MO and O&M

TSMO Project - a project that improves the operation and/or management of a transportation system; examples include turn lanes, traffic signal optimization, ITS center, same as MO Project and O&M Project

UCP - United Cerebral Palsy

UMTA - Urban Mass Transit Administration; now known as FTA

UPWP - Unified Planning Work Program - a set of tasks that the WARC staff is committed to perform over a fiscal year, revised annually

Urban Area Boundary - boundary surrounding a Census Bureau defined urbanized area, established by the MPO with ALDOT and FHWA approval

UT - Utility Construction - a phase of transportation projects, the relocation of utilities

WAPDC - West Alabama Planning and Development Council; now known as West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC)

WARC - West Alabama Regional Commission

WARPO - West Alabama Rural Planning Organization

West Central Region - Alabama Department of Transportation Region, office located in Tuscaloosa County, includes 14 counties in West Alabama, Replaced the 5th Division in 2014

Appendix G

Trip Summary Table

**Trip Summary Table
West Alabama Public Providers**

Agency	West Alabama Service Area	FTA Funds	Service Days	Hours	Total Annual Trips	Total Annual Employment Trips	Total Annual Education Trips	Total Annual AL Dept. of Rehab Trips	Shared Vehicles
Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (Tuscaloosa Regional Center)	B,F,G,H,L,P,T	Not Applicable	Not Available	Not Available	524	1	146	176	0
ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, Inc.	F,L	5310	M-F	8:30 AM- 6 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
ARC of Tuscaloosa County	T	5310	M-F	6 AM-1 PM	77,379	0	4,910	0	0
Arts n' Autism	T	5310	Not provided	Not provided	383	21	298	0	0
Eagles Wings	T	5310	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Easter Seals West Alabama	T	5316	M-F	5:30 AM-6 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Fayette County Aging	F	5310	Not provided	Not provided	19,138	0	0	0	0
FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	T	5310	M-F	8 AM-4:30 PM	15,705	0	0	0	0
HELP Inc.	P	5311	M-F	8 AM-4 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Kid One Transport System, Inc.	G,T	Not Applicable	M-F	6 AM-5 PM	2,200	0	0	0	0
Lamar County Aging	L	5310	M-F	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	F,L	5310	DR	DR	57,506	0	7,528	0	0
Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	T	5307	M-F	5 AM- 6 PM	323,254	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation	T	5310	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	0
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama	T	5310	M-F	7:30 AM- 5 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
University of Alabama	T		M-F	7 AM-10 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
West Alabama Public Transportation (West Alabama Health Services, Inc.)	B,G,H	5311	M-F	7 AM-8 PM	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided

DR = Demand Response

Appendix H

West Alabama Transit Providers

West Alabama Transportation Providers

Agency	West Alabama Service Area	Contact Person	Address	City	Zip	Telephone	FAX	E-mail	Restrictions/Notes	FTA Funds	Service Days	Hours
A1 Taxi Service	T			Tuscaloosa		205/210-8616	Not Available			Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (Tuscaloosa Regional Center)	B,F,G,H,L,P,T	Robbie Stewart	2412 Skyland Boulevard East	Tuscaloosa	35405	205/345-2883	Not Available	Stewart.Robbie@aidb.state.al.us	Clients Only		Not Available	Not Available
Alabama Kidney Foundation	B,F,G,H,L,P,T	Lisa G. Costanzo	P.O. Box 12505	Birmingham	35202	205/266-2697	205/975-6682		Clients Only			
Ambassador Limousine Service	T	Not Available	P.O. Box 71234	Tuscaloosa	35407	205/556-5466	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	Not Available	Not Available
Am-Serv	B	Lacy Smith	405 Belcher St	Centreville	35042	205 316-7481		lacy.smith@cahabamedicalcare.com	Clients Only	Not Applicable		
Arbor Woods Health and Rehab	P		515 2nd Ave NW	Reform	35481	205/375-6379	205/375-8283		Clients Only			
ARC of Fayette/Lamar/Marengo, Inc.	F,L	Terrance Butts	1428 South Temple Avenue	Fayette	35555	205/932-8642	205/932-7867	lenabutts@aol.com	Clients Only	5310	M-F	8:30 AM- 6 PM*
ARC of Tuscaloosa County	T	Ricky Foster / Ryan Delfin	1330 University Boulevard	Tuscaloosa	35404	205/556-4900	205/554-1084	rickey@thearcoftuscaloosa.org	Clients Only	5310	M-F	6 AM-1 PM
Arts n' Autism	T	Jan Sikes	2625 8th St	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/247-2990		artsnautism@gmail.com	Clients Only	5310		
Brent-Centerville Senior Center	B	Cynthia Winegard	10445 SR-5	Brent	35034	205-926-3968		brentsac@hotmail.com	Clients Only			
Crossing Points (University of Alabama)	T	Jim Siders, Ed.D.	Box 870232	Tuscaloosa	35487	205/348-3180	Not Available	jsiders@ua.edu	Clients Only	Not Applicable	M-F	Not Available
Crown Limousine	T		521 30th Avenue	Northport	35476	205/758-3875	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable		
CV Transerv	B									Not Applicable		
Dunn's Taxi	T		2808 42nd Avenue	Northport	35476	205/462-3644						
E&C Taxi Service - Formerly E&C Transport	G,H,P,T		2805 6th Avenue	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/610-5635	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Eagles Wings	T	Becky Johnson	12379 Eagles' Wings Drive	Coker	35452	205/345-5484	205/345-5487	beckyjohanson@eagleswingsoftuscaloosa.org	Clients Only	5310		
Easter Seals West Alabama	T	Deborah Chandler	P.O. Box 2817	Tuscaloosa	35403	205/722-1004 x271	205/722-1008	dcchandler@eswaweb.org	Clients Only	5316	M-F	5:30 AM-6 PM
Fayette County Aging	F	Fay Meharg	125 2nd Avenue NW	Fayette	35555	205/932-2666	205/932-2676	fayemeharg@hotmail.com	Clients Only	5310		
FOCUS on Senior Citizens of Tuscaloosa County	T	Pamela Richey	1920 6th Street	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/758-3393 x27	205/758-3395	focustransportation@hotmail.com	Clients Only	5310	M-F	8 AM-4:30 PM
Generations of Vernon	F,L		1050 Convalescent Rd	Vernon	35592	205/695-9313			Clients Only	Not Applicable		
Greene County Ambulance Service	G	Not Available	PO Box 431	Eutaw	35462	205/372-4934	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Greene County Commission (Senior Centers)	G	Yolanda Summerville	2234 SR-14	Aliceville	35442	205372-1845			Clients Only			
Greene County Nursing Home/Medical Center	G		607 Wilson Ave	Eutaw	35462	205/372-3388			Clients Only	Not Applicable		
Greyhound	G,H,T	Flora Martin	7022 McFarland Boulevard E Gas station)	Tuscaloosa	35405	205/758-6651	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	Varies
Hale County EMS	H	Russell Weedan	508 Green Street	Greensboro	36744	334/624-7108	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
HELP Inc.	P	Ben Curry	P.O. Box 499	Carrollton	35447	205/367-2200	205/367-9405	helpinc@nctv.com		5311	M-F	8 AM-4 PM
Indian Rivers Mental Health	B,P,T	Jim Moore	3701 Loop Road East	Tuscaloosa	35404	205/562-3700, x200	Not Available	jmoore@irmhc.org	Clients Only		M-F	8 AM-5 PM
Kid One Transport System, Inc.	G,T	Matt Holdbrooks	3535 7th Court South	Birmingham	35222	205/978-1016	205/978-1019	mholdbrooks@kidone.org	Clients Only		M-F	6 AM-5 PM
Lamar County Aging	L	Frances Welch	P.O. Box 338	Vernon	35592	205/695-0222	205/695-0665	dfwelch@hotmail.com	Clients Only	5310	M-F	8:30 AM-12:30 PM
Lee's Taxi	T		3101 25th Avenue, Unit B	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/886-2923	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Lyft	T	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Smartphone, Credit or Debit Card Required	Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Northstar EMS	F,G,H,P,T	Debbie Blake	2106 17th Avenue	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/345-0911	205/247-4731	dblake@northstar-ems.us		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	F,L	Dr. Dale Cottle/Janice Trotter	1100 7th Avenue	Jasper	35501	205/302-9000, ext. 9017	205/302-9002	dale@nwamhc.com, janice@nwamhc.com	Clients Only	5310	DR	DR
Radio Cab	T	Not Available	2101 Jemison Avenue	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/758-2831	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
RSVP of Tuscaloosa and Hale County	H,T											
Scuttle Shuttle	T	Not Available	Not Available	Tuscaloosa	Not Available	205-471-7433	Not Available	customercare@scuttleshuttle.com		Not Applicable	ALL	2:27 AM-9:40 PM
South Mobile Area Regional Transit (SMART)	B,T	Sara Martin	298 Walnut Street	Centreville	35042	205/926-3736	Not Available	SMART3637@att.net			ALL	ALL
Sterling Limo, Formerly Alabama Sterling Limo-Cab	T			Northport	35473	205/331-5016	Not Available			Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
Tuscaloosa Charter Service	T		P.O. Box 40202	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/556-5757	Not Available	Not Available		Not Applicable	DR	DR
Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit Authority	T	Russell Lawrence	601 23rd Avenue	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/343-2300	202/349-1360	rlawrence@tuscaloosa.com		5307	M-F	5 AM- 6 PM
Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation	T	Gary Minor	P.O. Box 2496	Tuscaloosa	35403	205/562-3220	205/562-3224	gminor@tccpara.org	Clients Only	5310	Not Available	Not Available

Agency	West Alabama Service Area	Contact Person	Address	City	Zip	Telephone	FAX	E-mail	Restrictions/Notes	FTA Funds	Service Days	Hours
Uber	T	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Smartphone, Credit or Debit Card Required	Not Applicable	ALL	ALL
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama	T	LaMonica Herron-McCoy	1100 UCP Parkway	Northport	35076	205/345-3031	205/345-3035	executivedirecotyucp@comcast.net	Clients Only	5310	M-F	7:30 AM- 5 PM
University of Alabama	T	Ralph Clayton	451 Campus Drive	Tuscaloosa	35475	205/348-0131	Not Available	rclayton@fa.ua.edu		5309	M-F	7 AM-10 PM
VA Medical Center (Tuscaloosa)	T	Allen P. Riley	3701 Loop Road East	Tuscaloosa	35404	205/554-2000	205/554-3565	allen.riley@va.gov	Clients Only		M-F	8 AM-4:30 PM
West Alabama Public Transportation (West Alabama Health Services, Inc.)	B,G,H	Bobby J. Armstead	500 East Washington Street	Demopolis	36732	334/289-5789	334/289-1198	boss_trn@bellsouth.net		5311	M-F	7 AM-8 PM
Whatley Health Services, Inc.	T	Aretha Thomas	2731 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd	Tuscaloosa	35401	205/349-3250	205/345-3993		Clients Only			

DR = Demand Response

Appendix I

Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Description

Section 1

Introduction

To be eligible for Federal funds, the *Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962* required Urban Areas with populations of at least 50,000 to have a transportation planning process. The Act stated that the planning process was to be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive. In addition, the Act required plans and programs produced from the process to be consistent with the comprehensive planned development of the area. Subsequent acts retained this language.

Organization

The Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process is conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is composed of four committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by three advisory committees: the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC). More information on the committees can be found in Section 3 of this appendix.

Metropolitan Planning Area (Study Area)

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to include the current Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and the area expected to be urbanized by the forecast year of the long-range transportation plan in the planning area. The planning area can also be expanded to include "... regional economic development and growth forecasting areas." The Tuscaloosa Area MPO used this option when Tuscaloosa County was adopted as the planning area. All MPO plans and programs are limited to the planning area.

Agreement

The agreement legally delineates the concerned governmental entities, defines the duties of each entity, and outlines the organizational structure. The first agreement was executed in 1963 and the most recent agreement was signed in 2007. The agreement is between the West Alabama Regional Commission, Tuscaloosa County, City of Tuscaloosa, City of Northport, Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, and the State of Alabama.

Legal Reference

The laws regarding Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are found in Section 134 of Title 23 of the United States Code and Section 5303 of Title 49 of the United States Code. The Code was superseded or amended by the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* Section 1201, December 2015. The rules that govern metropolitan planning organizations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) as Title 23, Chapter 1, Part 450, Subpart C.

Transportation Planning Process Coordinator

The Executive Director of the West Alabama Regional Commission is the designated Coordinator of the transportation planning process. The Coordinator is responsible for the overall guidance of the process, as well as the coordination of all data collected from the local area. The Coordinator provides staff and clerical assistance for the planning process from the West Alabama Regional Commission.

West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) Staff

There are over 50 employees at the WARC; however, only four employees work directly with the MPO. These four include the Transportation Planning Director, two Transportation Planners, and a Computer Drafter. Five other WARC Employees serve the MPO and the other programs housed at the WARC in an indirect capacity. These include the Executive Director, two Accountants, an Assistant to the Executive Director, and an Office Manager.

Section 2

Products of the Transportation Planning Process

Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) represents the budget and work tasks necessary to accomplish and maintain the transportation planning process within the Tuscaloosa study area. The UPWP is developed to coordinate transportation and related planning activities for a cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive planning process.

The primary objective of the UPWP is the development of an integrated planning program that considers the planning activities of all transportation groups and coordinates these activities to produce a total transportation plan serving all segments of the population. The MPO updates the UPWP annually.

Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range, financially constrained subset of the long-range transportation plan. However, many projects that are included in the TIP will not be specifically listed in the long-range transportation plan; including some operational, maintenance, enhancement, and transit projects. The projects on the TIP are prioritized over the four year period covered by the document.

The TIP is redeveloped every four years and financially balanced against expected revenues. ALDOT uses the TIP as a guide in selecting projects for funding in the Tuscaloosa area and in the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Tuscaloosa Area MPO is required to produce a long-range plan every five years. The long-range plan outlines the transportation projects within the Tuscaloosa study

area that need to be completed to fulfill the projected transportation demands by the 20-year forecast date.

The MPO adopted the *2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan* in 2014. The MPO vision statement, goals, and objectives are part of the plan. The projects on the plan are balanced against forecasted revenue and include only those with identified funding. The MPO is scheduled to update the plan in 2019.

Public Involvement Plan

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to ensure that the transportation planning process encourages active public participation. It is the vision of the MPO to have a community that understands the transportation planning process and actively participates in the process. The MPO goals outlined in the PIP are to (1) have an open planning process that encourages early and continued public participation; (2) provide complete and timely information regarding the plans, programs, procedures, policies, and technical data produced or used during the planning process to interested parties and the general public; (3) provide timely and adequate public notice of hearings, meetings, reviews, and major document availability; (4) demonstrate consideration and recognition of public input and provide appropriate responses to public input; and (5) encourage participation in the planning process by low-income groups, minorities, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; and to consider the needs of these groups when developing programs and plans. The PIP describes how the MPO incorporates the public into the process, how public involvement is tracked, and performance is measured.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan serves as a guide for improving bicycle and pedestrian activity in Tuscaloosa County. The plan includes construction, education, promotion, and policy projects intended to integrate bicycle and pedestrian travel into the existing transportation environment.

The plan was initiated by the MPO to facilitate the development of their transportation plans and programs. However, due to many of the proposed projects falling outside of the authority of the MPO, the MPO intended other agencies and governments to use the plan. The current Tuscaloosa Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was adopted in 2012 and is scheduled to be revised in 2017.

Section 3

Committees

The Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process is conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is composed of four committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by three advisory committees: the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), and Bicycle and Pedestrian

Committee (BPC). The Policy Committee has the ultimate decision on transportation planning matters, however, the work and recommendations of the advisory committees shape all of the outputs of the transportation planning process.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee serves as the official decision making body for the Tuscaloosa Area transportation planning process. In this capacity, the Committee determines how federal transportation funds are spent in the study area. The responsibilities of the committee include providing overall guidance to the planning process, review and approval of all process plans and programs, as well as appointing TCC and CTAC members. The Policy Committee usually meets on the last Monday of even-numbered months. The Policy Committee is composed of 11 members, five voting and six non-voting.

Technical Coordinating Committee

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) provides technical support to the MPO Policy Committee. The TCC reviews MPO documents, studies, reports, plans, and programs; and provides the MPO with recommendations concerning these items. The TCC members review the planning process products from a technical perspective ensuring that appropriate concerns are addressed, including local planning issues, engineering details, environmental questions, and future growth, among many others. The TCC has the authority to make alternative recommendations for any of the products.

The TCC coordinates the work of the various departments and agencies involved in the transportation planning process. The local governments, the State DOT, and selected other transportation interests are represented on the TCC. The TCC members share information and data that builds and improves the planning processes and products. The TCC members work together to ensure that the transportation projects are coordinated. The TCC usually meets on the third Thursday of even-numbered months.

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

The Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) consists of twenty-four citizens from the Tuscaloosa area. The Mayors of Tuscaloosa and Northport and the County Commission Chair each appoint 8 members to the committee. The CTAC was established to provide active public participation in the transportation planning process. Prior to the formation of the CTAC, the MPO relied primarily on public meetings for citizen input on transportation planning issues. There are a number of problems with public meetings of this nature, with the most significant obstacle being lack of participation.

Another shortcoming of the public meeting is the background knowledge that is required to understand the planning process. While the MPO staff tries to make the process easy to understand, transportation planning is not widely understood. People who are not familiar with the topic are generally not willing to participate. The CTAC provides the MPO with a standing committee of citizens who have a good knowledge of the

planning process and can effectively convey public concerns related to transportation in a structured fashion.

The CTAC reviews MPO documents, studies, reports, plans, and programs and provides the MPO with recommendations concerning these topics. The CTAC also informs the MPO of public concerns related to transportation projects and issues. A CTAC member once suggested that the committee members act as antennas in the community gathering opinions and ideas in the course everyday life and passing the information on to the MPO. The CTAC usually meets on the third Tuesday of even-numbered months.

In addition to the CTAC, the MPO adopted a public involvement plan. The plan describes the MPO public participation goals and lists strategies to encourage public participation in the transportation planning process. The CTAC is included as one of several methods to garner public involvement.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

The MPO (Policy Committee) authorized the formation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPC) in 1997. The committee assists the MPO in developing plans, programs, and projects related to bicycle and pedestrian activities. The BPC consists of individuals from many areas of the community who share a common interest in improving bicycling and walking in Tuscaloosa County. Membership on the committee ranges from professional planners to avid bicyclists. There is no set membership list. Anyone who attends the BPC meetings is considered a member and has voting privileges. The BPC only holds meetings in years when the bicycle and pedestrian plan is updated. During those years, the BPC usually meets on the third Monday of even-numbered months.

Appendix J

West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Description

Introduction

The following is a brief summary of the West Alabama Rural Transportation Planning Process and includes relevant background information. A Rural Planning Organization (RPO) functions somewhat like a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and provides structure for the process. An important distinction between an MPO and the RPO is that all RPO recommendations and documents are only advisory at this time. The RPO serves as a formal link between the ALDOT and local governments and provides additional opportunities for the rural areas to communicate with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

Organization

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is composed of three committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by two advisory committees: the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC).

Study Area

The study area includes the six rural counties served by the West Alabama Regional Commission: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Pickens. Tuscaloosa is not included in the study area because it is already served by a transportation planning process governed by the Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Tuscaloosa County MPO has nonvoting representatives on the RPO Policy and TCC.

Agreement

The first step in any transportation planning process is the development of an agreement. The agreement legally delineates the concerned governmental entities, defines the duties of each entity, and outlines the organizational structure. The agreement is between the West Alabama Regional Commission and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

Laws and Regulations

The laws requiring Departments of Transportation to develop nonmetropolitan cooperative processes are found in Title 23, U.S. Code (USC) 135 and 505. Title 23 was amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) for Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning and Programing in Section 1202 and funding features in Section 3016. The actions are duplicated for public transit in Title 49, U.S. Code Sections 5304 and the formula funding features are in 5338.

The rules regarding the nonmetropolitan cooperative process are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) as Title 23, Part 450. The Code was superseded or amended by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Sections 1202 and 20006, July 2012, and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) Section 1202, December 2015. These regulations require States to consider the

concerns of local elected officials when carrying out statewide transportation planning, to develop a process to cooperate with nonmetropolitan local officials regarding transportation issues, and to cooperate with nonmetropolitan officials when developing the statewide transportation plan and the statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).

Products of the Transportation Planning Process

Work Program

The Work Program (WP) represents the budget and work tasks necessary to accomplish and maintain the transportation planning process within the study area. The WP is developed to coordinate transportation and related planning activities for a cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive planning process. The primary objective of the WP is the development of an integrated planning program that considers the planning activities of each modal group and coordinates these activities to produce a transportation plan that serves all segments of the population.

Safety Program

The RPO collects a list of safety observations at the quarterly committee meetings. In general the safety observations are low cost projects that have the potential to reduce traffic accidents. The observations are forwarded to the county engineers, the ALDOT West Central Region District Engineers, the ALDOT West Central Region Engineer, and other relevant agencies. At the end of each fiscal year the quarterly safety observations are compiled into a final report. The final report will describe any action taken to address the suggestion. The report will also be provided to the appropriate departments and agencies.

Long-Range Transportation Plan

The RPO adopted the original long-range transportation plan in 2006 and revised this plan in 2011. The plan established goals, strategies, and a region-wide transportation vision. The plan includes a prioritized project list for each county and a prioritized list of regional projects. The purpose of the plan is to document the long-range transportation needs of west Alabama, as identified by the elected and appointed officials in the area. The plan is intended to help local governments address and prioritize transportation needs. The plan should also help ALDOT develop the statewide plan and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and schedule the construction of transportation projects based on their limited budget. However, the plan is strictly advisory. No funds have been set aside to undertake any of the strategies or projects included in the plan.

Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) allows state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) to develop a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has chosen not to re-designate the current Alabama RPOs as RTPOs. However, ALDOT has decided to allow the RPOs to develop nonbinding Rural

TIPs. The West Alabama RPO developed a Rural TIP during summer of 2015 for informational purposes only.

Committees

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) manages the West Alabama Rural Transportation Planning Process. The RPO is composed of three committees. The Policy Committee is the official decision-making body of the process. The Policy Committee is served by two advisory committees: the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). These committees meet four times a year; January/February, April/May, July/August and have one Combined Committee meeting in November.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee serves as the official decision-making body for the West Alabama Rural Transportation Planning Process. In this capacity, the Policy Committee determines the content of documents and recommendations provided to the Alabama Department of Transportation. The responsibilities of the Policy Committee include providing overall guidance to the planning process, review and approval of all process plans and programs, and appointing TCC and CTAC members.

The Policy Committee is composed of nineteen members, fourteen voting and five nonvoting. Each county commission in the six rural west Alabama counties has a voting representative on the Policy Committee. In addition, the mayors from each rural county choose a voting representative to serve on the Policy Committee. The ALDOT West Central Region Engineer and the Executive Director of the WARC are the other two voting members. The five nonvoting members are Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator, the ALDOT Transportation Planning Engineer, the chairman of the RPO TCC, the chairman of the RPO CTAC, and the chairman of the Tuscaloosa Area MPO Policy Committee.

Technical Coordinating Committee

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) provides technical support to the Policy Committee. The TCC reviews RPO documents, studies, reports, plans, and programs and provides the Policy Committee with recommendations concerning these items. The TCC members review the planning process products from a technical perspective, making certain that all appropriate concerns are addressed, including local planning issues, engineering details, environmental questions, and future growth, among many others. The TCC also has the ability to make alternative recommendations for any of the products.

The TCC coordinates the work of the various departments and agencies involved in the transportation planning process. The local governments, the State DOT, and selected other transportation interests are represented on the TCC. The TCC members share information and data that builds and improves the planning processes and products.

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

The Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) is made up of twenty-four citizens from the West Alabama area. The county commission and the mayoral representatives on the Policy Committee each appoint two members to the CTAC. Each county has four representatives on the CTAC.

The CTAC was established to provide active public participation in the transportation planning process. The CTAC provides the RPO with a standing committee of citizens who have a good knowledge of the planning process and can pass on public concerns related to transportation in a structured fashion. The CTAC reviews RPO documents, studies, reports, plans, and programs and provides the Policy Committee with recommendations concerning these items. The CTAC also informs the Policy Committee of public concerns related to transportation projects and issues.

The CTAC is scheduled to meet four times a year. The full CTAC meets once a year, usually in the first quarter of the fiscal year, in conjunction with the TCC and Policy committees. For the other three meetings, the CTAC holds six subcommittee meetings in each of the rural counties. Each subcommittee is composed of the four representatives from the respective county. This method of meeting provides local residents a better opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The CTAC is just one of the strategies included in the public involvement plan adopted by the RPO. The plan describes the RPO public participation goals and lists strategies to encourage public participation in the transportation planning process. The RPO staff reviews participation performance measures annually to judge the effectiveness of the plan.