

ALDOT SUMMER 2021 Inside Lane

Combating COVID at Work

COVID-19 has touched every region and bureau at ALDOT since it began spreading in March 2020. As the number of positive COVID-19 cases reported by employees began to increase significantly in November, ALDOT's administration implemented a plan to help decrease the spread of the virus in the workplace by offering at-work vaccination clinics as soon as vaccines became available to our employees.

Negotiations began with several pharmacy providers to provide and administer the vaccine, and ALDOT Areas across the state began to plan where and how the at-work clinics could be offered.

"It was very important for our employees that we did all that we could to help stop the spread of the virus and begin the process of getting back together without the need for extra measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing," said George Conner, ALDOT Deputy Director of Operations. "Director Cooper was very clear that he wanted to go the extra step of bringing vaccination clinics to our offices around the state, so that vaccine access would be easy and convenient. Having at-work clinics meant that employees wouldn't need to search for available vaccine and wait in line for hours."

ALDOT poster encouraging COVID-19 vaccination among employees

On March 22, all ALDOT employees became eligible for vaccinations as essential transportation workers under Alabama's COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan. A few days later, on March 25, ALDOT partnered with Walmart Pharmacy to hold the first at-work vaccination clinic at ALDOT's Grove Hill Area office in the Southwest Region.

Eleven additional first-shot clinics were held around the state and followed up approximately one month later by second-shot clinics in the same areas.

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The 2-shot Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, depending on the pharmacy provider's vaccine availability, were given during the clinics. Auburn University at Montgomery also provided vaccines and hosted clinics on its campus for ALDOT personnel.

"There were long lines to wait in at the community clinics near my home in Selma," said Tommy Johnson, Transportation Maintenance Technician in ALDOT's Montgomery Area. "My wife, Grace, and I decided to get vaccinated at ALDOT, and we were able to get in and out quite quickly. We decided to get vaccinated to do our part to protect ourselves and our family."

These sentiments were echoed by ALDOT District 63, Montgomery employee Elaine Garrett, who also chose to be vaccinated during one of ALDOT's at-work clinics. "I chose here because it was convenient, and it was nice that our department would give us the opportunity to bring it (the vaccine) in, so that we wouldn't have to be going everywhere," Garrett said. "I just felt more comfortable knowing my company has taken care of precautions in order for us to get the shots."



ALDOT vaccination clinic

By the time the final at-work clinic was held in ALDOT's Tuscaloosa Area on May 13, more than 1,200 employees (not counting family members) had received at least one of their two vaccination shots during the 24 ALDOT clinics held across the state. Fifty-five percent of ALDOT workers have been vaccinated for COVID-19 during these clinics or by another provider of their choice as of June 8, 2021.

ALDOT had its first week of zero positive cases of COVID reported by employees during the week of May 10-14, 2021, a first

since the pandemic began 14 months earlier.

"COVID has affected every area of my life, at home, at work, at church," said Mark Dale, Tuscumbia Area Operations Engineer. "ALDOT has done an excellent job researching the information on what we need to do to interact safely during the pandemic and getting that information to employees. Then, ALDOT set up clinics so we could get vaccinated. It is important to me to get vaccinated and get back to living the life I had before COVID started."

Operating in a New Normal

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued during 2020, ALDOT put its plan for a "new normal" into action. Changes were made to many of the ways the agency operates to protect our employees and slow the spread of the virus, while keeping Alabama's roads and bridges open.

When possible, changes were made to avoid bringing large groups of people together. A committee of employees from the Design Bureau and various ALDOT regions worked together

to take public involvement meetings virtual.

After creating a format for online public involvement, the committee worked with Computer Services to set up a dedicated www.ALDOTinvolved.com site on the ALDOT website. All of the department's public involvement meetings are posted at this website.

The North Region held one of ALDOT's first virtual public involvement meetings and successfully secured a meaningful amount of

quality input from the public. For the proposed project to widen a stretch of US-72 between Florence and Killen from four to six lanes, there were 62 registered interactions with the public. The comments were widely supportive of the project.

To make the public aware of the virtual meeting and opportunity to share their thoughts on the project, ALDOT mailed letters with the project announcement, a flyer about the virtual meeting,

and a comment sheet to stakeholders. In addition to the letter, ALDOT sent 1,980 flyers to all neighborhoods and businesses surrounding the project.

"Challenges with taking the meeting virtual involved setting up a website with a narrated fly-over video and providing avenues for online correspondence," said Mark Denton, Design, Environmental Coordinator, Tuscumbia Area. "The Environmental Technical Section team in the ALDOT

ALDOT Now Working with The Eastern Transportation Coalition on Emerging Technologies

This past year, Alabama joined 16 other states and the District of Columbia as a member of The Eastern Transportation Coalition, formerly know as the I-95 Corridor Coalition.

A partnership of state Departments of Transportation and over 100 related authorities and organizations, the coalition works together to accelerate improvements in freight and passenger movement along the eastern seaboard.

The Coalition is a member-based, member-driven organization comprised of three

program tracks: 1) Transportation Systems Management & Operations; 2) Internal Freight; 3) Innovations in Transportation.

The Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O) Program focuses on operational improvements to maximize safety, mobility and reliability of the transportation system.

- The Traffic Incident Management/Highway Operations Groups (HOGS) conduct annual peer exchanges in five geographic regions to provide the forum for personnel from Transportation Management Centers

(TMCs), operations, emergency responders and traveler information to exchange information, to discuss critical issues and resolve problems.

- The TSMO committee on Traveler Information and the WAZE Technical Working Group provide a multi-state forum for coordination with WAZE and other commercial third-party crowdsourcing developers.
- The Coalition also supports annual scholarships for its members to attend the nationally recognized Operations Academy, which is a two-week total immersion transportation and management program that uses a mix of classroom instruction, team workshops, field studies, and presentations by nationally recognized guest speakers.

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Deliver high-quality workshops and products to address unmet and changing industry needs

Advance research and development activities to keep the Coalition members at the forefront of transportation innovation.

Strengthen relationships across jurisdictions to address common challenges related to Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), Freight, and Innovation.

Focus on implementable solutions that leverage Coalition membership and expertise.

Central Office was a big help with handling most of the video and online aspects.”

Along with the online technical aspects to taking public involvement virtual, there was need for a tangible way to make the public aware of upcoming projects and encourage public comment. As a result, the ALDOT Traffic Sign Shop was asked to design a sign that could be placed near the project limits. “Having a sign that is easy to read while driving and one that helps generate public

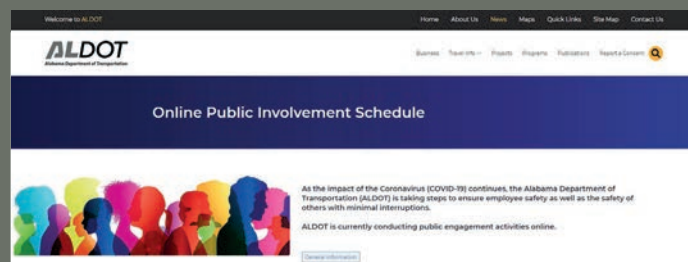
comment for a project was the goal,” said Andrew Harry, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer. “Brian Hurst and his team in the Sign Shop did a nice job of quickly producing a sign with the phrase “get involved” and a reference to the ALDOT website as the source for more information.”

While COVID-19 prompted changes needed to operate in a “new normal,” many of those changes will continue to bring value beyond the pandemic.



Sign shop employees *left*

Public involvement website *below*



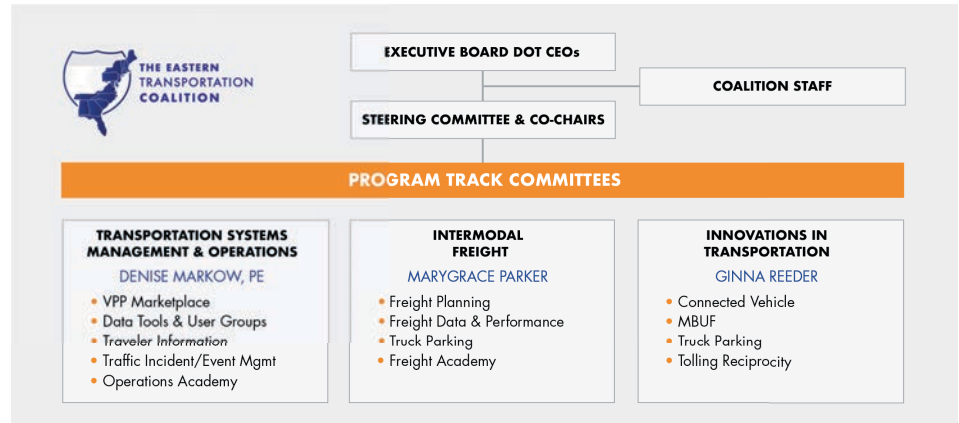
ALDOT Now Working with The Eastern Transportation Coalition on Emerging Technologies *Continued*

The Coalition's Freight program works on multi-modal transportation issues that impact goods movements and supply chains. Since Alabama has joined the Coalition, ALDOT staff Sonja Baker, the Assistant Bureau Chief for Planning Studies and Toni Arrington, Transportation Planner/Freight Planning, actively engage in representing the agency's freight related interests and participating in the Freight Committee activities.

- *The Freight Committee's Data Matrix Project developed resource materials to assist public sector practitioners in their understanding of various data sources that may apply to their work. These included a "White Paper—Demystifying Freight Data," a "Freight Data Matrix Metadata Document" intended to familiarize practitioners with the various attributes within freight data sources. The third part of this work, the "Freight Data Matrix User Guide," is intended for informational and instructional guidance to use the Freight Data Matrix Metadata Document.*
- *The Truck Parking Working Group (TPWG), meets bi-monthly with the region's public agency members who have responsibility for addressing the critical safety and economic challenges posed by the shortage of truck parking nationally and in the corridor.*
- *The CVO Portal website contains links to ALDOT and other Corridor states' trucking related information resources, including Commercial Vehicle Operations, Credentialing, Registration, Taxation, and Permitting Requirements, Commercial Driver Licensing, Truck Parking and Weigh Stations, Tolling Information, and Motor Truck Associations for each of the member states, as well as national organizational entities.*

The Coalition's Innovation Program supports members as they address new and emerging transportation challenges with technology deployment, policy implementation and multi-state partnerships.

- *Organized around three geographic regions, the Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Working Group provides*



opportunities for collaboration and peer exchange, to monitor and report on member state activities, and to help identify opportunities for federal and nonprofit grants.

- *The Coalition, working with the National Renewable Energy Lab, developed a prototype approach for assessing automated vehicle readiness on a regional scale. Sponsored by FHWA, Alabama participated as a pilot state in the project. The approach considered both physical and digital infrastructure and built on existing AV readiness frameworks, as well as those developed for other sectors. This project was launched in June 2020 and recently concluded.*

Alabama TSM&O Program

The Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) section of the Maintenance Bureau supports ALDOT's mission to provide a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system for all customers by focusing on the following nine (9) service layers:

- *ITS and Communication*
- *Traffic Signal Management*
- *Traffic Management Centers (TMC)*
- *Traveler Information*
- *Traffic Incident Management (TIM)*
- *Emergency Transportation Operations*
- *Work Zone Management*
- *Active Transportation and Demand Management*
- *Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV)*

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) provide the foundation required to implement other service layers. Over the last several years, ALDOT has completed several ITS and communications projects and is working on others, including:

- *ALGO Traffic Traveler Information Program*
- *RTOP Traffic Signal Operations Program*
- *Smart Parking Applications*
- *Just-In-Time Delivery Corridors*
- *Road Weather Decision Support Systems*
- *Emergency Transportation Operations*
- *Smart Work Zones*

Chris Hilyer, State TSM&O Administrator and **Brett Sellers**, Emerging Technologies Engineer are graduates of the coalition's Operations Academy. Chris and Brett are active ALDOT representatives on various Coalition activities.

The Coalition recently worked on a pilot project using real-time connected vehicle data and a visualization package to determine real-time volume estimate capabilities specifically focused on hurricane evacuations. Alabama contributed critical data analysis for this project.

Effective Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is a critical element of the overall strategy to ensure the safety of motorists. Alabama has several policies and codes in place to support the TIM program, including "Safe, Quick Clearance," "Move it, Remove it," and the "Open Roads Policy." These policies stress the importance of safe operation in the field and are reflective of

a collaborative top-down approach from state, local and regional authorities.

The Alabama Service & Assistance Patrol (ASAP), guided by Brett Sellers, is a critical component of the maturing TIM program within the state. Service patrols assist with traffic management during and after incidents to help clear congestion. Service patrols provide eyes and ears on the roadways reporting on damaged infrastructure, roadway debris, and congestion in areas without cameras. Service patrols assist during severe weather events, special events, and work zone management functions by temporarily closing lanes or providing other closure support as needed. ASAP has operated in Birmingham and Mobile for several years. The program expanded in recent years to Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville and along I-65 in Chilton County. Robert Turner, Senior Service Patrol Operator in Birmingham, is leading an effort to formalize the ASAP training program this year.

Both Chris and Brett participate in the Coalition's southern Highway Operations Group meetings that provide a forum for member agencies to discuss challenges and identify operational strategies within a state, across jurisdictional boundaries, and often across state lines. The group is unique in that they bring together policy, planning, operations, maintenance, and first responder personnel for discussions on how to improve TSMO strategies and programs.

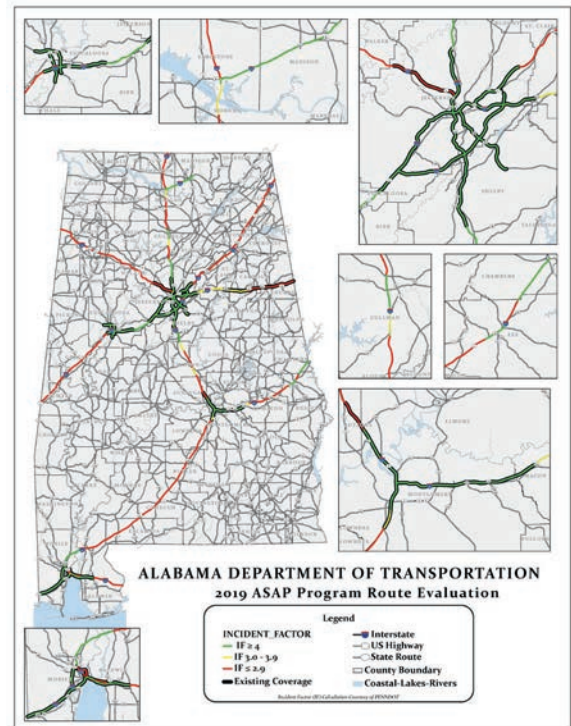
For more information on how Alabama's membership in The Eastern Transportation Coalition can benefit you, visit tetcoalition.org or contact Chris Hilger at (334)-242-6885 or hilgerc@dot.state.al.us.



Brett Sellers, Chris Hilger
top row

Alabama Service & Assistance Patrol (ASAP) vehicle
bottom row

ASAP route expansion across Alabama
right



Governor Ivey's Rebuild Alabama Program Continues

Two of the signature projects in Gov. Kay Ivey's Rebuild Alabama program continued to progress, both making significant strides that will improve not only roadways but the quality of life for the Alabamians that rely on them.

In Autauga County, the widening of US-82 in Prattville is now in its construction phase. These enhancements to US-82 will shorten the daily commute of over 17,000 drivers and complete the Prattville Bypass. The widening of US-82 in Prattville includes construction of two new bridges and will improve access for loggers traveling to the International Paper plant from 18 Alabama counties. Additionally, this project improves access to the James Hardie Building Projects Facility and other companies in the area.

In Cherokee County, ALDOT is well underway with construction in the widening of US-411. Cherokee County is one of 16 Alabama counties currently not served by a four-lane route to an interstate. This Rebuild Alabama project will fulfill a promise that the people of this area have waited for since the early 1960s.

Gov. Kay Ivey's Rebuild Alabama program will continue to invest in the infrastructure across the state. Rebuild Alabama continues to show progress and tangible results for the people of Alabama.

2021 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The eventful 2021 session of the Alabama legislature created several changes that will affect ALDOT operations and employees. Most notably, Gov. Kay Ivey signed a bill to increase and expand the fines for moving violations in work zones. She also signed a bill that provides a cost of living increase for state employees.

Senate Bill 4, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Allen from Tuscaloosa who also chairs the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee, expanded the construction zone law to double fines for any traffic law broken while driving through construction zones where workers are present. Previously, only speeding violations in work zones were subject to increased fines. Rep. Lynn Greer from Lauderdale County, chairman of the House Transportation Utilities and Infrastructure Committee, sponsored the companion bill in the House. Senate Bill 4 passed both the House of Representatives and Senate chambers with no legislator voting against it. Senator Allen and Representative Greer hope the changes brought forth with this legislation will increase safety for all ALDOT and private sector employees in work zones across the state.

Another piece of legislation was passed that will have a direct impact on not only ALDOT personnel but all state employees. House Bill 320, sponsored by Rep. Kelvin Lawrence from Hayneville, provides a 2 percent salary increase for all state employees, beginning Oct., 2021. In a show of bipartisan support, Rep. Lawrence was joined by co-sponsors from both parties. Rep. Barbara Boyd, Rep. Napoleon Bracy, Rep. Barbara Drummond, Rep. Anthony Daniels, Rep. Reed Ingram, Rep. Rolando Hollis, Rep. Jeremy Gray, Rep. Neil Rafferty, Rep. Ivan Smith, and Rep. Sam Jones all signed on to support the passage of this legislation that will help state employees and their families.

A Little Fun After a Year of Uncertainty

This May, the Central Office and all five regions celebrated an Employee Appreciation Day by hosting a luncheon for all. After almost 15 months of strict COVID-19 restrictions, ALDOT employees were able to safely congregate and fellowship together. After the challenges of the past year, it is vital to recognize the hard work of the employees of ALDOT.

On Thursday, May 6, the Central Office in Montgomery hosted its employees at the Equipment Yard for a lunch of hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, banana pudding and much more. Cooking and serving food was done by none other than the Administrative Bureau, being very recognizable

in matching yellow shirts. One may have even spotted a retired Lamar "Bubba" Woodham boiling some peanuts. It was a beautiful day outside with a makeshift dining hall set up under the canopy of the auction building. Some were even seen starting a few friendly, yet competitive, games of corn hole and Jenga. Organizers were lucky enough to have the event sponsored by donations from Volkert, Thompson Engineering, EEO Network Solutions, Inc., Ozark Striping Company, AAPA, InLine, the Alabama Road Builders Association, Mott McDonald, TTL, Robbie Woods Marina, Headlight and Grilling for God's Glory.



Leo H. Fournier Honored in National Work Zone Memorial

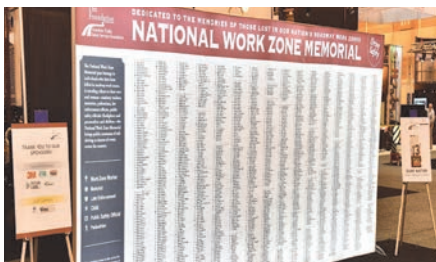


Leo H. Fournier Jr., an Alabama Department of Transportation employee killed in a work zone in 2017, had his name added this year to the National Work Zone Memorial. Fournier was killed when a driver under the influence was driving the wrong way on the Atlanta Highway in Montgomery and struck Fournier and two other survey crew members.

Fournier graduated from Tuskegee University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He worked for ALDOT for almost 9 years and previously worked with Ford Motor Company as a supplier quality engineer in Detroit, Michigan and as a quality engineer with T&WA in Montgomery. He was married and was an avid reader, a sports enthusiast and loved to travel.

The National Work Zone Memorial is an exhibition that travels to communities across the country to help raise public awareness of the hazards in America's roadway work zones. It is inscribed with more than 1,500 names, honoring those who died in work zones, including work zone workers, motorists, pedestrians, law enforcement officers and public safety officials. The memorial pays homage to the memory of the lives lost by displaying their names on a traveling tribute to continuously honor them.

Leo H. Fournier Jr. and the National Work Zone Memorial exhibition



Quarterly Awards



Welcome Center winner for the 1st Quarter

Dekalb County I-59 County Welcome Center

left to right Joe Cox, District Administrator
Curtis Lowe, and Welcome Center
employees Larry Johnson, Jamey James
and Alicia James.

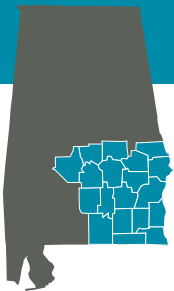


Rest Area winner for the 1st Quarter

Macon County

left to right Mary Crockett and Reginald
Person

Southeast Region News



Southeast Region Welcomes New Assistant Region Engineer and Works on Two Rebuild Alabama Projects

Effective May 16, 2021, Sheri Ellis became the new Southeast Region Assistant Engineer. Ellis was previously the Troy Area Operations Engineer for five years. Chris Huner was promoted to Troy Area Operations Engineer. Huner served as the Troy Area Materials and Test Engineer for 12 years.

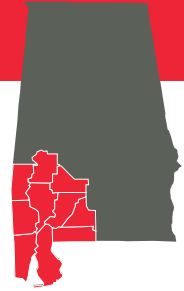
The Southeast Region has broken ground on one Rebuild Alabama project, while beginning the planning and design phase for another.

In May 2021, a project began that will add additional lanes to US-82 in Prattville, from SR-14 to US-31. At the end of this project, US-82 will be a four-lane bypass in Prattville. The US-82 project was one of the first Rebuild Alabama projects announced after the Rebuild Alabama Act passed in 2019.

In January 2021, Governor Ivey announced during her State of the State speech that US-52 in Geneva County would receive Rebuild Alabama funds to add additional lanes. In May, the Southeast Region

launched an online public meeting to inform the public of the details of the project. The project has been divided into two segments, with the first expected to start construction in Summer 2022.

In Fall 2019, it was announced that the Department would receive a \$10.8 million grant through the USDOT Competitive Highway Bridge Program to replace six functionally obsolete bridges on I-85 in Lee County. The bridge bundling project started in April 2021 and is expected to be complete by Spring 2024.



Tackling the Aftermath of an Active Hurricane Season

The Southwest Region had a tumultuous fall in 2020 and endured an unusually active hurricane season. Hurricane Sally struck the Gulf Coast, followed only a few weeks later by Hurricane Zeta. Both storms left a wake of damage, debris, and impassible roadways.

Hurricane Sally made landfall as a Category 2 on Sept. 16. Prior to its arrival, Gov. Ivey called for an evacuation of low-lying, flood prone areas, including Dauphin Island, Orange Beach, and Gulf Shores. **The slow-moving hurricane exhibited winds of 105 mph as it passed over and between the Mobile Area and Pensacola, causing significant damage and power outages.** Large trees were toppled onto power lines and into roadways, and many traffic signals were inoperative. Signal crews worked diligently and were able to restore traffic signals within roughly a week after the storm. ALDOT contractor, CrowderGulf completed debris pick-up operations in mid-January 2021 and collected over 700,000 cubic yards of debris across Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Conecuh counties.

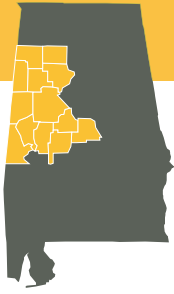
On Oct. 28, Hurricane Zeta made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 2 with sustained winds of 110 mph. Low-lying and flood prone areas were again evacuated, but the storm moved northeastward. The Mobile Area largely avoided major impacts from the storm; however, the Grove Hill Area received significant storm damage.

Though it was an active hurricane season, the department—alongside contractors, first responders, and power crews—was able to restore safety and normalcy to the Southwest Region transportation system. Every major storm event, while vexing, strengthens the Department’s communications and response efforts.



ALDOT’s Southwest Region employees closing the Bankhead Tunnel doors, removing debris and repairing traffic signals

West Central Region News



Progress Continues on West Central Region Projects

The Tuscaloosa Area is overseeing the I-20/59 additional lanes and bridge replacement project from near Exit 73 to near Exit 77 that will feature an iconic cable-stay arch bridge over US-82 (McFarland Boulevard) to serve as the gateway to Tuscaloosa. This undertaking will help move large volumes of traffic safely, efficiently and assist thousands of freight trucks that use the interstate. The project began in January 2018 and is expected to finish by late summer 2021.

The Fayette Area upgraded I-22 with several resurfacing projects and is

handling the Gordo Bypass. The 6.2-mile project continues to progress in Pickens County and will allow motorists to experience a quicker and safer route through West Alabama. The grade, drain and bridge portion is expected to be completed in late 2021. The base and pave bid process will follow afterward.

ALDOT expanded the Alabama Service and Assistance Patrol (ASAP) program in Tuscaloosa with a newly outfitted truck.

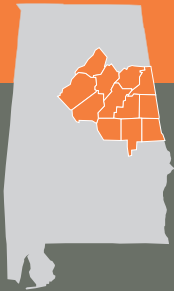
The white pick-up truck with green ASAP logos placed along the sides features a push bumper, a mobile weather station,

a 15,000-pound winch, five cameras that feed to the Traffic Management Center, and other special equipment.

ASAP is a free service that arrives on scene to assist with crashes, disabled vehicles, or any other obstruction that hinders the flow of traffic on I-20/59 between Exit 68 and Exit 89 during weekdays between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Previously, the service ranged from Exit 71 to Exit 89 with hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The West Central Region also launched the ASAP program on I-65 in Chilton County during the spring.

East Central Region News



ALDOT in Final Stages of Plan to Widen a Portion of Hwy. 280 in Jefferson County

ALDOT is in the final design stages of a plan to widen a portion of US-280 in Jefferson County, one of the busiest stretches in the Birmingham area.

The plan would add lanes to the highway in both directions between Lakeshore Drive and Pump House Road.

Work on the project is expected to begin during the summer of 2021. The widening project would not substantially change the design of any intersections on the highway, except at

Overton Road where an acceleration lane may need to be removed.

This project is part of a long-term plan to widen US-280 to four lanes from Lakeshore Drive all the way to I-459. This would involve replacing the Pump House Road bridge, which spans over US-280.

Replacing the bridge and widening this stretch of the highway will take two years once construction begins.

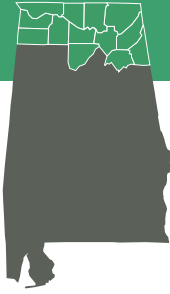
The widening project is one of a handful expected to take place along US-280. This will include operational improvements for eastbound traffic between SR-119 and Doug Baker Boulevard, where bottle-necking is a frequent challenge during the afternoon rush hour.

The resurfacing part of the project will be between the Cahaba River bridge and Narrows Parkway in Chelsea. The work on these projects will be performed at night to reduce

the impact to commuters.

In Birmingham, there are also plans to extend lanes on and off Red Mountain Expressway (RME), between the Highland Avenue and 21st Street exits to improve the flow of traffic commuting downtown. The RME will be resurfaced from Hollywood Boulevard to University Boulevard, and the existing median barrier will be upgraded.

Funding for the projects will come from federal funds and from the Rebuild Alabama Act.



North Region Takes on Major Landslide Repair & Four-Lane Expansions

A US-231 mountain pass, closed to travel in February 2020 following a massive landslide, was reopened Sept. 28 thanks to a monumental effort to repair it as quickly as possible while also ensuring future safety. The completion of twin bridges replacing the destroyed segment of divided four-lane highway on Brindlee Mountain in Morgan County meant relief for thousands of motorists who had endured a 16-mile detour for more than seven months.

Working around-the-clock, seven days a week, Brasfield & Gorrie of Birmingham, the contractor on the \$14.6-million second phase of repair, constructed both 1,000-foot bridges. Finishing more than two months ahead of schedule secured the contractor nearly \$2.5 million in incentive payments.

In the first phase of work, Reed Contracting had removed about 200,000 cubic yards of loose soil and rock from the landslide area.

The bridges were the product of extensive research by ALDOT engineers and geotechnical consultants to develop a stable and timely solution to the problem.

Despite an initial estimate that bridge construction alone would take about a year, in addition to months of excavation work, the reopening came less than eight months after the disaster struck.

Gov. Kay Ivey issued a statement heralding the accomplishment, and state legislators and local officials gathered to celebrate.

Arab Mayor Bob Joslin said the project, "vital to Arab commuters working in Huntsville, was accomplished in record time."

"ALDOT went above and beyond to keep all of the affected communities updated on the progress of the project, which was



One of the first vehicles crossing the new bridges the day they opened *above top*
Officials cutting the ribbon to open US-231 *above bottom*

very much appreciated. Thanks, ALDOT, for a job well done."

Another North Region project that drew praise from elected officials was the completion of a four-lane US-43 in Lauderdale County, which was acknowledged during a ceremony in August 2021. The final five miles of the corridor between Killen and the Tennessee state line were expanded in two simultaneous projects with a combined cost of more than \$25 million.

Also, ground was broken on two major projects. In November, the state-funded Rebuild Alabama project to construct a new four-lane US-411 in Cherokee and Etowah Counties, which will provide Cherokee County with its first four-lane access to an interstate, began. Gov. Kay Ivey spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for the \$34.3 million project. In October, another ceremony marked the start of work on a federal BUILD grant-funded project to four-lane SR-157 between US-31 and SR-69 in Cullman at a cost of \$12.8 million.



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Inside Lane is available on the ALDOT website dot.state.al.us

Send comments or story ideas to ansleyh@dot.state.al.us

Employees: Be sure to keep your mailing address updated with your office manager.

Parting Shot

These white cliffs are located on the Tombigbee River at Epes, AL. They are part of the Selma Chalk formations which were deposited at about the same time as England's famous White Cliffs of Dover. This picture was taken near the river bridge overlooking US-11 near Epes.

