

AGENDA

Technical Advisory Committee

of the

Calhoun Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, April 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Review and approval of minutes from Thursday, March 20, 2025
4. Old Business
 - A. TBA
5. New Business
 - A. Review FY 24-27 TIP Spreadsheet and Administrative Modifications
 - B. Resolution 878: Amending the FY25 UPWP to add FY24 Rollover Funds
 - C. Status report of ALDOT Pre-Construction projects
 - D. Status report of ALDOT Construction projects
 - E. Safety Observations
 - F. TAB
 - G. June Meetings Scheduling
6. Next TAC Meeting – Thursday, May 22, 2025 10:00 a.m.
7. Adjourn

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee
of the Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, March 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Those Attending:

Toby Bennington	Anniston
Don Chappell	ALDOT
Branton Cole	Anniston
Steven Corley	ALDOT
Fred Denney	Oxford
Rodney McCain	Calhoun County
Eric Wright	EARPDC
Elizabeth Wright	EARPDC

Mrs. Elizabeth Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

After reviewing the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes, Mr. Toby Bennington moved to approve them; Mr. Eric Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No old business.

Mrs. Wright discussed Resolution 876, amending the 24-27 TIP to move two projects to different fiscal years. These projects, 100070257 Widening on Friendship Rd from Cheaha Drive to Circle Dr; Phase II and 100070271 Resurfacing, Widening, and upgrading existing turn signals and adding turn lanes on Friendship Rd and Cheaha Dr; Phase III, are moving to FY 27 and increasing the estimates by 1% for each year. This amendment is being made to maintain fiscal constraints as the TIP shows a negative balance by the end of 2026. There was a question on where the right of way and utility portions of these projects were and if they had been authorized, which they were not. The PE on both phases was authorized in 2020. Mr. Toby Bennington motioned to approve, which Mr. Branton Cole seconded.

Mrs. Wright next discussed Resolution #875, increasing project 100064887 PE Airport Bridge Replacement, and called on Mr. Steven Corley to give an update from the ALDOT. Mr. Corley explained that the current allocation was approximately \$340,000, which was increased by resolution from the original estimate of approximately \$225,000. We are still in the design phase of this project, and ultimately, it was never initially set up with enough money for this project. The consultants hired for these plans worked on everything, including the roadway and the bridge, but it did not include Geotech. Their man-day and fee proposal was \$300,000 and has increased since then to \$374,000. So, with the consultant fee alone at \$374,000, this project's budget was already overrun. Also, every federal dollar spent on this project is hit with a 15% indirect cost. Plus, ALDOT is doing the Geotech, and every time they submit, it needs to be reviewed, which charges time to the project, and consultant-submitted plans, which require review and subsequent time charged to the project. So, the new estimate of \$647,676 received from ALDOT is only to increase the allocation to cover all charges made up to this date. This

project, once completed, will likely cost more like \$750,000 to \$800,000, which is what a project like this should be estimated at from the beginning. Mr. Corley continued to say that this overrun issue is often run into on some of these projects where the original allocation is set up at an amount close to the consultant's original man-day, which is not what the full cost of PE is for a project. Mr. Toby Bennington asked Mr. Corley if, since the consultants estimate these projects, the consultants also need to report to the cities any direct or indirect costs or any ALDOT review time that will go into the project. It appears more and more this is not happening. Mr. Rodney McCain added that any time a project is set up for the MPO or state funding, an indirect or overhead percentage should be added to it of about 32-33% of the amount given that should be assumed. Lately, this added cost has not been included. Mr. Bennington agreed and said we used to do better about this, especially after this issue had come up in several projects in the past. There was a discussion with several key members, and estimating costs was improving but has since fallen back to old ways. What this is causing is that there is going to be this constant need for these members of government to come back to the MPO requesting more funding when it may not be there, which is detrimental to the project. Mr. Corley stated that the percentage is hard to estimate across the board as it will differ on some projects. For this project, the bridge work, the review process, and the Geotech work are going to be much more expensive. This project is likely to have \$200,000 of Geotech work. Mr. Eric Wright pointed out a couple more bridge projects on the TIP with relatively low PE estimates attached to them. He questioned if those will also likely have this issue of insufficient estimated funding. Mr. Corley said that we should look at them as PE on a bridge will have a higher PE cost than some other project types. For this specific project, Mr. Corley stated that some hydraulics work was needed to significantly extend the time and cost. There were also multiple TS&L submittals that affected the cost. Overall, we all need to estimate these costs better and include them in the initial allocation estimate. Mr. Corley then concluded by stating that we could sign this resolution to increase the allocation to \$647,676 but cautioned that it would likely increase again as this updated allocation would not cover the project's cost to completion. Mr. McCain asked if it was detrimental that we vote on this resolution today or if we should wait until there is a more accurate estimate that will not result in needing another resolution. Mr. Corley stated that he did not know why this needed a resolution signed today as the project was already in the red, and we could get a more accurate cost estimate for the next TAC meeting. This resolution was agreed to be tabled until a new estimated allocation is presented.

Next, Mrs. Wright discussed the Citian CRASH software purchase by the MPO. Mrs. Wright explained that this software purchase was detailed in the 2025 UPWP. This software takes crash data from local law enforcement and uses AI to map it accurately. The resulting data highlights dangerous intersections or roadways that can run reports and be useful for traffic studies and safety improvement projects. This software costs \$36,000 for year one of a five-year contract, totaling \$191,128. Mrs. Wright expressed concern over the cost and purchase of software without a clear purpose or immediate need. As she is new to this position and learning how to coordinate the MPO best, this purchase may be better suited in the future. Alternatively, Mrs. Wright would like to investigate other methods for procuring this data utilizing her GIS and mapping skills. Mrs. Wright then asked if a specific purpose or project was intended for this software. The Citizen's Advisory Committee was also presented with this information and agreed that this purchase does not fit the current needs. Mr. Bennington had discussed the intentions for the software with Libby but was unaware of any specific project she intended to use it for. He agreed

the expenditure was unnecessary at this time without any defined purpose. Mr. Wright agreed and added that he believed Libby had intended to use the software for some SS4A or Zero Vision funding projects. Current political uncertainty regarding federal funding for these types of projects also raised the question of whether this software purchase is right for this year. Mr. McCain also mentioned other avenues to get similar data with the help of municipalities and ALDOT. In conclusion, this committee agreed that this software purchase should be suspended for now.

Next, Mrs. Wright introduced the status reports for Current Construction or Pre-Construction Projects. There was no update from ALDOT. Mr. Branton Cole gave an update on project 100077730 Signal Timing Update and Implementation on SR-21 (Quintard Ave) from 8th St to 22nd St. Sain has completed the field inventory and traffic count and built the analysis model. Once they complete the internal review, it will be submitted to ALDOT for final approval.

Mr. Bennington then requested to discuss a project on the TIP, item 64 on the spreadsheet, being projects 100077728(PE) and 100077729(CN) AL-21 Pedestrian Crossing at McClellan Blvd. The City of Anniston would like to delete these projects. There is no timeline for when this project could be pursued again. The city needs to discuss with ALDOT and Calhoun County the 21/431 connector regarding the city taking over that connector and the possibility of using that intersection and connector to connect to the Chief Ladiga Trail. Mr. Bennington saw no need to hold funding without defining a future date for this project. Mrs. Wright will bring this to the CAC and through the other committees next month.

Mrs. Wright then moved on to Safety Observations from the CAC. No new safety observations were reported this month. The CAC requested updates on some older safety observations. Item #1 Oxford Bynum Blvd/Hwy 202 intersection hasn't been updated since 2023. Mr. Fred Denney stated that this was not on their radar but that they would investigate it. Item #6 Henry Rd. intersection at the 431 Bypass, Mr. Branton Cole stated he spoke to Shane before he left his position at ALDOT, and the Local District is open to any plans the city wants to submit. At this point, funding is an issue for this project. The Council member who brought this forward is no longer on the council, and it is no longer a priority for any sitting council member to approach the MPO or allocate any city funding. Lastly, Item #26 Jacksonville 204/Nesbit Lake Rd intersection was last updated that a developer will create a new entrance of Smith Circle, and the study from Jacksonville showed that the intersection does not warrant a signal. No Jacksonville members were present to give any further updates. Mr. Corley added that ALDOT has plans for some work to be done on 204, including widening and the possibility of signaling that intersection and adding a hawk signal to the Chief Ladiga Trail crossing.

Next, Mrs. Wright discussed the fixed route and paratransit ridership reports in which we continue to see increases over last year's numbers and an overall trending on or above average.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

Mr. Bennington motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Wright seconded; the meeting was adjourned.

April 2025 Administrative Modifications

That created changes on the TIP spreadsheet:

Project : 100070257 (CN)

Federal aid number : STPSU 0819

County : CALHOUN

Project Description : REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING BRIDGE ON FRIENDSHIP RD (BIN 004773) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING BRIDGE (BIN 004774) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF WITH A CULVERT (PHASE II)

Old Target start date : November 07, 2025

New Target start date : February 27, 2026

That did not create changes on the TIP spreadsheet:

Project : 100070249 (UT)

Federal aid number : STPSU 0819 (251)

County : CALHOUN

Project Description : PHASE I - WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD FROM CHEAHA DRIVE TO CIRCLE DRIVE IN THE CITY OF OXFORD

Old Target start date : July 01, 2025

New Target start date : September 01, 2025

Project : 100070250 (CN)

Federal aid number : STPSU 0819

County : CALHOUN

Project Description : PHASE I - WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD FROM CHEAHA DRIVE TO CIRCLE DRIVE IN THE CITY OF OXFORD

Old Target start date : August 29, 2025

New Target start date : November 07, 2025

Project : 100070254 (RW)

Federal aid number : STPSU 0819 (252)

County : CALHOUN

Project Description : REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING BRIDGE ON FRIENDSHIP RD (BIN 004773) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING BRIDGE (BIN 004774) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF WITH A CULVERT (PHASE II)

Old Target start date : June 01, 2025

New Target start date : September 01, 2025

Project : 100070255 (UT)

Federal aid number : STPSU 0819 (252)

County : CALHOUN

Project Description : REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING BRIDGE ON FRIENDSHIP

RD (BIN 004773) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING
BRIDGE (BIN 004774) OVER CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK RELIEF WITH A CULVERT (PHASE II)
Old Target start date : July 01, 2025
New Target start date : October 01, 2025

Project : 100070262 (RW)
Federal aid number : STPSU 0819 (253)
County : CALHOUN
Project Description : RESURFACING, WIDENING AND UPGRADING EXISTING TURN
SIGNALS AND ADDING TURN LANES ON FRIENDSHIP ROAD AT CHEAHA DRIVE - PHASE 3
Old Target start date : June 01, 2025
New Target start date : September 01, 2025

LVOE Project Additions

OTHER

Project : 100078678 (CN)
Federal aid number : TAPAA TA24 (920)
County : CALHOUN
Project Description : PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALONG SR-
21 (PELHAM ROAD N/S) FROM JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC SQUARE TO 11TH STREET NW AT
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
Old Engineers Estimate : \$917,000.00
New Engineers Estimate : \$953,511.00

Project : 100079877 Federal aid number : DEMO A219 County : CALHOUN Scope : PE
Project Description : RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ALONG CR-109
(BYNUM-LEATHERWOOD ROAD) AT OLD COLDWATER ROAD, EULATON GATE ROAD AND GATE
8 ROAD AND RESURFACING FROM SR-202 TO A POINT NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF
MORRISVILLE ROAD
Urban Area : 254 ANNISTON
Target Start Date : 3/3/2025
Engineers Estimate : \$500,000.00

Project : 100079877 (PE)
Federal aid number : DEMO A219
County : CALHOUN
Project Description : RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ALONG CR-109
(BYNUM-LEATHERWOOD ROAD) AT OLD COLDWATER ROAD, EULATON GATE ROAD AND GATE
8 ROAD AND RESURFACING FROM SR-202 TO A POINT NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF

MORRISVILLE ROAD

Old Target start date : March 03, 2025

New Target start date : May 01, 2025

Project : 100079878 Federal aid number : DEMO A219 County : CALHOUN Scope : CN

Project Description : RESURFACING ON CR-109 FROM SR-202 TO MORRISVILLE ROAD WITH INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (LEFT AND RIGHT TURN LANES AND SIGNAL UPGRADE) AT OLD COLDWATER ROAD, EULATON GATE ROAD AND GATE 8 ROAD

Urban Area : 254 ANNISTON

Target Start Date : 9/26/2025

Engineers Estimate : \$4,500,000.00

Resolution # 878

Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add FY24 Administration Rollover Funds

WHEREAS, the Calhoun Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, November 2021); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and,

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires all urbanized areas, as established by the US Bureau of the Census, to do area-wide transportation planning, and the designated planning organization to submit a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as a condition for meeting the provisions of Title 23 USC 134; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the declaration of these provisions, the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, as staff to the MPO, in cooperation with the Local Transportation Bureau, Alabama Department of Transportation, has prepared a Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to its duties, functions, and responsibilities, the Calhoun Area MPO proposes to allocate the remaining administrative funds from fiscal year 2024 for \$453,403 (\$383,955 Federal). Allocation of these funds into the UPWP would be as follows:

- \$5,000 additional funds into Task 1.3 Education and Training. This increase would support additional training opportunities for new MPO staff, helping to ensure they are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support regional transportation planning efforts.
- \$49,710 additional funds into Task 5.1: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This increase would support the existing contract with unused allocated funding from the previous year.
- \$30,000 additional funds into Task 6.7: City of Anniston Bicycle Pedestrian Design/Installation Manual Update. This increase would support the existing contract with unused allocated funding from the previous year.
- \$15,000 additional funds into Task 7.1: Corridor Development. This increase will enable member municipalities to propose a study.
- The remaining \$353,693 would be allocated to Task 6.1: Special Project Identification as a holdover for future special projects and large plans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun Area MPO, that the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP be amended as indicated above.

Passed and adopted this 17th day of April 2025.

ATTEST: _____

Elizabeth Wright, Regional Planner
East Alabama Regional Planning and
Development Commission

Councilman Nick Bowles, Chairman
City of Weaver

Fixed-Route Ridership							
	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Oct	9,993	8,871	5,541	7,679	7,483	7,033	8,450
Nov	8,504	7,665	5,425	7,272	7,024	6,404	7,706
Dec	8,082	7,596	5,266	7,745	7,184	6,320	7,527
Jan	8,239	7,614	5,177	7,114	7,151	6,047	6,831
Feb	7,800	7,262	4,773	7,305	7,301	7,234	7,784
Mar	8,979	7,185	5,512	8,757	8,230	7,292	7,680
Apr	9,045	4,285	6,263	8,965	7,090	6,660	
May	8,774	5,141	6,498	9,012	7,509	6,927	
Jun	7,993	5,852	7,197	10,500	6,979	6,347	
Jul	8,626	6,160	7,836	9,141	6,648	7,627	
Aug	9,314	6,111	7,771	10,763	7,573	8,546	
Sep	7,868	5,923	8,019	10,645	7,046	6,903	

2024 Avg./Mo. 421 154 23 93 111 37

ADA Paratransit Ridership						
Fiscal Year 2024-2025	Anniston	Jacksonville	Weaver	Oxford	Section 5307 CC Urban	Section 5311 CC Rural
October	432	158	27	89	150	36
November	382	148	17	83	104	40
December	363	165	28	69	135	27
January	371	165	31	75	98	46
February	340	158	25	93	110	47
March	368	183	31	96	166	40
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
	2256	977	159	505	763	236
2025 Avg./Mo.	376	163	27	84	127	39

MPO Fiscal Year 2025 Meeting Dates

TAC All meetings are at 10:00 AM	CAC All meetings are at 10:00 AM	MPO All meetings are at 11:00 AM
November 21	November 20	November 21
December meetings Cancelled		
January 16	January 15	January 16
February 27	February 26	February 27
March 20	March 19	March 20
April 17	April 16	April 17
May 22	May 21	May 22
June 19	June 18	June 19
July 17	July 16	July 17
August 21	August 20	August 21
September 18	September 17	September 18
October 16	October 15	October 16