

**Public Involvement Report**

**for the**

**Statewide Transportation  
Improvement Program (STIP)  
Fiscal Years 2024-2027**

**West Alabama  
Rural Planning Organization  
(WARPO)**

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

Compiled June 2023

**Public Involvement Report  
for the  
Statewide Transportation Improvement  
Program (STIP)  
Fiscal Years 2024-2027  
West Alabama  
Rural Planning Organization (WARPO)**

This document is posted at  
<https://www.warc.info/rpo-documents>

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Date Compiled: June, 2023

For language assistance email [zane.davis@westal.org](mailto:zane.davis@westal.org), subject line: "Interpreter".  
Por idioma asistencia email [zane.davis@westal.org](mailto:zane.davis@westal.org), línea de asunto: "Interpreter".

This document was financed in part by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Alabama Department of Transportation, and local governments, and prepared for the RPO by the West Alabama Regional Commission, in partial fulfillment of Task 3 of the RPO Work Program - Fiscal Year 2023 and requirements set forth in 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Sections 11201, November 2021)

# West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Members

## Policy Committee

### Voting

Charles Caddell, Bibb County Commission Representative  
Mike Freeman, Fayette County Commission Representative  
Tennyson Smith, Greene County Commission Representative  
Arthur Crawford, Hale County Commission Representative  
Jeff Long, Lamar County Commission Representative  
Jill Noland, Pickens County Commission Representative  
Wallace McAdory, West Central Region Engineer, Alabama Department of Transportation  
Dennis Stripling, Executive Director, West Alabama Regional Commission  
Bobbie White, Bibb County Mayors Representative  
Rod Northam, Fayette County Mayors Representative  
Latasha Johnson, Greene County Mayors Representative  
Jonathan Rossell, Hale County Mayors Representative  
Stanley Allred, Lamar County Mayors Representative  
Craig Patterson, Pickens County Mayors Representative

### Non-Voting

Mark D. Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration  
Bradley B. Lindsey, P.E., State Local Transportation Engineer, ALDOT  
Debbie Handley, Technical Coordinating Committee Chairman  
Al Elbert, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Chairman  
John Hinton, Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairman

## Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

### Voting

Jeff McKinney, Bibb County Engineer  
Jarrod Milligan, Fayette County Engineer  
Willie Branch, Greene County Engineer  
Fred Powell, Hale County Engineer  
Matthew Rouse, Lamar County Engineer  
Clint Terry, Pickens County Engineer  
Adriana Dunn, ALDOT West Central Region Pre-Construction Engineer  
Robert B. Dees, ALDOT Bureau of Local Transportation  
Debbie Handley, Fayette and Lamar County Transit Provider  
Bobby Armstead, Greene and Hale County Transit Provider  
Patricia McCafferty, Pickens County Transit Provider  
Shannon Taylor, Airport Representative  
Vontra Giles, Federal Highway Administration  
Railroad Representative  
George Newman, Trucking Representative  
Representative, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Representative  
Zane Davis, West Alabama Regional Commission

### Non-Voting

Representative from each municipality in the study area  
Scott Anders, Tuscaloosa County Engineer  
Fayette City Engineer  
Russell Lawrence, Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority  
Brian Latham, District 51 (Fayette/Lamar) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region  
Jonathan Anderson, District 53 (Pickens/Greene) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region  
Sky Hallmon District 54 (Bibb/Chilton) Engineer, ALDOT West Central Region  
Greg King, 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

Phil Cottingham

Joanne Craighead

#### Municipal Appointments

Jerry C. Pow

Tracy Sanders

### **Fayette County**

#### County Appointments

Allen Dunavant

Willie Ivey

#### Municipal Appointments

Wanda Deavours

Bobbie Kemp-Driver

### **Greene County**

#### County Appointments

Philis Belcher

Judy Jarvis

#### Municipal Appointments

Julia D. Fuller

Iris Sermon

### **Hale County**

#### County Appointments

Mason Dyess

Tony Lee

#### Municipal Appointments

Jerry Elkins

Austin Long

### **Lamar County**

#### County Appointments

Wayne Baines

Al Elbert

#### Municipal Appointments

Wayne Christian

Lane Gilliam

### **Pickens County**

#### County Appointments

Brandon Garrison

Ben Curry

#### Municipal Appointments

Marva Gipson

Rusty Tate

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

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to document the public involvement activities undertaken by the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Years 2024-2027 (STIP). The STIP is a prioritized listing of transportation projects that covers a four-year period. The Alabama Department of Transportation is responsible for producing the STIP. In an effort to reach more people, ALDOT enlisted the twelve Alabama RPOs to lead the public involvement phase of the STIP development process. In West Alabama, the WARPO held eight public meetings in seven counties to address the STIP public involvement requirement.

### **1.2 Laws and Regulations**

Title 23 United States Code (U.S.C) 135, and 150; and Title 49 U.S.C. 5304 are the laws that establish planning policy and delineate State responsibilities in the transportation planning process. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23, Part 450, Section 450.218 describes the content and development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

### **1.3 WARPO Organizational Structure**

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) 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 the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). The CTAC is divided into six subcommittees that represent the six counties of the WARPO.

### **1.4 Planning Area**

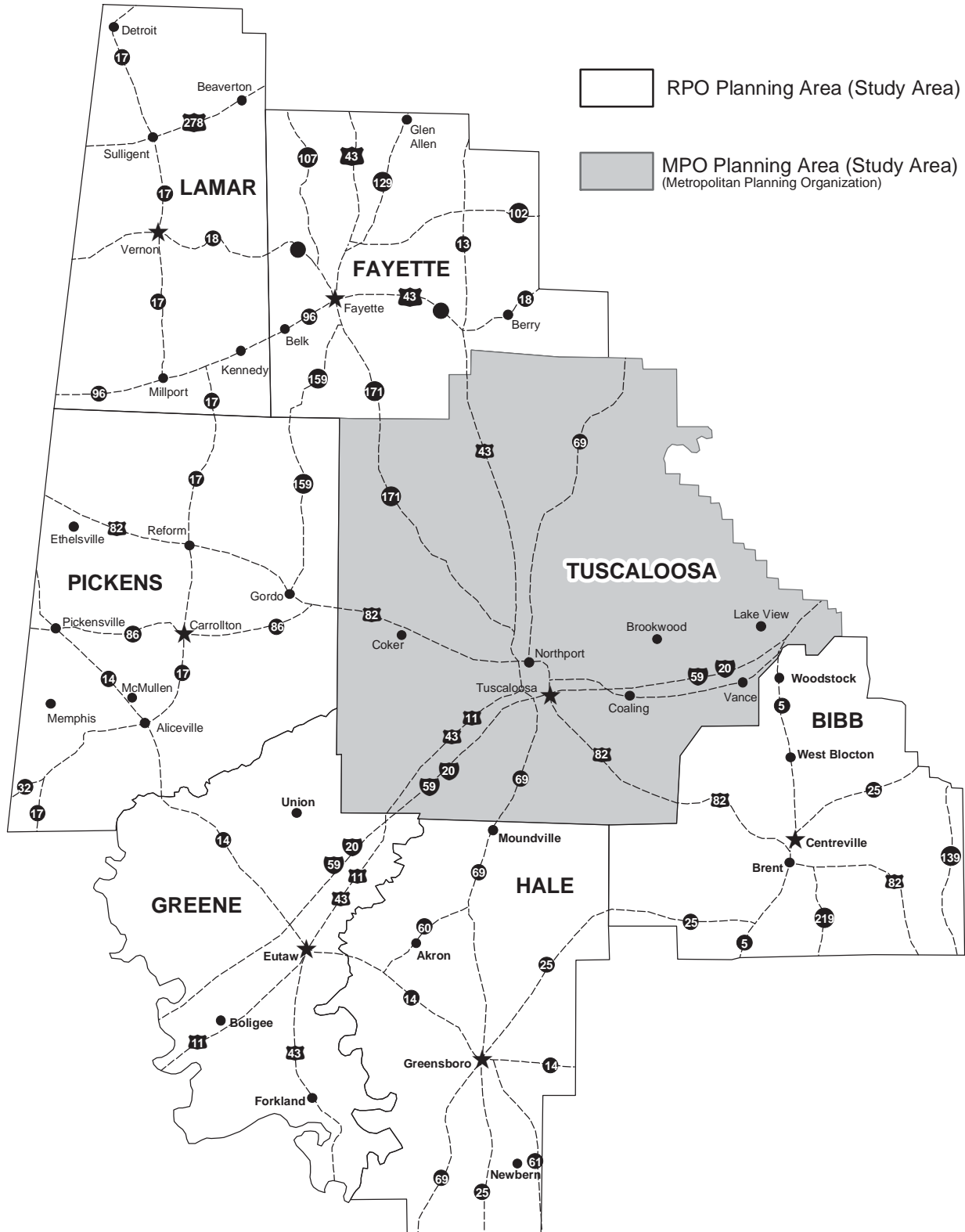
The WARPO planning area includes the six rural counties served by the West Alabama Regional Commission: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Pickens (Figure 1). The six counties are served by the West Central Region of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

### **1.5 Public Meetings**

The WARPO held eight public meetings to educate the public on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Years 2024-2027 (STIP) and to allow the public to provide input to the draft document.

# West Alabama Rural Planning Organization Planning Area

Figure 1



Source: US Census TIGER  
WARC

## 2.0 Meeting Announcement Procedures

### 2.1 News Releases

March 28, 2023

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following meetings:

1. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
  - A. Bibb County - April 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
  - B. Fayette County - April 25, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
  - C. Greene County - April 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
  - D. Hale County - April 18, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
  - E. Lamar County - April 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – - Vernon City Hall, 44425 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
  - F. Pickens County - April 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission, 20 Phoenix Ave, Carrollton, AL
  
2. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), May 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL. Also available virtually.
  
3. RPO Policy Committee, May 5, 2023, 10:30 a.m. - West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL. Also available virtually.

If you would like to participate, please email [zane.davis@westal.org](mailto:zane.davis@westal.org) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A public involvement meeting for the *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP) will be held at the beginning of each committee meeting. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is seeking public comment on the proposed STIP, which includes a listing of specific transportation projects that will be funded during the next four years. ALDOT and RPO staff will be available to discuss planning efforts and answer questions.

The committees will discuss the draft *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP) and *Fiscal Year 2024 RPO Work Program* at the meetings.

The RPO serves as a transportation planning process for the rural areas of west Alabama and provides a formal link between the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the local governments. The counties served by the RPO include Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Pickens. The RPO provides government officials and citizens in these counties an opportunity to advise the ALDOT on road, bridge, and transit projects.

All of the 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.

### News Releases (Cont)

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) staff distributed over 100 news releases for the eight STIP public meeting held in the WARPO planning area.

The releases included the agenda, date, time, and location of the meeting. The releases were provided more than three weeks before the meetings. The releases were sent to local media representatives and groups that address the needs of low-income individuals, minorities, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. The releases were also posted on the Internet.



## **2.2 Meeting Notices**

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) staff mailed the STIP public meeting notices to all committee members. The WARPO Policy Committee includes 13 elected officials and six appointed officials. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is composed of 25 transportation engineers, planners, or modal representatives. The TCC notices were also sent to 24 small town mayors, who are non-voting members. The WARPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee consists of 24 local residents, four from each of the six counties in the WARPO planning area. The notices included the agenda, date, time, and location of the meeting. The notices were provided more than three weeks prior to the meetings.

## **2.3 Internet**

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) staff posted notices of the STIP public review and meeting on the West Alabama Regional Commission website ([www.warc.info](http://www.warc.info)) beginning in late March 2023. The notices were included on the *News Releases* page (<https://www.warc.info/news-releases>) and the *RPO Documents* page (<https://www.warc.info/rpo-documents>). The *News Releases* page also included a link to the ALDOT STIP information page. ([https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ab3d0eb5ffd20954c674922/t/642ee19cd4a30a2ed52d988e/1680794012362/%231\\_\\_\\_STIP+Brochure+3+29+2023.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ab3d0eb5ffd20954c674922/t/642ee19cd4a30a2ed52d988e/1680794012362/%231___STIP+Brochure+3+29+2023.pdf)).

## **2.4 Social Media**

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (WARPO) staff posted notices of the STIP public review and meeting on the West Alabama Regional Commission official social media accounts.

### 3.0 Attendance and Information Distribution

#### 3.1 Summary

A total of 83 people attended the eight public meetings held in the West Alabama RPO (WARPO) planning area. The total includes local residents, elected officials, and government employees. The sign-in sheets for the meetings are provided in Appendix B.

April 18, 2023	Hale	Moundville	6	3	1	2
April 20, 2023	Lamar	Vernon	10	6	2	2
April 24, 2023	Bibb	Brent	8	4	2	2
April 25, 2023	Fayette	Fayette	9	3	4	2
April 26, 2023	Greene	Eutaw	13	6	5	2
April 27, 2023	Pickens	Carrollton	9	3	4	2
May 4, 2023	Tuscaloosa	Northport	16	8	6	2
May 5, 2023	Tuscaloosa	Northport	12	8	3	2
<b>Totals</b>			<b>83</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>

The meetings followed the same format. At the start of each meeting, the staff from the ALDOT Office Engineer Bureau, the Local Transportation Bureau, or the West Central Region described the STIP and the STIP development process. The second part of the meetings included a detailed review of the projects by the ALDOT West Central Region staff. Each meeting ended with a question and answer session, and a chance to complete the provided comment forms. The WARPO staff did not receive any comment forms during or after the public meetings.

#### 3.2 Items Provided

Attendees of the meetings received a package of material and a comment form. The package included a description of the STIP, a key to the highway project list, and the highway project list for the ALDOT West Central Region.

Two display maps were also provided. One map was produced by the ALDOT Office Engineer Bureau and showed the location of the ALDOT sponsored STIP projects in the entire state. The WARPO staff presented a second map that displayed the location of all projects in the WARPO planning area.

## **4.0 Summary of Public Involvement Activities**

### **4.1 Public Comments and Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Responses**

The West Central Region of the Alabama Department of Transportation received no comments during the STIP public involvement period.

## **Appendix A**

### **Sign-In Sheets**

The following pages are the sign-in sheets for the eight STIP public meetings held in the West Alabama RPO Planning Area.

## DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 5-5-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
Leta W. Allen	Town of Wetumpka	mllport@wvcc.org	WARR @
David Kemp	ALDOT	kemp@dtd.al.gov	ALDOT
Jeff Long	Lamar County Commission	jlong@lcc.com	Lamar County Commission
Tom M. Ammon	ALDOT - Montgomery	ammon@al.gov	ALDOT
Mike Freeman	Wayne County	mfreeman@wayncountyal.gov	WARR @
Ron N. ...	WARR	ron@warr.com	WARR
Dennis Stripling	WARR	dennis.stripling@warral.org	WARR
Charles Caldwell	Bibb County Commission	ccaldwell50@gmail.com	WARR
Zane Davis	WARR		
Molly Dalton	WARR		
Candy Griffin	ALDOT		
Daphne Rossell	Abernethy		
Craig Patterson	GORDON		

DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 5-4-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
BRAD DARDEN	ALDOT	DARDEN@DOT.STATE.AL.US	
Lisa Cantrell	ALDOT-Local Trans	cantrell@dot.state.al.us	
Ashley Y. Nevin	ALDOT-Local Trans	nevin@dot.state.al.us	
Patricia McCafferty	H.E.L.P., Inc	helpinc@netv.com	
GEORGE NEWMAN	TEC	NEWMAN.GEORGE@TEC.ORG	
DANNA HANDEL	ICE	danna.handel@ice.com	
TARRED MILLIGAN	Fayette County	jmilligan@fayetteco.net	
JEFF MCKINNEY	Bibb County	jeffmckinney@bibb.al.com	
James Boyer	ALDOT Local Trans Bus	BoyerJ@ALDOT	
BARNETT DESS	ALDOT		
Landy Griffin	ALDOT		
Cathy Roberts	WAPB		
Fred Powell	Hale County		
MATT ROUSSA	Lynn County		
Dawn Ubbel	West Alabama Regional Council	DawnUbbel@warcouncil.com	
Zane Davis	WPRC		

## DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 4-27-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
<del>Gene Davis</del> Gene Davis	WFRG CTAC		
Yvonne BACKBURN	ALDOT - WCE	blackburn@dot.state.al.us	
Ariana Dunn	ALDOT - WCR	dunn@dot.state.al.us	
BRYAN FAH2	ALDOT	fah2@dot.state.al.us	
NICK TAYLOR	ALDOT - LOCAL	taylor@dot.state.al.us	
<del>Clint Terry</del> Clint Terry	WFRG County eng	Petersen@dot.state.al.us	
BUNDON GARRISON	CTAC		

## DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 4-26-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
Zane Davis	WARR		
Ann's Wiley	WARR		
Ariana Dunn	ALDOT-WCR	dunn@dot.state.al.us	
Lydia Blackburn	ADOT-WCR	blackburn@dot.state.al.us	
Wallace McAdory	ALDOT-WCR	mcadory@dot.state.al.us	
Judy Jarvis			
Judith Fuller	Everett	jdfuller@gmail.com	
Thomas Fuller	Everett	1581 m...@att.net	
Les Sherman		gsidac@us... .edu	unread, work
Phyllis Bolcher	Greene County IDA		
Nick Taylor	ALDOT-LOCK	taylor@dot.state.al.us	
Brenda Bull	Greene County, AL	bulker@greenealabama.org	
Barrett Dyer	ALDOT	dyer@dot.state.al.us	





**DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)**

**FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027**

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING**

DATE & TIME: 7-24-2023 6:00pm Bibb Co, Brent, AL

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
Doug E. Per	Retired	jerryPow@att.net	Email
Cagdel Griffin	ALDOT	grifhncp@dot.state.al.us	
Walt & Ann	Retired	MProth@gmail.com	
Arianne Stenn	ALDOT-USER	dunnadot@state.al.us	
SOPHIE LEE HEAD	ALDOT	shead1946@al.gov	
Lynol Blackburn	ALDOT	blackburnl@dot.state.al.us	
Mayor Bobbie White	City of Brent	whitebobbie@gmail.com	
Tara Davis	WTRC		
Tara White			

## DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 4-20-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
AL ELBERT	Tanner CTC	AELBERT1938@gmail.com	WARRC
Glenn Crawford	Veemon Mayor	glenn.crawford@veemon.la.gov	WARRC
Gene Hillman	Tanner CTC		WARRC
Lynn Blackburn	ALDOT-WCR	blackburnl@dot.state.al.us	WARRC
Wallace McAdery	ALDOT - WCR	mcaderyw@dot.state.al.us	WARRC
Renee Reeves	Kanner Democrat	kannerreenee@gmail.com	WARRC
Allison Ely		ElyAllison@tnc.com	WARRC
Shirley Brown			
Shirley Brown	WARRC		

## DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

DATE & TIME: 4-18-2023

Name	Organization	Email Address	How did you hear about this meeting? Newspaper, letter, word of mouth, radio, other?
Chris Whitcup LYNDI BRACKSON	WJACC ALDOT-WJCR	blackburn@dot.state.al.us	
JERRY S. ETKINS	WACC - CTRC	j.e.tkins@mound.net	Heard on Email
Paul A Lee Mason Dyess Zane Davis	WA - CTRC WACC WACC WACC	Heard about at moundillenc.com j.mason.dyess@gmail.com	

## **Appendix B**

### **Supporting Documents**

The following pages are supporting documents used for the public meetings held in the West Alabama RPO Planning Area.



## NEWS RELEASE

For Additional Information Contact:  
Zane Davis  
West Alabama Regional Commission  
4200 Highway 69 North  
P.O. Box 509  
Northport, AL 35476-0509  
(205) 333-2990 \* FAX (205) 333-2713

March 28, 2023

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  - C. Greene County - April 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
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All of the 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.

-End-

## Zane Davis

---

**From:** Zane Davis  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** Zane Davis  
**Subject:** The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following meetings

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following meetings:

1. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
  - A. Bibb County - April 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
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## Zane Davis

---

**From:** Zane Davis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** Al Elbert - RPO Lamar CTAC (aelbert1938@gmail.com); Wayne Christian (awaynechristian@yahoo.com); Lane Gilliam; Lamar Democrat (lamardemocrat@gmail.com); Glenn Crawford - Vernon (glenn.crawford@vernonal.org)  
**Cc:** Chris Wriley; Dennis Stripling  
**Subject:** RPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Subcommittee Meeting

The Lamar County CTAC Subcommittee will meet on **Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m.** at the **Vernon City Hall**.

### AGENDA

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 4)
  - d. Community Report (Page 5-8)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 9-11)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - TBD (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 12 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_



## Zane Davis

---

**From:** Zane Davis  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** Zane Davis  
**Cc:** Chris Wriley; Molly Dodson ; Dennis Stripling  
**Subject:** West Alabama RPO Policy Committee Meeting Notice  
**Attachments:** RPO-Agenda-Current.pdf; #1\_\_STIP Brochure 3 29 2023.pdf

The RPO Policy Committee will hold a meeting on **Friday, May 5, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.**

**The RPO will hold this meeting both in-person at the West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC), 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport and online.**

I have attached the initial agenda. I have also attached information about the ALDOT STIP public meeting that will be part of this RPO meeting. The meeting documents are available on the WARC website <https://www.warc.info/rpo-documents>.

If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at [zane.davis@westal.org](mailto:zane.davis@westal.org) or 205-333-2990, extension 227.

If you are participating online, please follow the instructions below.

Zane

Zane Davis  
West Alabama Regional Commission  
205-333-2990 ext-227

---

RPO Policy  
May 5, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (America/Chicago)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://meet.goto.com/898418325>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code:  
898-418-325  
United States:  
[+1 \(872\) 240-3412](tel:+18722403412)

**Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**DRAFT**

**STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)**

The Alabama Department of Transportation and the West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold eight public meetings to gather input regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The meetings are scheduled for the same place and time as the RPO meetings.

[STIP Brochure](#)

# ALDOT

Alabama Department of Transportation



## STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

### What is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)?

The STIP identifies the statewide transportation projects which will utilize federal funding. Each project in the STIP includes the amount of funding and scheduling information. This four-year program includes state, county, city, Federal Lands, and Tribal projects.

Project types include roadway, bridge and other modes of transportation such as railroad, freight, public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian. Projects must be approved on the STIP in order to receive federal funds.

### How and when is the STIP Prepared?

The STIP is updated every four years. Projects can be included in the program only if their funding is reasonably expected to be available and can be balanced against available funds. It is an involved process and is coordinated with various entities at the local, state, and federal levels. The process can take up to nine months.

Amendments to the STIP are performed bimonthly and administration modifications are made on an as needed basis. This program is developed in accordance with the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) and applicable federal regulations.

**Get  
Involved!**

Public involvement is crucial to the development of a STIP that will best meet the ongoing transportation needs of the state. It provides a road map for assuring that everyone's voice is not only heard, but that it makes a difference in moving Alabama forward.

For more information on the STIP and how you can be involved, please visit <https://www.dot.state.al.us/news/publicinvolvement.html>



**West Alabama Regional Commission**  
Published by Michelle Carter · April 3 ·

We are working with ALDOT - Alabama Department of Transportation to host their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public meetings with our regular Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meetings in April/May.

**Edit**

1

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

# ALDOT

Alabama Department of Transportation



## What is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)?

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westalregionalcommission



westalregionalcommission We are working with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to host their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public meetings with our regular Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meetings in April/May.

7w



1 like

APRIL 3



Add a comment...

Post



WARC @WestAlaRegional · Apr 3

We are working with the Alabama Dept. of Transportation to host their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public meetings with our regular Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meetings in April/May.



**What is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)?**

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**You might like**



Adam Morgan

@\_Adam\_M... Follows you



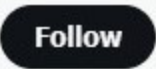
Community Soup Bowl

@soupbowl... Follows you



@lep buddy

@lep buddy Follows you



Show more

**What's happening**

NBA · Last night  
**Nuggets at Lakers**



Trending in United States  
**Penny Marshall**



Trending in United States  
**#TongueOutTuesday**



1,793 Tweets

Hale County CTAC  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**  
Moundville Library

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

The next Hale County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 18, 2023.

Lamar County CTAC  
**Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
Vernon City Hall

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

**The next Lamar County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 20, 2023.**

Bibb County CTAC  
**Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
Brent City Hall

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

The next Bibb County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 24, 2023.



Fayette County CTAC  
**Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**  
Fayette County Commission

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

The next Fayette County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 25, 2023.

Greene County CTAC  
**Wednesday, April 25, 2023, 11:00 a.m.**  
Eutaw Public Library

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

**The next Greene County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 26, 2023.**

Pickens County CTAC  
**Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**  
Pickens County Commission

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-3) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 4)
  - b. Safety discussion
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 5)
  - d. Community Report (Page 6-9)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 10-12)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 13-14 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

The next Pickens County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be on  
July 27, 2023.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)  
Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
West Alabama Regional Commission

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-4) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. Policy Committee Action Report (Page 5)
  - b. Safety discussion
    - New Observations
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 6)
  - d. Community Report (Page 7-10)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 11-13)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 14-15 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
10. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

The next Technical Coordinating Committee meeting will be on  
August 10, 2023 at WARC in Northport.

West Alabama Rural Planning Organization  
Policy Committee  
Friday, May 5, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.  
West Alabama Regional Commission

**AGENDA**

1. Public Meeting for the Alabama Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027
2. Call to order
3. Roll call (Sign-In Sheet)
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (Pages 2-4) (Action required)
5. Communications from the presiding officer
6. Report of officers and committees
  - a. CTAC and TCC attendance reports (Pages 5-6)
  - b. Safety discussion
    - New Observations
  - c. Tuscaloosa Area MPO report (Page 7)
  - d. Community Report (Page 8-11)
  - e. Project status report (Pages 12-14)
  - f. Environmental and social maps and databases
    - RPO STIP Projects (Separate document)
7. Old Business
  - Items as needed
8. New Business
  - a. West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024 - Draft review (Page 15-16 and Separate Document) (Action required)
  - b. Verify next meeting date and time
  - c. Other items as needed
9. Presentation: Presentation will be the ALDOT STIP public meeting at the beginning of the meeting
10. Invitation to interested persons regarding matters not included on the agenda
11. Adjournment (Time: \_\_\_\_\_)

**The next RPO Policy Committee meeting will be on  
August 11, 2023 at WARC in Northport.**

## **Appendix C**

### **Newspaper Articles and Notices**

The following pages are newspaper articles or notices that were published for the public meetings held in the West Alabama RPO Planning Area.

## Crime & Justice Report

### Arrests

Stephanie Price Aldridge, 51, of Kennedy, was arrested\* in Fayette County on April 12, 2023 and released on bond. She is charged with Theft of Property 1st, Insurance Fraud 1st and Financial Exploitation of Elderly Person.



Matthew J. Wagner, 35, was arrested\* April 26, 2023 by Millport Police for Possession of Controlled Substance (Alprazolam), Possession of Marijuana 2nd, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Promoting Prison Contraband.

Markel Harris, 27, of Millport was arrested\* on April 26, 2023 for Possession of Prescription Drugs (Gabapentin), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Attempt to Elude, along with several traffic citations.

\*All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Parole Hearings

The Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles held 28 parole hearings Wednesday, April 26, granting eight paroles and denying 20. The Board continued three paroles to a later date. The Board also held 16 hearings on requests for pardons, granting 12 and denying four. Following are the parole decisions related to crimes in Lamar County.

Krystyn Blair Vice was granted parole after serving almost 14 months. She was sentenced on October 18, 2022 to serve seven consecutive years for Distribution of a Controlled Substance.



She was in minimum-out custody at Tutwiler Annex which is suitable for inmates who do not pose a significant risk to self or others and suitable to be assigned off-property work details without the direct supervision of correctional officers. Inmates must remain in prison clothing at all times and work is generally assigned to only government positions (i.e., city, county, ADOC, ADOT, etc.).

Tanya Nicole Vanwinkle, who is in minimum-out custody at Tutwiler Annex, was denied parole after serving a little over 13 months. She was admitted on October 18, 2022 and sentenced to seven consecutive years for Distribution of a Controlled Substance. In April 2022, she was sentenced to 45 days for a probation dunk.



Roger Everett Sprinkle was charged for Criminal Mischief, Receiving Stolen Property and Possession of a Controlled Substance in Marion County from 2012 to 2017. On April 12, 2021, he was sentenced to 15 consecutive years for Burglary III committed in Lamar County. Having served about 29 months, his parole consideration date was March 1, 2023 but no hearing held.



Construction continues at the city pool

## Improvements Continue at Vernon City Park

By Jennifer Lucas Mason

The Vernon City Council met Monday, May 1, 2023, with the following in attendance: Mayor Glenn Crawford; Councilors Pam Duncan, Glen Bardon, Wienn Prescott, Mike Gideon and Cathy Wharton; and City Clerk Don Dollar.

Following the invocation that was given by Councilor Prescott, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crawford welcomed everyone and started the meeting with the need to approve minutes. Prior to the meeting City Clerk Dollar had emailed a copy of the minutes from the April 3rd meeting to each councilor. Councilor Gideon made the motion to approve the minutes with no changes and Duncan seconded the motion.

The current invoices needing payment were the next item presented to the council. City Clerk Dollar had also emailed copies of the invoices to the council for review prior to the meeting. After a few moments of review, Councilor Prescott made the motion to approve payment and Gideon seconded the motion.

City Clerk Dollar opened the one bid that was received for the dash cameras for the police department. Pro Vision submitted a bid of \$43,450.00 for ten cameras for the cruisers. The bid did not include labor costs for installation. The council voted to accept the bid under advisement until they can find out about labor costs.

Mayor Crawford informed the council that he and Dollar are preparing a bid for concrete projects that need to be done throughout the city. To stay in compliance with the grant that was received to build the new swimming pool, a basketball and tennis court must be built. Several areas are being discussed for the basketball court and the old swimming pool will be used for the tennis court.

The Rescue building needs updated door closers. The aging closers are used continuously with the ambulance coming and going to calls. The doors sometimes do not close all the way and the ambulance crew does not have time to stop and close them manually. S&K Doors from Starkville has quoted \$1,500.00 per door (there are two) that includes a timer feature for opening and closing the doors. Councilor Bardon made the motion to approve the updated door closers and Wharton seconded the motion.

Councilor department reports are as follows: Pam Duncan: Stanley is looking at a 2014 International Dump Truck to purchase. He and his crew are helping at the park, brush and junk pick-up continue. The blue truck has been repaired and will go into rotation for cutting the right of ways.

Glen Bardon: Everything looks good with the sales tax report for April. Mayor Crawford updated the coun-

See VERNON Page 4

## Vernon Water Sewer Employee to Retire

By Jennifer Mason

The Vernon Water and Sewer Board met Thursday, April 27, 2023 with all members present. Jeff Randolph chairs the board that consists of Jane Burnett, James Morton, Glenn Butler and James Rogers.

Chairman Randolph started the meeting by presenting the board with the minutes, bills, and financials. Jane Burnett made a motion to approve with James Morton seconding the motion.

There were four bill adjustments this month for water leaks. Glenn Butler made a motion to approve as per board policy and James Rogers seconded the motion.

Randolph said the Municipal Wastewater Planning Program report is in. After the board reviewed the report, he requested a motion to approve, and he would sign off on the resolution. Morton made a motion to approve and Burnett seconded the motion.

The parking lot behind their former office, currently occupied by Dixie Transport, will be repaired by building up the foundation with dirt and then laying concrete back down.

Larry Leonard, a longtime employee at the treatment plant, is retiring, effective July 6th.

A needed part has been ordered to repair the pump station. It could possibly take a couple of months before the part comes in and the station can be repaired.

With no further business, the board voted to adjourn.



## Sulligent Adopts Resolution, Discusses

By Bill Mason

The Sulligent City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 1, 2023. Present for the meeting were Mayor Scott Boman, City Manager Bradley Long, Councilors Robert Turner, Teri Johnson, Danny Hollis, Shae Taylor, and Ralph Northington.

The invocation was led by Supt. Murray R. Johnson from the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group at large.

See SULLIGENT Page 4



Councilors get update on street projects

## Kennedy Council: ACTS Solution Group is Business of Month

In the absence of Mayor Jackie Mitchell, Councilor Jimmy Thomas opened Monday night's council meeting which began with the routine business of minutes and invoices being approved.

The town is interested in getting a special swing for the park that would accommodate a wheelchair. After discussion at a previous meeting, the

See KENNEDY Page 4

## CTAC: Bogue and Buttahatchee Bridges Remain on ALDOT Schedule

By Renee Reeves

The Lamar County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) met on April 20, 2023 at Vernon City Hall where Chairman Al Elbert opened the meeting and turned the floor over to Zane Davis of West Alabama Regional Commission.



Wallace McAdory and Lyndi Blackburn of Alabama Department of Transportation look at project report



Clockwise are Zane Davis, WARC; Wallace McAdory and Lyndi Blackburn, ALDOT; Lane Gilliam, CTAC member; Al Elbert, CTAC chair; Mayor Glenn Crawford, CTAC member Wayne Baines; Chris Wriley, WARC and not pictured, Allen Chandler

See CTAC Page 5

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Have an event for What's Happening?

The first 30 words are FREE and each additional word is only 10 cents per week. Need more space? Ask us about a display ad to promote your event.

### Spring Recital

Students of Rhonda Landry will have a recital, May 7, at 2:30 pm at the First Baptist Church in Fayette. Everyone welcome.

### Indian Artifacts Show

Saturday, June 3 from 9am-2pm at the Fayette Boy Scouts Building. Free admission, cash door prizes. For more information call Danny Hutcherson at 205-662-4731.

### Car Show

The Ole School Cruisers will host a car show on Saturday, May 13 at the Vernon City Complex from 8am-until.

### Cogongrass Workshop

Invasive Cogongrass Workshop at the Lamar County Extension Office, 281 Columbus Ave. NW, Vernon, on Wednesday, May 10, 11am - 1 pm. Learn how to identify and manage highly invasive cogongrass along with a few other common invasive plants. For any interested parties, landowners, foresters or farmers. Call (205) 695-7139 or go to [www.aces.edu/event/lamar-county-cogongrass-training](http://www.aces.edu/event/lamar-county-cogongrass-training) to register. If you have accessibility needs, please contact Susan, 205-695-7139, ASAP. Lunch provided.

### Smith District Conference

The Smith District Conference will be May 3- May 5 at New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, 414 Wolf Road East Rd, Sulligent at 7:00 p.m. nightly. There will also be a day Session on Thursday May 4 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Computer Classes

Beginner Computer Classes are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month

4:30-5:30 pm at the Mary Wallace Cobb Library. Four spaces are available. Call 205-695-6123 for more information.

### Mary Wallace Cobb Library Reading Program

Summer Reading Schedule: June 6th-Tommy Johns 12:30 pm; June 13th-Tickled Pink Petting Zoo 12:30 pm; June 19th Mr. Rich Super Science 11:00 am; June 27th Didgeridoo Down Under 12:45 pm; Registration Begins May 1st and ends June 1st. Ages 4-12. Must be registered to attend. Call 205-695-6123 for details.

### GED Classes

Bevill State Community College Adult Education Program is holding GED classes in Vernon on Monday and Thursday from 4pm to 8pm. Call Marsha Graham at 205-695-6123 for more information.

### 877th Engineer Battalion Reunion

20th Anniversary of the 877th EN BN's deployment to Iraq at Guthrie Smith Park in Fayette, AL. May 20 from 10am-2pm. For more information call CSM Skippy Hocutt at 205-932-6025.

### Homecoming Services

Andrews Chapel will have a Homecoming Services, May 7 at 11am. Lunch on the grounds, following the service. Church will provide plates, napkins, utensils and drinks.

### Weldy Home for Girls Annual Charity Dinner

May 12th at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn in Guin, AL. Tickets are \$500 each. Call Monica Chandler at 205-487-2265. For more information.

### Pop Top Tabs Collection

The Lamar County Farmer's Federation Women's Committee is collecting pop tabs until December 1, 2023. Tabs can be turned into the ALFA Insurance office in Vernon. Call Brenda Jagers for more information.

at 205-695-3011.

### Lamar County 4-H Homeschool Club

Free monthly meetings at the Lamar County Extension Office, ages: 5-12. Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Contact the Lamar County Extension Office to join at 205-695-7139.

### Republican Party Monthly Meeting

The Lamar County Republican Party meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the City Complex. Everyone is welcomed to come join us.

### Kids & Kin of Lamar County

Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00 Lamar Co Extension Office 281 Columbus Ave NW Vernon, AL 35592. May 9- Shaken Baby Syndrome; May 16 How to Protect Children from Household Poisons; June 13-Plant Your Socks; June 20- Wild, Wild, Wind. Tammy Ross 205.535.0718 or [Tross@familyguidancecenter.org](mailto:Tross@familyguidancecenter.org)

### Storytime at Vernon Library

Mary Wallace Cobb Memorial Library (Vernon City Library) invites children ages 3 and up to Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The library is located at 44425 Hwy 17. Call 205.695.6123 for more information.

### West Alabama Radio Club

Meetings 2nd Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m. at Lamar Co. EOC. For more information Richard McDonald at 662-574-8006.

### Celebrating Recovery- It's an Amazing Adventure!

This faith-focused program gives you the help and encouragement you need to start the road to recovery. Grace Methodist Church 250 1st St. NE each Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

### TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

There's still time to get in shape for summer! Join our friendly TOPS group at the County Extension Office, 281 Columbus Ave. NW on

Mondays- 4:30 to 6:00pm. Call Brenda at 205-431-5883.

### Cemetery Notices

**Have a cemetery notice?**  
The first 30 words are FREE and each additional word is only 10 cents per week. Need more space? Ask us about a display ad to promote your event.

### Springhill Baptist Church Cemetery-Millport

The annual meeting is May 13, at 6:00 pm at Springhill Baptist Church. Donations will be accepted at the cemetery pavilion May 13 & Decoration Day May 14 or can be sent to Springhill Cemetery Fund c/o Larry Robertson, 376 Springhill Rd, Millport, AL 35576. 5/4,11

### Bethel Cemetery Notice

To those that have loved ones buried at Bethel Cemetery Vernon, AL. All flowers need to be removed by April 28, 2023 for Decoration Day which will be May 14, 2023. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be sent to: Bethel Cemetery Fund, 1044 Old Hwy 18 Vernon, AL 35592. For more information call 205-712-0546. 4/20,27 & 5/4,11

### Andrews Chapel Community Cemetery

Cemetery Meeting on May 6 at 10am, 4050 Liberty Road, Ethelsville, AL. For more information 205-662-5304.

### Corinth Baptist Church

Annual business meeting will be held at the cemetery on Saturday, May 13 at 2pm. All flowers need to be removed by May 1, in preparation of decoration, which will be on May 14. Thank you for your cooperation. Donations may be made to: Alicia Pinkerton- Corinth Cemetery Fund, 4371 Aberdeen Road, Vernon, AL 35592. 4/15,20,27&5/4,11

### Furnace Hill Cemetery

Decoration is May 7, 2023.

## CTAC

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sion (WARC).

Davis explained that the Regional Planning Organization (RPO), of which CTAC is a sub-committee, allows citizens to play an advisory role in the transportation planning process. CTAC is the public involvement part of the process where local officials and citizens can review documents and ongoing projects. They meet four times a year, three in Lamar County and once at the WARC office in Northport.

The four voting members from Lamar County are Al Elbert, chairman,

and board members Wayne Baines, Lane Gilliam, and Wayne Christian.

Every four years Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) must compile their statewide transportation improvement program (STIP) and they have partnered with RPO as part of their public involvement process.

For this reason, William McAdory, ALDOT region engineer, and Lyndi Blackburn, ALDOT assistant region engineer, were present for the public meeting for the 2024-2027 STIP, which was the first item on the agenda.

They looked at the STIP projects for Lamar County which included railroad crossing improvements to increase safety with active and passive warning devices.

The second project is the bridge replacement over Bogue Creek on SR-118/US-278 was authorized in 2019. At this time, they are getting their consultant on board for the scope review and have had some surveys done. The hydraulic submitted indicates they may be able to use culverts to replace the bridges and facilitate construction. Right now, their scheduled letting date is June 2024 but may not happen that soon.

Al Elbert states that it is anticipated that US-278 is going to have a huge increase in truck traffic due to industry in the area. He also mentioned that the city has a pedestrian bridge or walkway and will need to be included.

Another project is drainage improvements, including sidewalk and driveway replacement on US-278 from Elm Street to outfall ditch in Sulligent. Along with this, there may be some off-site issues such as trees obstructing draining that need to be resolved to help the project.

One of the huge projects is replacement of the bridges over Buttahatchee River on SR-17, the five bridges north of Sulligent. Blackburn said they should authorize work on the preliminary engineering in 2024, right of way in 2025, utilities in 2027 and construction in 2028.

Elbert asked if there is a way the local committee could stay more informed about the projects to be able to provide accurate information when asked. He wants citizens to have confidence when commitments are made and possibly this will cause them to be more involved in meetings.

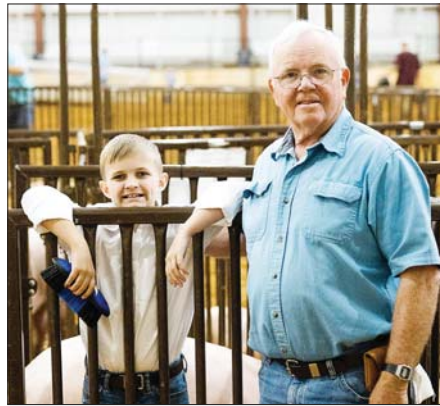
Davis said there will be other projects in Lamar County going forward in the next few years.

Blackburn said there are some resurfacing projects that are not included.

Mayor Glenn Crawford asked about resurfacing a section of SR-17. It started in Millport and will go through Vernon but a rough section a couple of miles south of Vernon was not included in the plan. The mayor's later conversation with McAdory gives him confidence they will find a way to include it.

After the public meeting, the minutes of the last CTAC meeting were ap-

## Troy Prater Wins at Pig Squeal



Northwest Alabama 4-H Pig Squeal Show & Auction was held on April 28, 2023 at the Fayette County Multipurpose Complex where the results of hard work and dedication of all involved made it a successful event. Congratulations to all the participants with special congratulations to Lamar County 4-H'er Troy Prater who won 1st Place Supreme Showman Champion, 1st Place Market Class (275+) and 3rd Place Overall.

proved as presented.

The RPO Policy Committee elected officers. Fayette Mayor Rod Northam and Lamar County Commissioner Jeff Long were elected as chair and vice-chair.

They discussed the community report which lists happenings reported in newspapers such as grants, projects, and new businesses.

The project status report lists projects by county some not mentioned during the public meeting are leveling Aberdeen Road near bridge over Wilson Creek to be done by the county as major work items is the

well as a project still tentative at this time that will patch, surface treat, stripes, and mark Fernbank Road on the Mississippi line to Mud Creek Road.

There are two projects funded by Rebuild Alabama. Hatley Detroit Road/Sipsey Fork Road is to be patched, surface treated, striped, and marked but is still to be let. Scheduled to be let this summer is the same improvements on Conk-

lan Road. Davis reviewed the highlights of the Fiscal Year 2024 RPO Work Program. One of the public is encouraged to attend.

West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan. The report also listed the WARC budget to be \$81,250 which is 80% federal and 20% local, and the budget is the same as last year. There is no planned equipment replacement.

The committee passed a motion to approve the draft of the West Alabama RPO Work Program Fiscal Year 2024.

Before adjourning, it was noted that the next CTAC meeting will be at the Vernon City Hall on July 20, 2023 and the public is encouraged to attend.

**Thank You**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE PHONE CALLS, MESSAGES, VISITS AND PRAYERS DURING OUR TIME OF LOSS.

THANK YOU FOR FOOD, GIFTS, CARDS AND FLOWERS BOUGHT.

SPECIAL THANKS TO BRO. JASON CLIFTON AND TCOMMUNITY CHURCH IN SULLIGENT FOR THE MEAL PROVIDED TO OUR FAMILY.

THANK YOU TO DANNY OTTS AND THE STAFF FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SERVICE.

ALSO, SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CLASS OF '67 WHO SENT FLOWERS AND CAME TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILY.

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

**FAMILY OF THOMAS D. LUCAS**

Accepting Applications for

**1, 2 & 3 BR Apartments**

**Vernon Housing Authority**  
230 Strickland Circle  
Vernon, AL 35592  
205-695-7122



## James Hubert Brown

January 15, 1943 - April 6, 2023

Mr. James Hubert Brown, age 80, of Vernon, AL, passed away Thursday, April 6, 2023, at North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice in Tupelo.

Mr. Brown was born January 15, 1943, in Oneonta, AL, to the late Elton and Nancy Ellen Brown. He served and retired from the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Wade Brown.



Funeral services were Sunday, April 9, at 2:00 PM, in the chapel of Chandler Funeral Home, with Bro. Wayne Overton and Bro. David Traywick officiating. Burial followed at Furnace Hill. Visitation was 1:00-2:00 prior to the service.

Pallbearers were Matt Gallop, Rob Biggers, Preston Traywick, Logan Merchant, Joey Lewis, and Robert McDonald.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, JoAnn Leavins Brown; two sons, Timothy (Jana) Brown and Ricky (Jan) Lewis; two daughters, Natalee Brundage and Debbie (Terry) DuBose; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.chandlerfh.net](http://www.chandlerfh.net).

## Lamar County Schools Lunch Menu

- Wednesday, April 12 - Chicken Dippers, Waffle Fries, Baked Beans, Roll, Banana
- Thursday, April 13 - Taco, Garden Salad, Refried Beans, Brown Rice\*, Corn, Baked Apples
- Friday, April 14 - Cheeseburger, Lettuce & Tomato, Chips, Cherry Tomatoes, Peaches, Chocolate Chip Muffin
- Monday, April 17 - Chicken Nuggets, Glazed Carrots, French Fries, Roll, Applesauce Cup
- Tuesday, April 18 - Cheese Stix w/ Sauce or Pepperoni Lunchable, Garden Salad, Broccoli w/ Cheese, Orange
- Wednesday, April 19 - Country Steak, Macaroni & Cheese, Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch, Pinto Beans/Black Eyed Peas, Roll, Banana

\* - 9th-12th Grades ONLY!

*If you would like to place a "Thank You" or "Remembrance Box" in the Lamar Leader the cost is \$20. For more info, call 205-712-0210*

## West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) to Meet at Vernon City Hall

The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO) will hold the following meetings:

1. Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
  - A. Bibb County - April 24, 2023, 6:00 p.m. - Brent City Hall, 22 1st Street, Brent, AL
  - B. Fayette County - April 25, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Fayette County Commission Chamber, 103 1st Avenue NW, Fayette, AL
  - C. Greene County - April 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - James C. Poole Library, 219 Prairie Avenue, Eutaw, AL
  - D. Hale County - April 18, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Moundville Library, 279 Market Street, Moundville, AL
  - E. Lamar County - April 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. -- Vernon City Hall, 44425 Highway 17, Vernon, AL
  - F. Pickens County - April 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - Pickens County Commission, 20 Phoenix Ave, Carrollton, AL
2. Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), May 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL. Also available virtually.
3. RPO Policy Committee, May 5, 2023, 10:30 a.m. - West Alabama Regional Commission, 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL. Also available virtually.

If you would like to participate, please email [zane.davis@westal.org](mailto:zane.davis@westal.org) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A public involvement meeting for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be held at the beginning of each committee meeting. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is seeking public comment on the proposed STIP, which includes a listing of specific transportation projects that will be funded during the next four years. ALDOT and RPO staff will be available to discuss planning efforts and answer questions.

The committees will discuss the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Fiscal Year 2024 RPO Work Program at the meetings.

The RPO serves as a transportation planning process for the rural areas of west Alabama and provides a formal link between the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the local governments. The counties served by the RPO include Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, and Pickens. The RPO provides government officials and citizens in these counties an opportunity to advise the ALDOT on road, bridge, and transit projects.

All of the 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.