

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SAMUEL GINN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Auburn University Transportation Research Institute

Highway Research Center

Alabama Transportation Assistance Program



FEBRUARY 4-5, 2026

Program Developed By:

Alabama Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

Auburn University

Alabama Road Builders Association

Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association

Alabama Concrete Industries Association

American Society of Civil Engineers, Alabama Section

Association of County Engineers of Alabama

Institute of Transportation Engineers, Alabama Section

American Council of Engineering Companies of Alabama

Alabama Bridge Contractors Association

Precast / Pre-Stressed Concrete Institute, Gulf South Region

About The Conference

The Auburn University Transportation Research Institute and the Program Committee have designed the 69th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference for federal and state highway personnel, road building contractors, utility contractors, city and county engineers, consulting engineers, construction material vendors, researchers, professional society representatives, and university faculty members. It provides an opportunity for these individuals to share innovative advances in transportation planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance.

Technical sessions, sit-down luncheons, welcome reception, and breaks will be provided to create a forum for the exchange of ideas between transportation engineering and construction professionals. The conference will also include an Exhibit Hall with many exhibitors that will enhance learning and provide additional networking opportunities for all participants.

Location & Schedule

The conference will be held at the Von Braun Center, at 700 Monroe St SW, in Huntsville, AL.

Final registration and check-in will be held from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, in the room across from Saturn Ballroom 2. The Opening General Session begins at 10:30 am in the Concert Hall. The conference will adjourn Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

Registration & Fees

The registration fee includes all sessions, program materials, refreshment breaks, exhibits, welcome reception, and luncheons. **Begin the registration process.**

Fees:

- Early Bird Registration: \$300.00 (ends December 31, 2025)
- Regular Registration: \$350.00
- Walk-In Registration: \$400.00
- Retired ALDOT & Retired County Engineers: \$50.00
- Grad Student Registration: \$50.00

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Trilog Hotel, and AC Hotel in Huntsville. Reservations can be made at these locations through Monday, January 5, 2026, or until full. **Make your hotel reservation.**

Cancellation Policy

Due to commitments to our speakers and facilities, the registration fee is non-refundable if a registrant withdraws less than five business days before the program starts. Substitutions may be made at any time, please notify us in advance if possible. No-shows will be liable for the entire conference fee. Auburn University reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient registrations. This decision is usually made no later than five business days prior to the event. If a program is canceled for any reason, all fees will be refunded. Auburn University will not be responsible for travel expenses incurred by a registrant because of a canceled program.

Professional Development Hours

Participants in this conference will be able to attend eight (8) hours of technical programs. Auburn University makes every effort to ensure that its technical programs conform to the requirements of the State of Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for the award of Professional Development Hours to support the annual renewal of professional licensure.

Participants with Disabilities

It is the policy of Auburn University to provide accessibility to its programs and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as having disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Please contact us at least two weeks prior to the program so that proper consideration can be given to any special needs.

Conference Presentations

PDF versions of the presentations can be obtained by the attendees by contacting the Alabama Transportation Assistance program via email at atap@auburn.edu , contingent on presenter approval.

Program Committee

Alabama Department of Transportation

John R. Cooper
Edward Austin
George Conner
Willie Bradley
Bill Patty
Matt Leverette

Clay McBrien
Stan Biddick
Joe Lister
Kidada Dixon
Brad Lindsey
Philip Shamburger

Frank Farmer
Eric Christie
Scott George
Stacey Glass
Brad Williams
John-Michael Walker

Federal Highway Administration

Mark Bartlett and Kristy Harris
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Section, ASCE

Taylor Janney
Montgomery, Alabama

Association of County Engineers of Alabama

Robert Nail
Gadsden, Alabama

Institute of Transportation Engineers, Alabama Section

Kerry NeSmith
Millbrook, Alabama

Americal Council of Engineering Companies of Alabama

Renée Casillas
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Road Builders Association

Skip Powe
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association

Mel Monk
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Concrete Industries Association

John Sorrell
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama Bridge Contractors Association

Clay McInnis
Montgomery, Alabama

Precast / Pre-Stressed Concrete Institute, Gulf South Region

Dan Eckenrode
Gulfport, Mississippi

Auburn University

Brian Anderson
Hollis Marshall
Tyler Mitchell
Larry Rilett
Carla Story

Rod Turochy
Andy Nowak
Cameron Farr
Mike Perez
Hugo Zhou

Scott Tison
Anton Schindler
Matt Yarnold

2026 Conference Program

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

- 8:30 am **Registration and Exhibit Hall Open**
- 10:30 am **Opening General Session** – Concert Hall
Presiding: Dr. Anton Schindler, Professor and HRC Director, Auburn University
- Opening Remarks**
- Past, Present, and Future of Huntsville**
By Mayor Thomas “Tommy” Battle, Jr.
City of Huntsville, Huntsville, AL
- Advancing Our Transportation System**
By Sean McMaster (Invited)
FHWA Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, Washington, D.C.
- 12:10 pm **Governor’s Luncheon** – Saturn Ballroom
Presiding: Dr. Larry Rilett, Professor and AUTRI Director, Auburn University
- The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor** (Invited)
State of Alabama
- 1:30 pm **Concurrent Technical Sessions**
- 3:00 pm **Break** – East Hall 2
- 3:30 pm **Concurrent Technical Sessions**
- 5:00 pm **Welcome Reception** – East Hall 2
- 6:30 pm **Adjourn and Exhibit Hall Closes**

Thursday, February 5, 2026

- 7:30 am **Exhibit Halls Opens**
- 8:30 am **Concurrent Technical Sessions**
- 10:00 am **Break** – East Hall 2
- 10:30 am **Concurrent Technical Sessions**
- 12:10 pm **Transportation Director’s Luncheon** – Saturn Ballroom
Presiding: Dr. David Timm, Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Auburn University
- John R. Cooper, Transportation Director**
Alabama Department of Transportation
- AASHTO 25-Year Awards of Meritorious Service**
- 1:30 pm **Adjourn and Exhibit Hall Closes**

Sponsorships / Exhibitors

Exhibitors from a wide range of transportation-related fields are expected to attend. Exhibits will be in East Hall 2 where refreshment breaks, and the Welcome Reception will be served. Prospective exhibitors must register for an exhibit booth before January 17, 2026. Sponsorship opportunities are available as well. Potential sponsorship items include conference notebook, pocket LED flashlight, USB-C charging cable, or food sponsor. The sponsored items are available until January 3, 2026, and the food sponsor will remain open until January 17, 2026. **[Begin the exhibitor or sponsor registration process.](#)**

Parking

For attendees staying outside of the contracted hotel blocks, several off-site parking solutions are provided. The Von Braun Center's available options are listed below. Please note: the charge for all listed parking options is \$15.00 per day. **[Access the latest and most up-to-date parking map.](#)**

- Saturn Ballroom Parking Lot (P1)
- South Hall Parking Garage (P2)
- East Parking Lot / Box Office (P3)
- Parking Lot V (P5)

The City of Huntsville also offers additional parking options. Both have an associated parking fee as well.

- Monroe Street City Parking Garage (P4)
- Parking Lot K (P5)

Von Braun Center Map

A detailed facility map will be included at the conclusion of this brochure packet. This map is designed to help you navigate the venue quickly and efficiently, ensuring you don't miss any sessions, workshops, or networking opportunities. Key locations such as registration desks, session rooms, restrooms, dining areas, and exhibition hall are clearly marked.

For your convenience, there will also be a version of the facility map on our website. **[Access the digital map for easy viewing on your mobile device.](#)**

Conference Session Schedule

Wednesday, February 4 | 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Construction

Meeting Room: Concert Hall

Presiding: Dudley Smith, Deputy State Construction Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Birmingham Northern Beltline Project Update

By Gary Smith, ALDOT East Central Region, Birmingham, AL

Update on West Alabama Highway Project and Accelerated Construction

By Frank Anderson, Brasfield and Gorrie, Birmingham, AL

Waterway Bridge Construction Update

By Fred Brown, Volkert, Inc. Pensacola, FL

Traffic Operations and Roadway Design

Meeting Room: East Hall 1

Presiding: Kerry NeSmith, President, Alabama Section ITE

A Roundabout Solution to Wrong-Way Maneuvers

By Tony Montanaro, Sain Associates, Birmingham, AL

Diverging into the Future: The I-20/59 at McAshan Dr. DDI Conversion

By Steven Schwantes, AECOM, Birmingham, AL

Guidelines for Traffic Analysis of Alternative Intersections

By Hugo Zhou, Ph.D., Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Asphalt: GenAI, Design, and Test Track

Meeting Room: East Hall 3

Presiding: Mel Monk, Executive Director, Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association, Montgomery, AL

Verify Then Trust: Rethinking Quality Assurance in the Era of GenAI

By Michael Copeland, Idaho Transportation Department, Boise, ID

Precision in Pavement – Maximum Thickness Design for Alabama Asphalt Pavements

By David Timm, Ph.D., Auburn University, Auburn, AL

From Alabama to America's Roads: 25 Years of the NCAT Test Track

By Nathan Moore, NCAT, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Conference Session Schedule

Wednesday, February 4 | 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Bridges

Meeting Room: Concert Hall

Presiding: Brad Williams, State Bridge Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Hurricane Helene Emergency Response Plan

By Ted Kniazewycz, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Nashville, TN

Alternative Bridge Construction Delivery

By Donald McCrary, Gresham Smith, Nashville, TN

Update on the Main-Span Design of the Mobile River Bridge

By Wally Jordan, Kiewit Engineering Group, Apex, NC

Road Safety

Meeting Room: East Hall 1

Presiding: Stan Biddick, State Design Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) Collection Update

By Brette Grant, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Enhancing Safety with Automated Tools: Kentucky's Embankment Study Pilot Program

By Mike Vaughn, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Frankfort, KY

Troy's US-231: Progress Ahead by Access Management

By Aaron White, ALDOT, Troy, AL

Transportation Stormwater Management

Meeting Room: East Hall 3

Presiding: Nick Franklin, Environmental Permitting Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Approach and Benefits of the Pre-Construction Observations for Highway Projects

By Steve Newton, Ph.D., TTL, Hoover, AL

Developing a State-Wide Construction Stormwater Designer Certification Program

By Wes Donald, Ph.D., Auburn University, AL

ALDOT's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program

By Scott Rogers, Ph.D., ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Conference Session Schedule

Thursday, February 5 | 8:30 to 10:00 am

Maintenance

Meeting Room: Concert Hall

Presiding: Eric Christie, State Maintenance Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

I-65 Tennessee River Bridge Rehabilitation

By Chris Moon, ALDOT, Tuscumbia, AL

From Heat to Harm: Assessing Fire Damage in Reinforced Concrete Bridge Decks

By Sriram Aaleti, Ph.D., The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

ALDOT's Alabama Service Assistance Patrol (ASAP) Program

By Brett Sellers, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Geo-Structural Deep Foundation Testing

Meeting Room: East Hall 1

Presiding: Kaye Chancellor Davis, Deputy State Materials and Tests Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Coupled and Uncoupled Torsion and Lateral Load Tests on Drilled Shafts in Sand

By Chukwuma Okafor, Olga Rojas, and Brian Anderson, Ph.D., Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Driven Pile Load Testing Best Practices and Case Histories

By Andy Carroll and Chuck Davis, Scott Bridge Company, Opelika, AL

Driven Pile Splice Experience at LA1

By Jesse Rauser, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, LA

Funding Our Transportation Infrastructure

Meeting Room: East Hall 3

Presiding: Michael Hora, Deputy State Office Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Outlook on Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Federal Funding

By Joung Lee, AASHTO, Washington, D.C.

Update from Washington: Status and Outlook for Federal Transportation Funding Policy

By Matt Reiffer, American Council of Engineering Companies, Washington, D.C.

Transportation Construction Cost Drivers

By Rich Juliano, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Washington, D.C. and
Tony Boals, Wright Brothers Construction Company, Signal Mountain, TN

Conference Session Schedule

Thursday, February 5 | 10:30 am to 12:00 pm (Noon)

City and County Engineering

Meeting Room: Concert Hall

Presiding: Robert Nail, President, Association of County Engineers of Alabama

Programs of Local Interest Overview and Updates

By LeeAnn Williams, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

30 Cubed: Building Partnerships Beyond Boundaries

By Frank Lundy, Baldwin County, Robertsedale, AL

Mobile County Transportation Pay as You Go Program

By Kim Sanderson, Mobile County, Mobile, AL

Concrete Solutions

Meeting Room: East Hall 1

Presiding: Scott George, State Materials and Tests Engineer, ALDOT, Montgomery, AL

Construction of the Delaware Memorial Bridge Overlay with Ultra-High-Performance Concrete (UHPC)

By Peter Seibert and John McFadden, UHPC Solutions, Farmingdale, NY

Utilization of Concrete Products on the Red Mountain Expressway Reconstruction

By Will Gray, A.G. Peltz Group, Birmingham, AL

Successful Use of Fibers in Bridge Decks

By Eric Campbell, FullForce by ABC Polymer Industries, Carrollton, GA

Multimodal Transportation

Meeting Room: East Hall 3

Presiding: Taylor Janney, President, ASCE Alabama Section

Vision and Challenges of Future Advanced Air Mobility

By Joseph Post, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Pedestrian Safety at RRFB-Enhanced Crosswalks

By Brandy Ezelle, City of Auburn, Auburn, AL

Emerging Technologies for Railway Crossing Safety

By Ernest Tufuor, Ph.D., Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Last Updated: 1/9/2025