Director’s Corner

Welcome to the new newsletter from ATAP, Between the Lines. ATAP’s mission, as Alabama’s Local Technical Assistance Program, has been and continues to be provision of cost-effective training and technical assistance solutions for transportation agencies and other entities that help these agencies get the job done. This newsletter is intended to support you in meeting your mission by keeping you up-to-date on ATAP. For example, as we continue moving toward a post-pandemic normal (whatever that is…), we are again offering in-person workshops. The center’s focus on safety leads us to programming workshops on Temporary Traffic Control and Flagger Training this spring. With National Work Zone Awareness Week coming April 11-15, these workshops are timely. You can expect other workshops beyond safety-themed topics to follow after that. In the newsletter, you will also find a spotlight feature. An overview of the 65th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference fills that space in this edition. Information on another initiative to engage communities in planning for pedestrian facility improvements, Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian in Underserved Communities, is also provided inside. Finally, these are exciting times in transportation. A historic investment at the federal level through the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act passed in 2021, and at the state level through 2019’s Rebuild Alabama Act, afford agencies—and the communities they serve—greater opportunities to improve their infrastructure, and ultimately save time, lives, and money.

ATAP on the Road

Upcoming On Site Training Opportunities

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<th>Temporary Traffic Control</th>
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<td>✓ March 15 Huntsville, AL</td>
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<td>✓ March 23 Montgomery, AL</td>
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Earn 6 PDHs

Earn 4 PDHs

Register at eng.auburn.edu/atap/events
Alabama ranks as one of the 10 most dangerous states in the country for pedestrian deaths. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that Alabama’s pedestrian death rate is over 50% higher than the median for all other states. “2021 saw the most pedestrian fatalities in Alabama in five years,” said Dr. Rod Turochy, ATAP Director. “Drivers are growing more distracted, and sales of SUV and pickups are growing, which means the average vehicle is heavier and taller.” The STEP-UC (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian for Underserved Communities) initiative has developed a model to engage historically underserved communities and empower them to advocate for their pedestrian facility needs, ultimately resulting in improved infrastructure and pedestrian safety. STEP-UC is led by ATAP and the Fifty Fund, a nonprofit with expertise in community engagement focused on making communities safer. This initiative was developed and refined in Troy using an innovative streetbeating approach to engaging the community. For more information and helpful resources on the STEP-UC initiative, visit eng.auburn.edu/atap/step-uc. This website contains useful tools for implementing the STEP-UC model in your community, including a Community Engagement Guide that explains the process for engaging the public, a Walkaround Guide to be used by residents walking their neighborhood, and examples of recommendations reports from the pilot case in Troy.
ATAP Spotlight:
65th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference

The 65th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference was held February 9 - 10, 2022 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. This was the first Alabama Transportation Conference to take place in person since 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. ATAP also chose to accommodate those who were unable to attend in person by offering an asynchronous recorded option of popular sessions that took place in the Montgomery Performing Arts Center. The conference boasted approximately 750 in-person attendees who were able to network with peers, connect with 30 various exhibitors and sponsors, and choose from 40 different technical presentations on a variety of transportation related subjects including traffic operations, asphalt, bridges, highway safety, and innovations in transportation geotechnics. AASHTO President and Secretary of Transportation for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Dr. Shawn Wilson, kicked off the conference during the opening session on Wednesday, February 9 by presenting on the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Honorable Kay Ivey attended the Governor’s Luncheon on Wednesday, presided by Dr. Larry Rilett, Professor and Director of the Auburn University Transportation Research Institute. On Thursday, February 10, John Cooper, Transportation Director of ALDOT, spoke during the Transportation Director’s Luncheon and presented awards to ALDOT employees with 25 years of Meritorious Service. Another notable attendee was Jason Reeves, mayor of Troy, who joined the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities technical session with Kathy Gregory, director of the nonprofit the Fifty Fund, to discuss the STEP-UC program and its implementation in underserved communities in Troy. The ATAP staff would like to thank all attendees, exhibitors, speakers, and moderators for making the 65th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference a success. We look forward to seeing you in February 2023!

“"You are laying the groundwork — literally — for the future."”
- Governor Kay Ivey

“These are some of the most exciting times in transportation that I can remember.”
- Dr. Shawn Wilson

Presenter, Brett Sellers and attendees

Dr. Shawn Wilson

John Cooper, Governor Kay Ivey, and Dr. Larry Rilett
The Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP), Alabama’s LTAP Center, serves state and local transportation and public works agencies, and their consultants and contractors, through training and technical assistance in the areas of safety, infrastructure management, workforce development, and organizational excellence. ATAP, housed within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Auburn University, leverages the resources of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and Auburn University. Auburn University has had the privilege of housing the Local Transportation Assistance Program since its inception in 1983.

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