ALABAMA ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE

October 13-15, 2026

The Lodge at Gulf State Park
21196 E. Beach Boulevard
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

About The Conference

The 2026 Alabama Road Safety Conference is for city engineers, county engineers, public works officials, transportation planners, DOT personnel, and others who are responsible for the design, maintenance, and safety of public roadways. The goal of the conference is to strengthen your knowledge of the available tools, countermeasures, and processes to improve the safety of all roadways. The conference will highlight methods to identify roadway safety issues and appropriate countermeasures. Real world examples and activities will be presented, which will prepare participants to apply the concepts learned to design, operations, and maintenance.

The Conference agenda was developed to emphasize the implementation of the safety processes through all stages of roadway planning, design, and operations through practical guidance specifically geared to improving road safety.

Additional topics include:

- Combating Risky and/or Distracted Driving Behavior
- Safety Technology
- County Safety Projects
- Transportation Planning
- Vulnerable Road Users
- Policy Updates
- Rail / Multi-Modal Safety
- Safety Resources

Participants will learn how to identify safety issues and how to develop and apply low-cost solutions using proven countermeasures. Peer networking during the conference will provide opportunities for discussion of various safety challenges and potential solutions.

Program Committee

John Michael Walker
Design Bureau, ALDOT

Stuart Manson
Design Bureau, ALDOT

Bryan Fair
Local Transportation Bureau, ALDOT

Timothy Heisler
Federal Highway Administration

Lynne Wilman
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Shawn Blakeney
Association of County Engineers of Alabama (Russell County)

Alabama Transportation Assistance Program, Auburn University
Larry Rilett
Scott Tison
Tyler Mitchell
Rod Turochy

Registration & Fees

Registration and check-in will be held from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm on Monday, October 12 and on Tuesday, October 13 from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm in The Burrow at the Conference Center. **Begin the registration process**.

Fees:

- Early Bird Registration: $475.00 (ends August 31, 2026)
- Regular Registration: $550.00 (begins Sept. 1, 2026)
- Walk-In Registration: $600.00
- Partner Pass: $350.00 (for meals)

The registration fee includes workshops, sessions, program materials, and refreshments during breaks, reception, two breakfasts, one lunch, and one dinner.

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at The Lodge at Gulf State Park. The conference group rate is $184-214 per night plus taxes. Reservations can be made through Friday, September 18, or until full. **Make your hotel reservation.**

Optional Workshop

There will be an optional workshop from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, on AASHTOWare Safety Software. For those planning on attending this workshop and who are arriving Monday, October 12, the registration desk will be open from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm in The Burrow.

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 up to fifteen (15) 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.

2026 Conference Program

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

9:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Optional Workshop** Numetric AASHTOWare Safety Software Class Ben Holmes, Numetric Greg Olsen, Numetric
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Conference Check-in / Registration
11:00 am – 6:00 pm	Exhibit Booths Open
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Welcome Ed Austin, Chief Engineer, ALDOT Mark Bartlett, Alabama Division Administrator, FHWA Shawn Blakeney, President, Association of County Engineers of Alabama
	Opening Session
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Autonomous Trucking Gaining Momentum: Where We Are and What's On The Horizon Richard Bishop, Next Generation Mobility, LLC
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Transportation Safety in the Age of AI Dr. Laurence Rilett, Auburn University
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break
	Safety Research
3:30 pm – 3:50 pm	Curve Safety Assessment and Improvement Using AI-Powered Smartphone Application Dr. James Tsai, Georgia Institute of Technology
3:50 pm – 4:10 pm	Driving on Note: Performance Assessment of Road Tunes and Thermoplastic Rumble Strips Dr. Ernest Tufuor, Auburn University
4:10 pm – 4:30 pm	Safety Effects of Alternative Intersection Implementations in Alabama Dr. Rod Turochy, Auburn University
4:30 pm – 4:50 pm	From Data to Decisions: Using Connected Vehicle Hard Braking Data Dr. Praveena Penmetsa, University of Alabama
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	Questions
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Reception – Beach Pavilion, Gulf State Park
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner – Beach Pavilion, Gulf State Park Shrimp Boil sponsored by Volkert

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
	Health Challenges in the Transportation Industry
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Mind Over Motion: Prioritizing Mental Well-Being for Safer Transportation Dr. Karen Philbrick, Mineta Transportation Institute
9:30 am – 10:00 am	State Employee Assistance Program Dr. Kwatasian Hunt, Alabama Department of Finance, Division of Risk Management
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break
	Concurrent Session 1A: Local Road Safety
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Small Projects, Big Impact: Cost-Effective Safety Improvements Through Planned Maintenance Mark Acreman, Baldwin County
11:00 am – 11:30 am	What's Happening in Gulf Shores Jenny Wolfschlag, City of Gulf Shores
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Mobile County Transportation Pay As You Go Program Kim Sanderson, Mobile County
	Concurrent Session 1B: Transportation Planning
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update Laura Beth Yates, Kimley-Horn
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Northeast Alabama Safe Streets: Lessons Learned from the TARCOG Safety Action Plan Sara Kovachich, ALTA Planning + Design
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Maryland Complete Streets Program (Virtual) Kandese Holford, Director, Office of Active Transportation and Micromobility, MDOT
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
	Concurrent Session 2A: Local Road Safety
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	ESRI Enterprise GIS Migration Jacob Pierce, Baldwin County
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Feasibility Study – How a Trail Study also Became a Safety Study Matt Hayes, ALTA Planning + Design

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Roundabouts, Road Diets, and Lighting—Oh My! Using Simulation to Test Safer Roadway Designs Dr. Amanda Hudson & Johnna Stevenson, University of Alabama
	Concurrent Session 2B: Vulnerable Users
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Safe Systems Pyramid for Vulnerable Road Users Dr. Rachael Thompson Panik, University of Alabama
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	What's New in the 11th Edition MUTCD: Signing and Markings for School Zone, Pedestrian & Bicycle Jason Daniels, ALDOT
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Pedestrian-Oriented Sight Distance Requirement for Safe Crossing at Mid-Block Crosswalks: Insight from A Case Study Dr. Hugo Zhou, Auburn University
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break
	Concurrent Session 3A: Multi-Modal Safety
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Alabama Rural Transportation: Connecting Communities – Changing Lives Lenzy Williams, Crown Consulting Group
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Rail Preemption: We're On The Clock Scott Tison, ATAP, Auburn University
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	A Safe System Approach: Managing Kinetic Energy Risk Through Exposure, Severity, and Likelihood Alyssa Thomas, ITE
	Concurrent Session 3B: Strategic Highway Safety Plan Workshop
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Townhall Open Forum

Thursday, October 15, 2026

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
	Combating Risky / Distracted Driving
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement in Alabama – A Pilot Study Dr. Steven Jones, ATI, University of Alabama
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Protecting Every Journey: Seat Belts, Senior Mobility, and the Fight Against Distracted Driving Jake Nelson, Director of Traffic Safety Advocacy & Research, AAA, Inc.
9:30 am – 10:00 am	ALEA Efforts Sergeant Reginal King, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break

Safety Resources

10:30 am – 11:00 am	CARE Timeline and Establishing Goals Jesse Norris, Center for Advanced Public Safety
11:00 am – 11:30 am	From Reactive Regret to Proactive Responsibility: Behavior as a Safety Countermeasure Doug Smith, The Lutzie43 Foundation
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Preventing Impaired Driving Through Community Partnership Karen Spencer, MADD

Slight changes in topics and/or speakers may occur before the conference. Please check the conference website for any updates and/or changes to the agenda.