



# ALDOT WINTER 2023 *Inside Lane*

## Paving the Road to Progress: Four Years of Rebuilding Alabama by Governor Kay Ivey

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March 12th marked the fourth anniversary of Rebuild Alabama, possibly the most monumental legislation ever passed in Alabama's history. Since its enactment, Rebuild Alabama has accounted for record investment across our state. Those investments are represented by 234 projects in all 67 counties, 400 miles of resurfaced roadways, and more than \$170 million in state transportation funding awarded to cities and counties. That is what I call real, tangible results.

Four years after Rebuild Alabama's enactment, we have only just begun. More projects are underway and under development, and more transformative announcements will be made in the coming months and years.

Our world-class surface transportation system will include four-lane interstate connectors in every county. Highway 411 in Cherokee County, Highway 52 in Geneva County and Highways 43 and 129 in Fayette and Marion Counties are great examples.

Traffic congestion is being addressed to improve working Alabamians' daily commutes. From Interstate system improvements on I-10 in Mobile County, I-59 in Jefferson County, the Eastern Connector in Etowah County and I-565 in Limestone and Madison Counties to urban corridors like McFarland Boulevard in Tuscaloosa, traffic capacity is being increased everywhere we drive.

As promised, projects of local interest are being prioritized by those who know their county and municipality the best. Local officials are checking off needed projects that simply would not be possible without revenues provided by Rebuild Alabama. That means their citizens will have safer, more efficient routes to school and to work; drives to the grocery store or to visit family are quicker and smoother; and critical healthcare is more accessible.

Four years after its enactment, it is clear that Rebuild Alabama's overall impact extends far beyond just roads and bridges. Driver safety, commercial efficiency and economic productivity are all aspects of the enhanced quality of life being delivered by Rebuild Alabama. It also tells the world, "Alabama is open for business!"

Just as Alabama is making record investments in infrastructure, businesses are making record investments in Alabama. More than \$42 billion dollars in new investments and more than 78,000 new jobs have come to our state since I became governor. A robust surface transportation system is critical to support this growth. Many of these companies also rely on the Port of Mobile, one of the nation's top ten seaports.

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Mobile is home to Mardi Gras and will be the home of the SASHTO Conference in August 2023.

*cover image above*

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# Transportation Conference Highlights Today's Progress and Tomorrow's Opportunities

The world of transportation is changing. Preparing for those changes through the use of innovative technology, policy, funding and planning was the focus of the 66th Annual Alabama Transportation Conference held at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Montgomery Feb. 6-7, 2023.

Approximately 950 transportation professionals attended the conference. Shailen Bhatt, Administrator with the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C., opened the conference with a presentation of The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: The Future of Our Transportation System.

Gov. Kay Ivey, Alabama's 54th governor, asked attendees to build on the momentum generated by the Rebuild Alabama Act. She highlighted the advances in economic development and safety seen on roads around the state thanks in great part to the funding made possible by Rebuild Alabama. Gov. Ivey gave her speech at the Governor's Luncheon on the first day of the Transportation Conference.

ALDOT Director John Cooper addressed the top challenges that the transportation industry is currently facing during his speech at the Transportation Director's Luncheon. The first challenge being the need

to reconcile the difference between our customers' wants and needs. The second challenge he presented was staffing and how we hire, train and retain productive employees. Director Cooper ended with the third challenge of preparing for the future. He asked ALDOT attendees to think about what our agency is best qualified to continue doing and focus on those areas.

Other conference speakers presented on a range of topics from innovative maintenance and geotechnical engineering to communication, funding programs and multimodal transportation solutions. Presentations from the conference will be available on the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program website. Session moderators and presenters included ALDOT employees and representatives from city and county transportation departments and associations, and federal agencies.

Attendees included federal and state highway personnel, road and bridge building contractors, county and city engineers, consulting engineers, construction material vendors, researchers, professional society representatives and university faculty members.

The Alabama Transportation Conference is developed by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Auburn University and the Alabama Department of Transportation. This annual event provides an opportunity to share innovative advances in transportation planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance. Technical sessions create a forum for the exchange of ideas among transportation professionals. Industry leading companies sponsored the event and showcased their transportation engineering services and products for attendees in the Exhibit Hall.



Governor Kay Ivey gave remarks at the 66th Annual Transportation Conference Governors Luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa Monday, Feb. 6, 2023 in Montgomery. *left*

## Paving the Road to Progress: Four Years of Rebuilding Alabama *continued from cover*

Rebuild Alabama's investment in the Port has positively impacted all corners of our state's economy, and it will continue to do so for years to come. The Port, in many respects, is Alabama's gateway to the global economy, and I predict that many more Alabama communities will realize its effect. For example, the West Alabama Corridor will provide direct Port access to a portion of our state that is primed for industrial development.

As I look in the rearview mirror and reflect on the four-year anniversary of Rebuild

Alabama, it is remarkable to think how we addressed an Alabama problem with an Alabama solution. Yes, the progress we have made is commendable. It is certainly worth celebrating. But the road ahead is long, and much work remains undone. Now is not the time to tap the brakes or to take a middle-of-the-road approach. Alabama has a roadmap to prosperity and the means to get us there, so let's ride in the fast lane, accelerate toward progress, and continue to Rebuild Alabama.



## ALDOT Features Hamilton District in Winter Weather Video

The Alabama Department of Transportation works in advance of winter weather to keep as many roads open during extreme weather conditions as possible and have motorists reach their destinations safely. To help explain how ALDOT prepares for and addresses the challenges of snow and ice, the ALDOT Communications Team worked with Hamilton District personnel to produce our ALDOT Winter Weather Video. The purpose of the video is to help the media and the public understand how ALDOT assists with keeping the roads open and safe during winter weather events.

"Our mission is to keep the roadways safe and open," Hamilton District Administrator, Wes Spiller, said in the winter weather video. "We try to achieve this by focusing on interstate routes first and then secondary routes by traffic volume. The goal is to have every state route functioning as soon as possible after a winter storm." The video, which debuted in December, starts with an appearance by well-known meteorologist James Spann. From there, the Hamilton District crew is shown preparing for winter weather while Eric Nails and Joel Bowling also have speaking roles.

"If the weather allows, we'll start pre-treating the roadways with a salt brine solution

during the day to prepare for the temperature drop at night," said Nails, a Transportation Maintenance Technician II. "We'll focus on the places that freeze the easiest, like bridges and overpasses. Once the sleet starts, we'll begin using salt and other solutions to keep the roads open."

A lot of preparation takes place before the winter. Crews must look at replacing snowplows, blades for motor graders and check hydraulic hoses for cracks, as well as ensuring they have enough materials. While it may vary in specific districts, dry salt, gravel, sand and brine, along with several other ice-prevention and deicing applicators are stored in preparation of a winter weather event.

"We start training several months in advance to make sure everything is ready for when freezing weather comes," said Bowling, an Equipment Mechanic Senior. "We have crews working around the clock that are prepared to plow snow and cut trees or limbs that have fallen into the road."

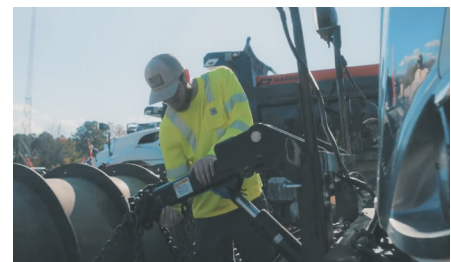
Hamilton District Employees Demonstrating Winter Weather Measures and Precautions *above*



Scan the code to view *ALDOT Prepares for Winter Weather.*



Scan the code to view *How ALDOT's Southwest Region Prepares for Winter Roads.*



## Work Zone Awareness Week Starts April 17

Everyone plays a role in work zone safety. National Work Zone Awareness Week is one of the most important events of the year for ALDOT. Thousands of ALDOT employees work alongside traffic, and all of ALDOT can play a role in promoting safety on their behalf.

For 2023, the week of April 17–23 is designated as National Work Zone Awareness Week. Now is the time to plan how to participate and emphasize the importance of work zone safety. The 2023 national theme for the week is “Work with Us.”

NWZAW highlights the deadly dangers of inattention at highway work areas. The 2023 week-long commemoration will include:

**Work Zone Safety Training Day April 17**

**National Kickoff Event April 18**

**Go Orange Day April 19**

**Social Media Storm April 20**

**Moment of Silence April 21**

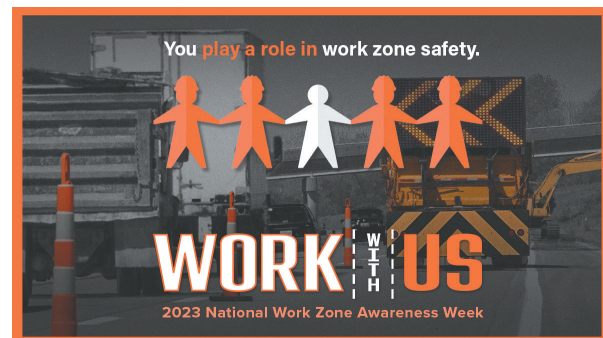
The Moment of Silence was started in 2022 to remember the men and women whose lives were lost in a work zone incident.

During the week of April 17, ALDOT offices across the state will hold Safety Stand Down meetings for employees to learn more about how to stay safe in the work zone and how to drive safely around work zones. For Go Orange Day, Wednesday, April 19, employees

are encouraged to wear orange clothing and take photos to share with work zone safety messages on social media. Employees are also encouraged to send in their Go Orange photos to be published in the Inside Lane newsletter.

Extra emphasis on work zone safety will be seen in April across Alabama in the media, on billboards, television, interstate message boards and the Drive Safe Alabama Facebook and Twitter pages.

Everyone at ALDOT has a part to play in work zone safety. Work with us. [www.nwzaw.org/participate](http://www.nwzaw.org/participate).



## Spreading the News About Quick Clearance Laws

In 2022, 75 percent of crashes that occurred on Alabama’s roadways were property damage crashes only. To reduce the impact to traffic flow, Alabama has passed Quick Clearance Laws that are designed to protect ALDOT workers and first responders and to ensure traffic resumes quickly after a crash occurs.

If a motorist is involved in a minor crash and the vehicle can be driven, the Quick Clearance Law permits the motorist to move their vehicle out of travel lanes to the shoulder or another safe area. This will make it easier for first responders, particularly ASAP drivers, to get traffic

flowing quicker. Under this law, employees of ALDOT or any law enforcement officers may require and assist in moving a disabled vehicle from the scene of an accident if the disabled vehicle creates a traffic hazard.

ASAP drivers around the state are equipped and prepared to assist in removing any crash that impedes the flow of traffic; however, some, if not most, drivers will not have heard of the Quick Clearance Laws. To help inform travelers that they have the right to remove their cars from roadways after crashes, if possible, ALDOT has implemented “Move it

or Remove It.” ASAP drivers will be handing out Quick Clearance cards to those involved in crashes that explains the latest laws. As ALDOT employees, we are encouraged to spread the word and let friends and family know to “Move It or Remove It.”



# Be Aware of Human Trafficking

There are estimated to be more than 27.6 million people—adults and children—subjected to human trafficking around the world including The United States. ALDOT has trained approximately 256 workers to recognize the signs of human trafficking. They consist of rest area attendants, ASAP drivers and TMC managers. The training was provided by the Blue Campaign, which is promoted by the Department of Homeland Security.

The flyer pictured here was created and placed in the rest area breakrooms to remind employees if they see something to say something. It also listed the tip line phone number for the Department of Homeland Security so that signs of human trafficking could be reported.

#### ALDOT Plan of Action:

- Do not try and intervene or apprehend the trafficker
- Be a careful observer noting as many details as possible
- Try to get a vehicle description and tag information
- Call the DHS tip line at 1-866-347-2423. The tip line is staffed 24/7 by law enforcement
- Call 911 if someone is in immediate danger

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101

**What is Human Trafficking?**

**Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for labor, services, or a commercial sex act.**

**Who are the victims?**

**Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender identity, sex, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, and socioeconomic class.**

**How Do I Identify Human Trafficking?**

- **Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.”**
- **Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying victims.**
- **No single indicator is proof that human trafficking is occurring.**
- **Inappropriate clothing for weather, fatigue, untreated illness, signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, etc.**
- **Minors at a rest stop with an older individual who does not seem to be their guardian.**

**What Should I Do Next?**

- **DO NOT TRY TO INTERVENE OR APPREHEND THE TRAFFICKERS**
- **Be a careful observer noting as many details as possible**
- **Try and get a vehicle description and tag**
- **Call the Homeland Security Tip Line at 1-866-347-2423**
- **Call 911 if someone is in immediate danger**


ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

## ALDOT Hosting 2023 SASHTO Conference

ALDOT will host the 82nd Annual Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) in Mobile from Aug. 5–9, 2023. Original plans to host in 2020 were delayed by the COVID pandemic. ALDOT is now ready to finally welcome transportation officials from all over the south and show off Mobile's history and natural beauty in the home of the original Mardi Gras.

The conference provides the opportunity for Southern states to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, share best practices, participate in technical sessions on highway and transportation matters and network with industry representatives.

ALDOT is a proud member of SASHTO, and employees have been working tirelessly planning and organizing the 2023 conference. From technical sessions to trade shows, ALDOT is preparing and planning an invigorating opportunity for conference participants to

learn about and discuss what affects transportation in the south. While at the conference, attendees can participate in technical tours to Mobile's Airbus facility where they can see how final assembly of the Airbus A320 comes together.

It is an honor for ALDOT to host such a remarkable group of industry leaders at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile.



# State Employees Receive 4 percent Cost of Living Adjustment

ALDOT employees joined all state employees in benefiting from a piece of legislation passed in the 2022 legislative session. HB202, sponsored by Rep. Kelvin Lawrence from Hayneville, provided a 4 percent salary increase for all state employees, beginning October 1, 2022. In a show of bipartisan support, Rep. Lawrence was joined by co-sponsors from both parties. Rep. Prince Chestnut from Selma, Rep. Rolanda Hollis from Birmingham, Rep. Kyle South from Fayette, Rep. Barbara Drummond from Mobile, Rep. Berry Forte from Eufaula, Rep. Jeremy Gray from Opelika, Rep. Sam Jones from Mobile, and Rep. Anthony Daniels from Huntsville all signed on to support the legislation's passage.

The cost of living adjustment, or COLA, is exactly what it sounds like: an adjustment made to salaries to try to account for the increase in the cost of living. In other words, it is a measure taken to help employees' salaries keep up with the rising costs of goods and services. It is important to note that the COLA is not a raise, but rather a way to maintain the purchasing power of your salary.

It is also important to note that a COLA is not guaranteed every year. The decision to implement a COLA is made by the legislature every year as part of the general fund budget process, and is based on a variety of factors, including the state of the economy and the Consumer Price Index. The 2023 legislative session has already begun, and a COLA is expected to again be considered as a part of the general fund budget. Currently, the governor has asked the legislature to approve a 2 percent COLA beginning Oct. 1, 2023.

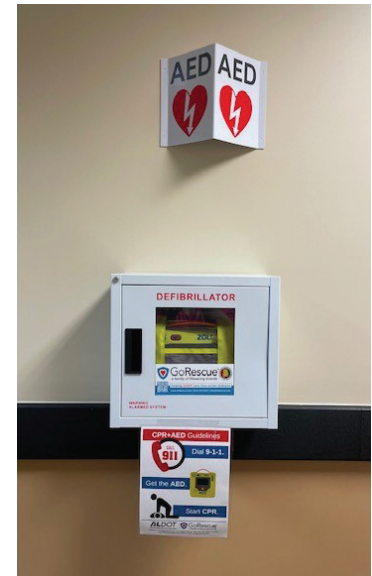
# ALDOT Installs AEDs

ALDOT has placed over 200 AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) throughout the central office, as well as the region and area offices. This is ALDOT taking another step toward a safer work environment by joining other private and public workforces that have AEDs on hand.

The presence of automated external defibrillators in the workplace can be a lifesaver if a co-worker becomes unresponsive or suffers cardiac arrest. According to the American Heart Association, there are more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests annually in the United States, and nearly 90 percent of them are fatal. It is estimated that of those out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, the survival rate of the victims increases exponentially if the people around them are trained in CPR and the use of AEDs, compared to just CPR alone.

Training has become available throughout the state and will be offered throughout the year. This will be led by The ALDOT Training Bureau and the GoRescue team that helped us procure these devices.

AEDs will also be installed in the ASAP vehicles to use during their service patrols. This will better prepare our ASAP drivers for this type of emergency when they are out on the road assisting drivers in need.



AED cabinet in the Central Office with a defibrillator inside. *above*



Helping ALDOT save lives across Alabama.



[www.GoRescue.com](http://www.GoRescue.com) | (844) 277-2527 | [Info@GoRescue.com](mailto:Info@GoRescue.com)

# Let the Good Times Roll

## *ALDOT Engineer Marches to the Beat of Mardi Gras*

Growing up in Texas, ever since he was in grade school Bradley Cooper has enjoyed making music. He picked up and learned how to play the trumpet when he was in the fifth grade. Before long, Cooper was a natural at playing the trumpet, and those around him knew it. His parents encouraged his love for music, but they also knew he was gifted at math, which led him to eventually pursue a career as a civil engineer. Today, an engineer by trade at ALDOT, Cooper has found a way to juggle his two great passions. He says one feeds the other.

"It's about thinking 'outside the box.' Jazz requires a talent for improvisation and precision and in many ways, so does the science of engineering," said Cooper.

One other passion for Cooper is Mobile's Mardi Gras. A passion that embodies his love for music and talent for playing the trumpet, as Cooper is a part of Mobile's own Excelsior Brass Band, a staple at local Mardi Gras parades. The band, a tradition for generations, has been ingrained in the culture of the city of Mobile and its beloved Mardi Gras celebration since 1883.

"We are the ambassadors representing Mobile in more than 20 parades each season," said Cooper. "The Excelsiors represent the good times through the tradition of music."

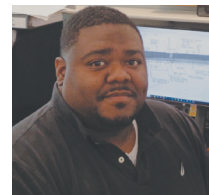
For Cooper, combining his two, well, three passions—engineering, music and Mardi Gras—has been the perfect way to channel his creativity.

"I use music all the time now. At times it helps me get through life, it helps me focus with a clear vision—it keeps me grounded. I've been with the Excelsior for 7 years now, and working with experienced musicians has been one of the high points in my musical career," said Cooper.

Membership in the Excelsior Band is the highest achievement among Mobile area musicians because once in, nobody ever leaves, some staying as long as 50 years. At age 40, Cooper is the third youngest member in the band, and he intends to keep "marching on," at Mardi Gras and as an engineer with ALDOT.

Cooper and all of the Excelsior Brass Band members, past and present, were recently honored with the 2022 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows Award.

The band is scheduled to perform at the 2023 Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Conference, which ALDOT is hosting in Mobile.



top rows The Excelsior Brass Band

second row The Excelsior Brass Band Celebrates Mardi Gras while Marching in One of Mobile's Many Parades

third row Bradley Cooper at His Desk and Discussing Projects with Fellow ALDOT Engineers



### Rest Area Winner for the 2nd Quarter

#### I-59 Northbound St. Clair County Rest Area

front left to right Ricky Knighten, Evelyn Davis, Aaron Glass



### Welcome Center Winner for the 2nd Quarter

#### I-20 Westbound Cleburne County Welcome Center

left to right Phillip Hawk, Hunter Salers, Noah Cadle, Wanda Casson, Deanna Smith and Kelby Stegmann

not pictured Dimple Talley and Logan Thrower



## Kathryn Lewis, ALDOT's New Archivist

Kathryn "Katie" Lewis is the new archivist for the Alabama Department of Transportation. Katie grew up in Collierville, Tenn., and says her love for history spawned from her mother taking her and her brothers to different museums in Memphis, TN when she was a child. Katie obtained a bachelor's degree in History from Christian Brothers University, before going on to get her Master's in Public History: Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University.

Before accepting the archivist job with ALDOT, Katie worked at the State Historical Society of Missouri as a graduate assistant. She says that, while in this position, she got to work with the Vandivort Family Papers, a collection of letters from a Missouri soldier to his family during World War II. That is what sparked her interest in the archiving field.

When Katie applied for the archivist position with the State of Alabama, ALDOT was not even on her radar, but after speaking with Mike Wilson and Bryan Nichols, she gained an appreciation for ALDOT and a better understanding of the archiving needs for this department as a whole. She accepted the position without hesitation.

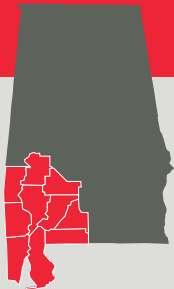
So, what are some things that an archivist for ALDOT does? Katie says she helps ALDOT employees access archived documents they need for their projects. She also assists regions and bureaus with how to properly archive documents. Something she wishes that more people knew is that the more thorough you are when asking for help locating a specific archived document, the quicker she can help you find it. Katie believes that utilizing archived documents and plans can help us better prepare for present and even future ALDOT projects.

To access archived documents, employees must fill out a Document Management Access Form, which can be found on the ALDOT intranet, and return the document to the Records Management Office. If you have questions about what you can or should be archiving, check your bureau's Records Disposition Authority, which can be found on the Records Management Office page on the ALDOT Intranet.



Katie Lewis, ALDOT's New Archivist *top*  
ALDOT Archives *left*

## Southwest Region News



### Linden Bypass Under Construction: Road to Opportunity for Rural West Alabama

Two major projects for the Southwest Region, the north and south Linden Bypass projects located in Marengo County, are currently under construction.

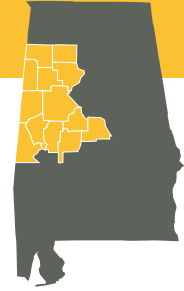
The Linden Bypass is the initial step in the proposed West Alabama Highway Project.

The southern project broke ground in January of this year and work on the northern project of the Linden bypass began in March.

The Linden Bypass South Project is from US-43 south of Linden to SR-28, running east

of the Town of Linden. The South Project will adjoin the Linden Bypass North Project from SR-28 to SR-69. The total length of both Linden Bypass projects is about 7.7 miles. This will create a new four-lane divided highway, which will be designated as





# Right of Way Manager Finds Friends in Unlikely Situations

There's a certain charm Tim Weaver possesses that's hard to pinpoint. Maybe it's his optimistic viewpoints or the way he tells a story that leaves you trusting him. It's a genuine personality, too, one where he truly cares for your best interest.

Whatever it is, the 56-year-old Region Right of Way Manager knows what to say and when to say it. And with a disarming smile, Weaver makes friends in the toughest of job environments.

"I try to make friends and then buy property from them," said Weaver, who has spent 37 years in the business, including nearly 10 years with ALDOT and seven years with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. "It sounds cheesy, but it's really true. I enjoy what I do. I make the property owners part of the process and explain what's going to happen so we can work together. We're really just a small real estate office with the power of eminent domain."

Weaver, and his staff of nearly a dozen employees, are responsible for acquiring the necessary land for transportation projects and ensuring all necessary legal and regulatory requirements are met. Once

**"I try to make friends and then buy property from them... We're really just a small real estate office with the power of eminent domain."**

a property is identified as necessary, a member of his staff or an outside consultant will appraise it. Then, it's reviewed by another appraiser to confirm that everything is well documented and supported. Once the review is finished, the right of way department will get an approved offer. From there, negotiators can visit the property owner and make an offer.

"We want to find a solution that's fair to us and to the landowner," Weaver said. "I like to approach it like a security guard. I'm polite but firm. Just compensation is what we are all after."

Just compensation stems from the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. Essentially, the Takings Clause allows the government to take private property for public use if the government provides "just compensation." It's not always easy for Weaver and his staff, though. If negotiations fall through,

the process can find its way into probate court or circuit court. However, Weaver tries his best to meet the needs of all parties.

"I once had a guy come to the front door with a gun and told me to leave," Weaver said. "But, I've also had people calling me years later asking about me and just wanting to chat or inviting me to church or to fish with them. It goes back to working together and building a positive experience to make sure everyone is treated fairly."

*Weaver is able to accomplish these goals with the help of his small but dedicated staff:*

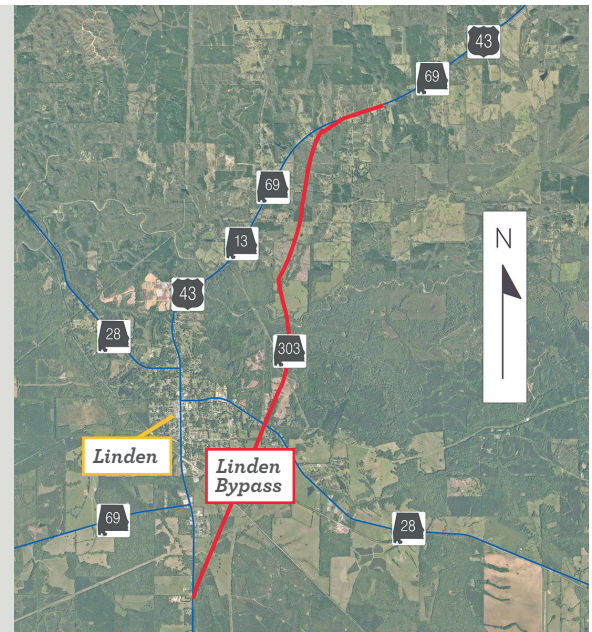
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| LaKira Bristow | Rhonda Landers   |
| Judy Campbell  | Brian Mize       |
| Travis Crocker | Nik Pantaze      |
| JaWanda Dial   | Bill Pate        |
| Kimberly Dodd  | Randall Williams |
| Teresa Farley  |                  |

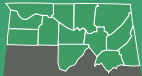
SR-303. This section of new highway will ultimately be part of the new West Alabama Highway.

The goal and commitment of the West Alabama Highway Project is to provide interstate connectivity to rural counties that currently lack a four-lane road to the Interstate Highway system and ultimately create a four-lane connection between Mobile and Tuscaloosa. The project will subsequently improve public safety and increase economic opportunities for rural West Alabama residents.

The south section of the bypass was awarded to W. S. Newell & Sons, Inc at a cost of \$55.7 million with an anticipated completion date of March 2026. The north section of the Linden Bypass was awarded to W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company at a cost of \$83.6 million with an anticipated completion date in 2026.

Map of the Linden Bypass Currently Under Construction *right*





# TIM Training Helps Reduce Delays, Improve Safety

In the Winter of 2020, a single-vehicle rollover crash into the cable rail at the interchange of I-65 and I-565 resulted in a 5-mile backup of traffic and a three-hour delay for motorists. Thanks to the increased focus on Traffic Incident Management (TIM) fundamentals to more safely clear roadway incidents, the North region is making big improvements in clearing roadways faster and safer.

The region is touting its experienced TIM trainers and using crash and delay data to draw interest from and grow partnerships with local first responders.

In Fall 2021, ALDOT and the City of Decatur signed the state's first TIM accord. The accord calls for training all first responders in the city and provides the Decatur Public Safety training building as a training facility. So far, five classes have been taught in Decatur.

Following the TIM training that has been taking place, a nearly identical incident in the same location in Spring 2022 lasted only 52 minutes with no queue or delay, and only a minor speed reduction for 15 to 20 minutes.

"TIM works, and it's evidenced by the improvements Decatur first responders have made in their incident management," said Glenn Taylor, a retired state trooper sergeant and North Region Traffic Management Center (TMC) Manager. "We've seen responders in other cities and towns begin to adopt these same tactics and report successful results."

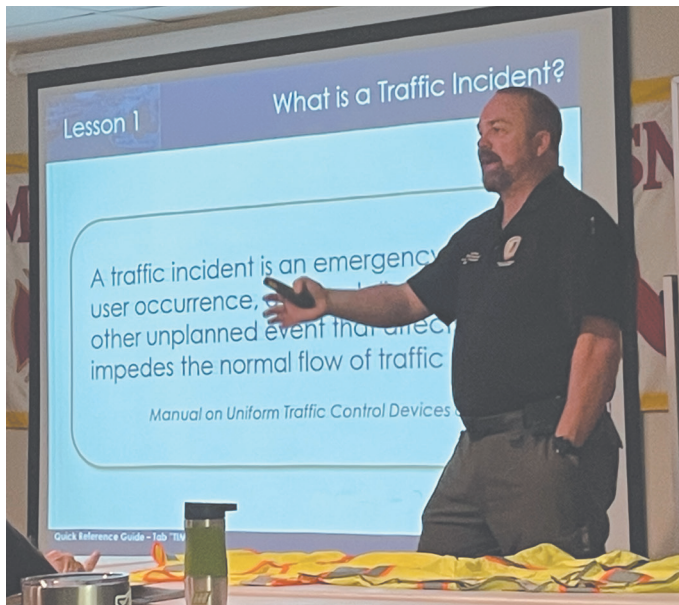
Experienced TIM trainers, including Taylor, a master trainer, Phillip Day, Region Traffic Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Coordinator, Connie Gorman, North Region-Guntersville Area Safety Manager, and Brooke Dutton, North Region-Guntersville Area Local Transportation Engineer, run the classes. ALDOT plans to expand the training team through an upcoming trainer class, to meet the growing interest in TIM training.

ALDOT has recently started offering Saturday classes to accommodate volunteer first responders, many of whom work regular jobs on weekdays. A total of about 50 responders attended classes held in October 2022 at the Tuscumbia Area office and January 2023 at the Madison County Fire Marshall training center.

Also, the first-ever Region TIM Team meeting was recently held, with about 30 attendees representing two Alabama Emergency Management Agency Divisions, eight county EMAs, four state trooper posts and ALDOT districts and areas in addition to regional leadership and the state TSMO engineer.

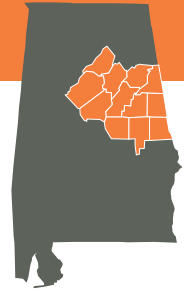
"We had multiple long-duration roadway incidents resulting in either hazardous materials response, long-term lane closures, or total road closures," said Day. "So we wanted to get everyone in the same room and on the same page. The main objective was communication—understanding each other's roles and responsibilities. The discussions led to better understanding, which allowed us to set a target for some solutions."

The group is determined to continue working toward more streamlined communication by leveraging available technology such as phone or web applications and agreed to review how hazmat and towing companies are selected based on the type of incident and severity.



Decatur police and fire and rescue position responding vehicles according to TIM concepts, allowing traffic to safely continue to flow around the crash scene. *above*

Traffic Incident Management Master Trainer Glenn Taylor teaching TIM to Madison County volunteer first responders. *left*



## The East Central Region has Several Projects Scheduled to be Completed in 2023

**Blount County**  
Bridge Replacement and Approaches on SR-74 (US-278) over Locust Fork Creek in Snead.

**Jefferson County**  
Bridge Replacement (Grading, Drainage, Pavement and Bridge) on SR-5 (US78) over Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River.

Concrete Rehabilitation (Shoulder Reconstruction, Bridge Rail Retrofit, Steel and Ramp Improvements) and Steel Blockout Replacement on I-59 from the Valley Road Overpass to the SR-5 (Arkadelphia Road) Interchange in Birmingham.

Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, Guardrail Safety Improvements and Traffic Strip on I-459 from 0.250 miles south of the SR-38 (US 280) Overpass to 0.240 miles south of the Grants Mill Road Overpass in Irondale.

Planning, Overlay and Traffic Strip on I-20 from a point east of the 1st Avenue North Interchange (MP 130.595) in Birmingham to a point east of the SR-4 (US 78) Interchange (MP 140.154) Leeds.

Concrete Rehabilitation, Shoulder Reconstruction, Bridge Rail Retrofit and Ramp Improvements on I-59 from a point south of the Junction of CR-10 in Trussville (MP 140.002

to a point past the St. Clair County Line (MP 147.895).

Roadway widening (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Traffic Signals and Traffic Strip) on SR-7 (US 11) from the Intersection of Chalkville Road to the Cahaba River Bridge in Trussville.

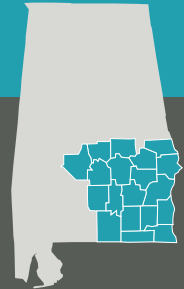
**Shelby County**  
Capacity upgrades including the 5-laning of SR-119 from the Intersection of CR-12 to the Junction of SR-26 in Alabaster.

Bridge replacement and approaches on SR-25 over Waxahatchee Creek southwest of Columbiana.

Safety Widening, Planning, Resurfacing, Access Management and Traffic Strip on SR-3 (US-31) from the Junction of CR-68 in Alabaster.

**St. Clair County**  
Resurfacing (Surface treatment) Guardrail Safety Improvements and Traffic Stripe on SR-53 (US 231) from the Shelby County Line to the Junction of SR-34 in Pell City.

**Talladega County**  
Bridge replacement on SR-34 over Poor House Branch. Bridge replacement on SR-21 over Cheaha Creek.



## Southeast Region Responds to Devastating Tornado

Alabama was hit with a series of strong storms over a short period of time in the winter of 2023. Following those storms, ALDOT employees were quickly on the scene to help.

According to the preliminary reports from the National Weather Service the Southeast Region had three confirmed tornadoes. The first was an EF-2 in Selma at 12:04 p.m. This tornado resulted in two injuries. The next was an EF-3 that started in Autauga County and persisted for approximately 82 miles before ending in Chambers County. This tornado resulted in seven fatalities and 16 injuries. The final tornado to hit the Southeast Region was an EF-1 in Barbour County with no reported injuries.

The Montgomery Area Maintenance and District crews were quick to respond. Crews were dispatched across the Montgomery Area to clean up debris and repair signals. Many of the ALDOT crew had damage to their personal property that they would be attending to after helping those in Selma and Autauga County.

In Selma alone, an estimated cost of \$10-15 million is being spent to clean up debris. ALDOT is assisting the City of Selma to help clear debris from city routes.



Tornado Damage in the Southeast Region After the January Tornado *above*

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**Employees:** *Be sure to keep your mailing address updated with your office manager.*

## Parting Shot

The 2023 Bridge Crossing Jubilee commemorated the 58th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the Selma to Montgomery March and the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

