FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RECORD OF DECISION

APPENDICES A - D

PROJECT NO. DPI-0030(005)
I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND BAYWAY
MOBILE AND BALDWIN COUNTIES, ALABAMA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
AND
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IN COOPERATION WITH:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
and
U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District

August 2019

APPENDIX A

Public Hearing Summary Report

CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY REPORT

Project DPI-0030(005)

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama





June 2019

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Attachment B: Public Hearing Materials

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(Note: Written Comments Received are not included in the FEIS/ROD, but are available upon request to ALDOT.)

1.0 Pre-Hearing Activities

The planning for the Corridor Hearing began in January 2019. Since Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) anticipated a large number of attendees at the Public Hearings and because the proposed project crosses county lines, two hearings were scheduled for public convenience. The first hearing was held in Baldwin County at the Spanish Fort Community Center located at 7361 Spanish Fort Boulevard, Spanish Fort, Alabama, on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. The second hearing was held in Mobile County at the Mobile Civic Center located at 401 Civic Center Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36602, on Thursday, May 9, 2019, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. These locations were considered ideal because they are located in close proximity to the project. Representatives from the project team visited the venues on April 5, 2019 to finalize the equipment and materials needed from the venue on the dates of the hearings.

On April 10, April 11, and April 17, public notices for the hearings were placed at 64 locations in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. These locations included public facilities, restaurants, churches, retail stores, gas stations, and others. A copy of the public notice and a list of these locations where it was placed is included in **Attachment A**.

On April 23, 2019, invitations were e-mailed to Section 106 Consulting Parties. A copy of the e-mail invitation is attached in **Attachment A**.

On April 30, 2019, a press release was e-mailed to local radio and television stations and newspapers. A copy of the news release and the distribution list are all included in **Attachment A**. The public notice and press release were also placed on the project website (www.mobileriverbridge.com).

On April 5 and April 21, 2019, a public notice was published in the *Press Register* advertising the date, time, location and purpose of the Corridor Hearing. The same advertisement also ran on April 10 and April 24, 2019 in *The Lagniappe*. A copy of the public notice is included in **Attachment A**.

The project team held pre-meetings on April 5, April 12, April 19, April 24, April 26, and April 30, 2019. Additionally, a pre-hearing team meeting was held on May 1, 2019 at the ALDOT Southwest Region Training Building so that the individuals working the hearings could become more familiar with the station they were assigned to and review the exhibits and project fact sheet. Full rehearsals of the presentation were conducted at the ALDOT Southwest Region Training Building on May 1 and May 6, 2019.

2.0 Public Hearing Activities

2.1 Spanish Fort Public Hearing

The project team arrived at the Spanish Fort Community Center at approximately 1:30 p.m. to set up the displays, tables, chairs, and presentation. A walk-through meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. to familiarize ALDOT and consultant personnel with the exhibits and scope of the proposed project.

Fact sheets were prepared and provided to personnel who participated in the hearing. The fact sheet contained pertinent information about the project such as project description, cost estimates, relocation information, traffic, etc. A copy of the fact sheet is included in **Attachment B**.

The hearing location was well lit and provided ample space. The weather was warm and calm. Registration tables were set up at the entrance to the room. Within the meeting room, project exhibits were displayed on easels. Monitors were set up to display the visualization and animation that was updated for the hearings. The visualization station was setup and staffed by personnel from ALDOT's Visualization Department and included two monitors, one that displayed the animation and one that displayed an interactive 360-degree tour of the project. The presentation and public forum portion of the hearing was held in a separate room with glass windows that was clearly visible from the area where the exhibits were displayed. Photographs of the meeting location are included in **Attachment B**. A copy of the presentation is contained in **Attachment B**.

The exhibits consisted of layouts showing the overall project scope and limits, the proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and interchange concepts. Renderings of the bridge from different locations and renderings of the proposed overlook on the Mobile River Bridge were also displayed. Exhibits containing information on tolling, along with a map showing the tolled and non-tolled route were displayed. Representatives from ALDOT and the consultant team were stationed at the exhibits, while others circulated through the audience answering questions and directing citizens to specific areas of interest. Small-scale copies of the exhibits are included in **Attachment B**.

Registration began at 4:00 p.m. for the open house and for those wishing to speak during the public forum. The formal presentation began at 5:30 p.m. with the public forum following the presentation. There were a total of 150 registrants, 42 of whom were ALDOT and consultant personnel. Public handouts consisting of a project information sheet which contained a project location map and a comment sheet were provided to all registered guests. Copies of the public handout and the registration sheets are included in **Attachment B**.

Materials displayed at the hearing were placed on the project website (www.mobileriverbridge.com), and the public comment form was placed on the website for electronic submission.

2.2 Mobile Public Hearing

The project team arrived at the Mobile Civic Center at approximately 1:30 p.m. to set up the displays, tables, chairs, and presentation. A walk-through meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. to familiarize ALDOT and consultant personnel with the exhibits and scope of the proposed project. The same fact sheet from the Spanish Fort hearing was used during this hearing.

The hearing location was provided ample space. The weather was stormy. Registration tables were set up at the entrance to the room. Within the meeting room, project exhibits were displayed on easels. Monitors were set up to display the visualization and animation that was updated for the hearings. The visualization station was setup and staffed by personnel from ALDOT's Visualization Department and included two monitors, one that displayed the animation and one that displayed an interactive 360-degree tour of the project. The presentation and public forum portion of the hearing was held in a separate room to allow meeting attendees to continue to view the exhibits during the presentation should they choose to do so. Photographs of the meeting location are included in **Attachment B**.

The exhibits consisted of layouts showing the overall project scope and limits, the proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and interchange concepts. Renderings of the bridge from different locations and renderings of the proposed overlook on the Mobile River Bridge were also displayed. Exhibits containing information on tolling, along with a map showing the tolled and non-tolled route were displayed. Representatives from ALDOT and the consultant team were stationed at the exhibits, while others circulated through the audience answering questions and directing citizens to specific areas of interest. Small-scale copies of the exhibits are included in **Attachment B**.

Registration began at 4:00 p.m. for the open house and for those wishing to speak during the public forum. The formal presentation began at 5:30 p.m. with the public forum following the presentation. There were a total of 167 registrants, 39 of whom were ALDOT and consultant personnel. Public handouts consisting of a project information sheet which contained a project location map and a comment sheet were provided to all registered guests. Copies of the public handout and the registration sheets are included in **Attachment B**.

Materials displayed at the hearing were placed on the project website (www.mobileriverbridge.com), and the public comment form was placed on the website for electronic submission.

2.3 Media Coverage

Various media outlets covered the project, increasing public awareness of the project and the public hearings. A total of fourteen (14) stories ran in the media between April 30 and May 9, 2019. A listing of these stories is included in **Attachment C**.

3.0 Comment Summary

A total of 108 people attended the May 7 public hearing in Spanish Fort, Alabama, excluding project team personnel. A total of 128 people attended the May 9 public hearing in Mobile, Alabama, excluding project team personnel. Copies of the sign-in sheets are included in **Attachment D**.

Fourteen (14) people spoke during the public forum portion of the Spanish Fort hearing. Eleven (11) people spoke during the public forum portion of the Mobile hearing. Court reporters were present during both hearings to prepare transcripts of the hearings and to accept verbal comments, if needed. Copies of the cards used by speakers to make comments during the public forum are contained in **Attachment D**. Copies of the transcripts from each hearing are contained in **Attachment D**.

A total of fifteen (15) comment forms were received at the Spanish Fort hearing, and sixteen (16) comment forms were received at the Mobile hearing. An additional 628 written comments were received by online submission, e-mail, or mail. Comments submitted in duplicate or in multiple formats by the same individual were combined and counted as one comment. A total of 684 comments were received and are summarized below.

Address of Commenter

The following is a breakdown of where the people who commented reside:

- Mobile County: 31%

- Baldwin County: 59%

- Other (outside of Mobile and Baldwin Counties): 7%

- Did not provide information: 3%

How often do you use I-10 between Mobile and Baldwin Counties a month?

The following is a breakdown of how often individuals who commented use I-10 between Mobile and Baldwin Counties each month:

Trips Per Month	Percent of People who Responded
0-4	18%
5-9	9%
10-14	9%
15-19	7%
20-24	9%
25-29	1%
30-39	4%
40	22%
41-49	6%
50-59	7%
60-71	4%
72-79	<1%
80	2%
81-90	<1%

Trips Per Month	Percent of People who Responded
120	1%
168	<1%

Do you think there is a need to add capacity to I-10 across the Mobile River and Mobile Bay?

A total of 82 percent of the individuals who answered this question believe there is a need to add capacity to I-10 across Mobile River and Mobile Bay. A total of 18 percent do not think additional capacity is needed.

Are you in favor of the project as proposed?

Of the 651 people who answered this question, approximately 14 percent said yes, and approximately 86 percent said no.

Of the 558 people who answered no, around 34 percent of the people said it is because the toll is too high, and about 52 percent said it was because there should be no toll.

The remaining 14 percent had other comments regarding why they do not agree with the project as proposed, including suggestions for other ways to reduce congestion or locations for the proposed bridge.

Other Comments

The following is a summary of how comments received that are similar in nature were grouped together:

Comment Group	Number of
	Comments
- Mention the need for more Federal money to be used for project	56
- Mention the need to use gas tax increase to pay for project	55
- Specifically request a higher discount for locals	36
- Believe that locals should be exempt from paying tolls	31
- Recommend Alabama implement a lottery to help pay for roads, schools,	
etc.	15
- Suggest leaving the existing Bayway alone for use by locals (non-tolled)	15
- Recommend ALDOT use the northern route and connect the Bayway to the	
Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge and build an interstate connector through	
Africatown to I-165	15
- Recommend moving the bridge over the Mobile River to the south near	15
Michigan Avenue to provide a bypass for through traffic	
- Do not believe that Wallace Tunnel should be tolled	13

Copies of the transcripts are contained in Attachment D . Copies of written commercin person, electronic submission (online and/or e-mail), and mail are included in Attachment D .	nts received cachment E.

ATTACHMENT A:

Public Notice and Advertisement

APR 1 2 2019

Alabama Media Group P O Box 2488 Mobile, AL 36652-2488



Press Register

INV#: 0009102722

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PRR BIZ 1501 FOURTH AVE STE 550 SEATTLE, WA 98101

Sales Rep: Cristy Boyington Account Number:1000880797

INV#: 0009102722

Remit Payment to: Alabama Media Group Dept 77571 P.O. Box 77000 Detroit, MI 48277-0571

Page 1 of 2

Date	Position	Description	P.O. Number	Ad Size	Costs
04/05/2019	Legals Mobile	Public Notice Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of	Project No. DPI-0030(005)	1 x 55 L	
			Basic Ad	Charge - 04/05/2019	\$112.06
				Total	\$112.06

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS AFFIDAVIT, PLEASE CALL CRISTY BOYINGTON AT 251-219-5301 OR EMAIL LEGALS@PRESS-REGISTER.COM





AD#: 0009102722

Total

\$112.06

State of Alabama,) ss

County of Mobile)

Cristy Boyington being duly swom, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of Alabama Media Group; that Press Register is a public newspaper published in the city of Mobile, with general circulation in Mobile County, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Press Register 04/05/2019

Principal Clerk of the

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of April 2019

Notary

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Alabama De-partment of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Project No. DPI-0030(005), Then, Project No. Dell'obstaclos, 1-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama. The purpose and need of this proposed project is to increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes and to provide a more direct route

for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's maritime industry_

You are invited to attend and participate in either of the following public meetings: Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4:30-8 p.m., Spanish Fort Community Center Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4:30 - 8 p.m.,

Mobile Civic Center ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 p.m. The public may review project information, exhibits. and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two-minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.
Free parking will be available at each meet-

Comment forms will be provided These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge. com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.st ate.al us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 p m on May 23, 2019.

The mailing address is: ALDOT - Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E. 1701 I-65 West Service Road N Mobile, AL 36618

For additional information, visit www_mobile riverbridge com For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting PRESS REGISTER April 5, 2019

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APR 2 5 2019

Alabama Media Group P O Box 2488 Mobile, AL 36652-2488



Press Register

INV#: 0009115658

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PRR BIZ 1501 FOURTH AVE STE 550 SEATTLE, WA 98101

Sales Rep: Cristy Boyington Account Number:1000880797 INV#: 0009115658

Remit Payment to: Alabama Media Group Dept 77571 P.O. Box 77000 Detroit, MI 48277-0571

Page 1 of 2

Date	Position	Description	P.O. Number Ad Size	Costs
04/21/2019	Legals Mobile	Public Notice Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of	1 x 55 L	
			Basic Ad Charge - 04/21/2019	\$112.06
			Tota	\$112.06

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS AFFIDAVIT, PLEASE CALL CRISTY BOYINGTON AT 251-219-5301 OR EMAIL LEGALS@PRESS-REGISTER.COM



Press Register

AD#: 0009115658

Total

\$112.06

State of Alabama,) ss County of Mobile)

Cristy Boyington being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of Alabama Media Group; that Press Register is a public newspaper published in the city of Mobile, with general circulation in Mobile County, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following

Press Register 04/21/2019

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22th day of April 2019

Notary Public

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Project No. DPI-0030(005), I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama. The purpose and need of this proposed project

The purpose and need of this proposed project is to increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes and to provide a more direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's maritime industry.

You are invited to attend and participate in either of the following public meetings: Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4.30-8 p.m., Spanish Fort Community Center Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4.30 - 8 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 p.m. The public may review project information, exhibits, and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two-minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Free parking will be available at each meet-

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot st ate al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 pm on May 23, 2019.

The mailing address is:

ALDOT - Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E. 17011-65 West Service Road N Mobile, Al. 36618 For additional information, visit www.mobile riverbridge.com. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg

riverbridge com. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (25) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting. PRESS REGISTER. April 21, 2019

LAGNIAPPE HD LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

Reference AD ID: 34917

SOMETHING EXTRA PUBLISHING INC.

P.O. Box 3003 Mobile, AL 36652

LAGNIAPPE WEEKLY/LAGNIAPPE HD

704 Government St. Mobile, AL 36602

Phone: 251-450-4466

Email: legals@lagniappemobile.com Web: www.lagniappemobile.com

Bill To:

ALDOT Attn: Allison Gregg 107 St. Francis St. Ste. 2100 Mobile, AL 36602

SALES REP: JACKIE CRUTHIRDS 251-445-7202/ legals@lagniappemobile.com

DATE	AD SECTION	Description	TOTAL COST
4/10/2019	LEGALS	Public Notice Mobile River Bridge & Bayway	59.09

PUBLIC NOTICE Netics is hereby since that the Adomin Department portation (AIDDI) will had a Public Hearing regard Sugglars werd Butt Leavestumeral Impact Settement No. DPI 0030(005). PO Mobile Bette Hiding and Byrole on the Baile with Courties, Alcharma. The purpose and need of his proposed project is to the capacity of 1-10 to more establish and projected for the routiness and to provide a more different need from the courties. All the returns and the provide are not different need to binspecting hazardous materials, while minimizing to Robbis yamaginic lodustry.

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Rividuals requiring special assistance, please call

at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be
least five days prior to the moeting.

Ashley Trice being sworn says that she is the advertising manager for Something Extra Publishing, Inc, which publishes Lagniappe HD, a newspaper in the City and County of Mobile, State of Alabama: the attached notice appeared in the issue of Lagniappe HD dated

Sworn to me this 10th day of

April 2019,

My Commission Expires August 15, 2020

> JACQUELYN B CRUTHIRDS Notary Public Alabama State at Large

LAGNIAPPE HD LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

Reference AD ID: 35160

SOMETHING EXTRA PUBLISHING INC. P.O. Box 3003 Mobile, AL 36652

LAGNIAPPE WEEKLY/LAGNIAPPE HD

704 Government St. Mobile, AL 36602

Phone: 251-450-4466

Email: legals@lagniappemobile.com Web: www.lagniappemobile.com

Bill To:

ALDOT

Attn: Allison Gregg 107 St. Francis St.

Ste. 2100

Mobile, AL 36602

SALES REP: JACKIE CRUTHIRDS

251-445-7202/ legals@lagniappemobile.com

DATE

AD SECTION

Description

TOTAL COST

4/24/2019

LEGALS

Public Notice

Mobile River Bridge & Bayway

59.09

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Notes in hareby given that the Alabama Day interportation (ADDIT) will haid a Public hear ing the Supplemental Dark Environmental in most, Implest No. 971-00300(305), 1-10 Media I into Enyery. Methole and Robinini Counties, in the purpose and head of this proposed pro-gresses the supplemental tests.

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Ashley Trice being sworn says that she is the advertising manager for Something Extra Publishing, Inc. which publishes Lagniappe HD, a newspaper in the City and County of Mobile, State of Alabama; the attached notice appeared in the issue of Lagniappe HD dated April/2

Sworn to me this 24th day of April 2019.

My Commission Expires August 15, 2020

JACQUELYN B CHUTHIADS Nutary Public Alstracta State at Large



Public Hearing

Project No. DPI-0030(005)
I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway
Mobile and Baldwin Counties

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Southwest Region (Mobile Area) extends an invitation to ALL interested individuals to attend and participate in a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 pm. The public may review project information, exhibits, and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 pm. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two (2) minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

For additional information, visit <u>www.mobileriverbridge.com</u>. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR DIRECTIONS

Place: Spanish Fort Community Center

7361 Spanish Fort Blvd Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Time: 4:30-8 pm

Place: Mobile Civic Center 401 Civic Center Drive Mobile, AL 36602

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2019

Time: 4:30-8 pm

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 pm on May 23, 2019. The mailing address is:

ALDOT – Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E. 1701 I-65 West Service Road N Mobile, AL 36618 Public Notices for the hearings at the Mobile Civic Center and Spanish Fort Community Center were left at the following places in Baldwin County:

Wilson's Service Center, US-98

Summit, US-98

Spanish Fort Post Office, US-98

Shell Station, US-98 Bass Pro Shops, US-98

Spanish Fort Gold & Coin

Tyndall Federal Credit Union, US-98

BBVA Compass Bank, US-98

Rouses, US-31 Wells Fargo, US-98 Starbucks, US-90, Daphne Home Depot, US-90, Daphne

Spanish Fort Community Center, US-31

Public Notices for the hearings at the Mobile Civic Center and Spanish Fort Community Center were left at the following places on the Causeway:

Oyster House

Ed's Seafood Shed

Felix's

R&R Seafood

Ralph & Kacoo's

Bluegill

Café Del Rio

Five Rivers Welcome Center

Five Rivers Nature Center

Public Notices for the hearings at the Mobile Civic Center and Spanish Fort Community Center were left at the following places in Mobile County:

City/County Complex – 6th Floor City/County Complex – 3rd Floor Exploreum, Government St.

Olensky Brothers Store, Royal Street Hancock Whitney Bank, Dauphin St.

Subway, Dauphin St.

Mostly Muffins, Dauphin St.

BBVA Compass Bank, corner of Royal and

Dauphin St. Serda, Royal St.

Alabama Power, St. Joseph Street Post Office, St. Joseph Street Moorer YMCA, St. Michael Street Regions Bank, St. Joseph Street LoDa Bier Garten, Dauphin St. TP Crockmiers, Dauphin St. Three Georges, Dauphin St.

Hero's, Dauphin St. Game Over, Dauphin St.

Mobile Downtown Alliance, Dauphin St. Joe Cain's in the Battle House, Royal St.

Panini Pete's, Dauphin St. Iberia Bank, Royal St. PNC Bank, Royal St. Royal Scam, Royal St. Bell & Co., Conception St.

Marine & Industrial Supply, Virginia St.

Shell, Virginia St.

Texas St. (Seals) Community Center, Texas St.

Higher Power Church, Texas St. International Ministry, Texas St.

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church,

Texas St.

Delaware Street Baptist Church, S. Lawrence St.

Holy Church of God - Mobile, Texas St. Shiloh Baptist Church, S. Warren St.

Robert Hope Community Center, Edwards St. Mobile County Training School, Whitley St. First Hopewell Baptist Church, Shelby St.

Union Missionary Baptist Church, Bay Bridge Rd. Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, East St.

Yorktown Baptist Church, East St.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 30, 2019

ALDOT to Host Public Hearings for Mobile River Bridge and Bayway

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold public hearings regarding the *Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS)*, Project No. DPI-0030(005), I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

The purpose and need of this proposed project is to increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes and to provide a more direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's maritime industry.

At the hearings, the public will have the opportunity to review the SDEIS, learn about project developments, and provide comments that will be incorporated into the *Final Environmental Impact Statement*.

The hearings will be held:

- Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4:30-8 p.m., Spanish Fort Community Center, located at 7361 Spanish Fort Blvd, Spanish Fort, AL 36527
- Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4:30-8 p.m., Mobile Civic Center, located at 401 Civic Center Drive, Mobile, AL 36602. To receive free parking, attendees must notify parking attendants that they are attending the ALDOT hearing.

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house where the public may review project information, exhibits, and the *Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two-minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the official public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, emailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 p.m. on May 23, 2019, to:

ALDOT – Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project

ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E. 1701 I-65 West Service Road N Mobile, AL 36618

For additional information, visit <u>www.mobileriverbridge.com</u>. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting.

About the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

This critically important, high-priority transportation project will involve constructing a new six-lane bridge across the Mobile River to increase Interstate 10's capacity and replace the existing four-lane Bayway with an eight-lane facility at an elevation above the 100 year storm surge event to reduce traffic headaches for thousands of commuters each day by saving motorists time.

The Wallace Tunnel currently averages 75,000 vehicles per day, reaching up to 100,000 vehicles during the peak tourism season. With almost double the daily traffic originally anticipated for the crossing, heavy congestions and longer travel times impact motorists, businesses, and the quality of life in the region. ALDOT expects this project to:

- Reduce travel time between Mobile and Spanish Fort/Daphne;
- Increase reliability in travel times and accessibility to jobs, educational facilities, medical services, and recreational activities;
- Facilitate access to/from major industries and freight destinations in Mobile and Baldwin Counties and provide hazardous material vehicles a direct route away from the downtown district; and
- Take all efforts to preserve and protect the Mobile Bay so that generations to come can enjoy the view and natural beauty from the bridge.

#

MEDIA CONTACT: Allison Gregg, (251) 604-9790 | agregg@mobileriverbridge.com

WKRG/News 5 WKRG/News 5

WKSJ-FM

WKSJ-FM WKSJ-FM

WKSJ-FM

WGOK-AM

WIAT-TV WIAT-TV

WCFT-TV

Phone

Email

Metro Reporter

Sharp

Bell

First Name | Last Name

Publication

Reporter

Liesch

Dale

Editor

Рарарра

Breck

Mobile Bay Magazine

South Alabamian

WALA/Fox 10 WALA/Fox 10

WBLX-FM

WABD-FM

Monroe Journal

Mullet Wrapper

Press Register

Gabe

Alexander

Kennon

Tony

Editor Editor

Clarke County Democrat

City of Orange Beach City of Orange Beach

County View Shopper

Demopolis Times

Lagniappe -agniappe

Acreman

Mark

Choctaw Sun Advocate

Atmore Advance

City of Gulf Shores City of Gulf Shores

Craft

Robert

WPMI/News 15 WPMI/News 15

WNSP-FM WNSP-FM

WZEW-FM	Catt	Sirten	On-Air Personality
WZNJ 106.5, WIN 98 FM	Editor		
Coastal Alabama Partnership	Stacy	Wellborn	Wellborn Communications Manager
InfraAmericas	Eugene	Gilligan	Senior Reporter
Inframation	Carl	Winfield	
P3 Bulletin	David	Keniry	Head of Content
IJGlobal (Project Finance & Infrastructure Journal)	Sakshi	Sharma	Americas Editor
ConstructConnect	Henri	Bradshaw	Bradshaw senior content specialist
BridgeWeb	Lisa	Russell	
Inspiratia	Ott	Tammik	
SARPC - Transportation	Kevin	Harrison	
WPMI/News 15	Bob	Noonan	News Director

Missi Shumer

From: May, Melinda <maym@dot.state.al.us>

Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 4:42 PM

To: Historic Mobile Preservation Society; Honorable Chris Elliot; Honorable Connie Hudson; Honorable

Dane Haygood; Honorable Michael McMillan; Honorable Ossia Edwards; Honorable Sandy Stimpson; Major General Janet Cobb; Mr. Anderson Flen; Mr. David Clarke; Mr. Douglas Kearley; Mr. Herndon Inge; Mr. James Hope; Mr. Joe Womack; Mr. John Sledge; Mr. Tilmon Brown; Mr. Walter Meigs; Ms. Amanda McBride; Ms. Carolyn Jeffers; Ms. Cynthia Walton; Ms. Elizabeth Harris; Ms. Elizabeth Merritt; Ms. Elizabeth Stevens; Ms. Katherine Frangos; Ms. Lee Anne Wofford; Ms. Mandy Ranslow; Ms. Mary

Cousar; Ms. Wendy Crocker

Cc: Clay, Natasha; Patterson, Pat M; Kayisavera, Dolha; missi@shumerconsulting.com

Subject: Public Hearing Notice

Attachments: MRB Public Hearing Notice.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Per your involvement as a Consulting Party, please see the attached Public Hearing notice for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project.

Melinda May

Engineering Assistant
Design Bureau/ETS
AL Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Blvd
Montgomery, AL 36110
Phone: (334)242-6738



Public Hearing

Project No. DPI-0030(005)
I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway
Mobile and Baldwin Counties

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Southwest Region (Mobile Area) extends an invitation to ALL interested individuals to attend and participate in a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 pm. The public may review project information, exhibits, and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 pm. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two (2) minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

For additional information, visit <u>www.mobileriverbridge.com</u>. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR DIRECTIONS

Place: Spanish Fort Community Center

7361 Spanish Fort Blvd Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Time: 4:30-8 pm

Place: Mobile Civic Center 401 Civic Center Drive Mobile, AL 36602

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2019

Time: 4:30-8 pm

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 pm on May 23, 2019. The mailing address is:

ALDOT – Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E. 1701 I-65 West Service Road N Mobile, AL 36618

ATTACHMENT B:

Public Hearing Materials

Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Public Hearing Internal Fact Sheet

Project Number: DPI-0030 (005)

Description: I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway

The existing I-10 Wallace Tunnel will remain as a connector to Downtown Mobile

Purpose & Need: Increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and future traffic volumes and to provide a more

direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's

maritime industry.

Presented Alternates: Five Feasible (5) (A, B, B' Preferred, C and No Build)

14 Alternatives originally, others didn't meet Purpose and Need

Existing and Projected AADT (No build/build)

	Demand (AADT)		
Route	2016 Existing	2040 No Build / Build	
Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge	16,650	49,840 / 51,163	
I-10 Wallace Tunnel (design capacity 35,000)	70,200	95,042 / 34,288	
Bankhead Tunnel (design capacity 16,000)	16,759	28,136 / 23,278	
Mobile River Bridge	N/A	/ 45,733	
Total	103,609	173,018 / 154,462	

- Without project, all routes congested in future years
- With project, I-10 has extra capacity and is free flowing
- Less total traffic 2040 build because of toll and congestion suppression/some taking I-65

Notes and Topics

- Tolling/Traffic:
 - Yes, the project will be tolled. Estimated cost is \$2 Billion. No Toll = No Project
 - o There will be a frequent user discount; 15% discount for users who make 20 or more trips per month
 - Project will be a Public Private Partnership (P3) Concessionaire will Design, Build, Operate, Maintain, and Finances; 55-year term (5 CN, 50 O&M)
 - Send anybody with a tolling and funding questions to the Tolling Displays
- Direct Press and Media to Allison Gregg and Katelyn Turner
- Cable Stayed Bridge with Air Draft minimum clearance of 215 ft above Navigation Channel
- Bayway to be replaced with 8 lanes above storm surge impacts (up to 10 feet higher)
 - o Existing Bayway to remain in use during construction and demoed after
- Next Steps:
 - o Address public comments. All comments will be included in the Environmental Documentation
 - Finalize Memorandum of Agreement with Section 106 Consulting Parties (Historic Resources)
 - Prepare and submit Final EIS and Record of Decision for Approval from FHWA. Anticipated early August
 - Pending approval of the FEIS/ROD, the project will be awarded to a Concession team March 2020 with Construction starting late 2020/early 2021; Construction will take estimated 5 years
- Comment formats: Comment Form, Speaking at Public Forum, or online at www.mobileriverbridge.com
 - Deadline for Comments is 5:00 pm Thursday May 23rd
- ROW is currently being acquired; 35 tracts of 43 tracts have been acquired; 0 residential relocations

STATIONS

Shirley Virginia	stration Hunter Johnson nning*	2. Speaker Registration Clay McCoy Jason White	3. Visualization Matt Taylor Adam Campbell Bill Turner	4. Project Overview Mike McCarthy* (P) Marvin Waller (R) Beverly Wilson	5. Main Span/Bayway Mack Outlaw Pat Hickox* Kenneth Lee
Jerome	Reddick			Scott Jayroe	
Marie	Kyser			Natasha Clay (E)	
Diamond	Pearson				
		T		Γ	
<u>6. To</u>	lling	7. Bike/Ped	<u>8. Forum</u>	9. Media/Forum	10. Broad-Duval Int
Andrew V	/ood (P,E)	Dolha Kayisavera (E)	Matt Ericksen (P)	Allison Gregg	Chris Blackwood
Missi Shu	umer*(E)	Wade Henry (E,T)	Edwin Perry (R)	Katelyn Turner	
Steve Wa	lker (E,T)	Vince Beebe (R)	George Conner		
Brian	Aaron		Jason White (signal)		
Jimmy Sł	numock*				
11. Virg	inia Int	12. Texas/Canal Int	13. East Tunnel	14. Midbay	15. Eastern Shore
Tom Ha	arjung*	Don Powell	John Reece	Akhter Hossain	Katie Parker*
Stan Bio	ldick (T)	Jesse Chambless	Paul McCracken	Greg Lowe (E)	Taylor Stoudenmire (T)

^{*}Consultant

Key MRB Subject Matter Experts for Questions:

- (P) = Procurement and Proposing Teams
- (E) = Environmental and SDEIS
- (T) = Traffic
- (R) = ROW

The 3 proposing teams and firms are listed below. If somebody introduces themselves from one of these teams/firms and has specific questions, send them to the Procurement subject matter experts.

- Gulf Coast Connectors: ACS, Macquarie, Dragados, Lane, Flatiron, TY Lin, Volkert, Traylor Brothers
- I-Mobility Partners: Cintra, Meridiam, Ferrovial, Parsons, AECOM, Arcadis
- Mobile River Bridge Group: Infrared, Shikun and Binui, Southland, Johnson Brothers, FCC, Figg Engineering

PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

Connecting communities, improving commutes

Congestion on I-10 between Mobile and Baldwin Counties is on par with the worst in the Southeast. As the region grows, it is critical that the I-10 system provide increased capacity to handle additional traffic coming through the area. To increase capacity, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) proposes the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project. This high-priority project involves three major components:

- Mobile River Bridge: a new 2.5-mile-long cable stay bridge with six lanes of travel over the Mobile River and a scenic overlook
- Bayway: 7.5 miles of new bridges over Mobile Bay with eight lanes of travel above the 100-year storm surge level
- Access: Seven interchanges reconstructed and/or modified



Conceptual Rendering of Mobile River Bridge

Project Area



Supplemental DEIS Overview

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was prepared primarily to evaluate changes in the project since the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was signed in July 2014. The SDEIS documents the results of additional studies and new information that has occurred in the project as a result of the following primary changes: alignment modifications, replacement of the Bayway, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, alternative delivery method, and tolling. The SDEIS identifies environmental commitments and mitigation measures to offset adverse impacts that must be carried through the design, construction, and post-construction phases.

Alternatives Considered

While Alternative B' has been identified as the Preferred Alternative due to its ability to meet the purpose and need of the project while minimizing impacts to the cruise terminal and other maritime industries, all four of the Build Alternatives evaluated in the DEIS and the No Build Alternative remain under consideration. Once a decision is reached, the public and agencies will be notified with the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD).

Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations

The Mobile River Bridge will feature an overlook, allowing visitors to take in sweeping views of Mobile, the river, and Mobile Bay. Also, ALDOT has committed to a new separated bicycle and pedestrian path across the Mobile River along Bay Bridge Road and the Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge. Future extensions would provide a continuous route from downtown Mobile to the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

Alternative Delivery/Project Financing

To advance the delivery of the project, ALDOT is pursuing a public-private partnership (P3). A P3 pairs ALDOT with a private partner to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the new Mobile River Bridge and Bayway. ALDOT will enter into a 55-year concession agreement with the selected team.

Tolling

ALDOT estimates the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project to cost approximately \$2 billion. Due to federal and state funding shortages, the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project is only viable if the corridor is tolled. Toll revenues will be used to cover capital costs, operation, and maintenance of the project. They will not cover all project costs. ALDOT will still be required to invest in the project using traditional funds and/or available grants.

The project will feature all-electronic tolling.

Gantries will be placed over the road to collect the toll electronically via transponder or license plate, allowing drivers to maintain travel speeds.

To help offset the cost of tolls for frequent users, ALDOT will incorporate a frequent user discount program into the tolling policy. In addition, the project will feature segmented tolling. Drivers will only pay for the section of the alignment they use. For example, if a driver travels on I-10 from Daphne and exits at Midbay, they will only pay for that segment.

For more information

- Visit MobileRiverBridge.com
- Contact Allison Gregg, Public Information Officer agregg@mobileriverbridge.com | 251-604-9790

Anticipated Schedule

Now - May 23, 2019

May 23, 2019 - Summer 2019

Late Summer 2019

Public and agency comment period to gather feedback on SDEIS Project team evaluates comments, develops FEIS/ROD to confirm preferred alternative FEIS/ROD approved by Federal Highway Administration, documenting selected alternative

Comment form



Date:	−
Name:	
Address:	
Note: No personal Information will be released.	
Are you any of the following:	
☐ Area business owner	
☐ Area resident	
Commuter	
☐ Work in vicinity of project	
☐ Other	
How often do you use I-10 between downtown Mobile a	nd the Eastern Shore each month?
Do you think there is a need to add capacity to I-10 acros	ss the Mobile River and Mobile Bay?
Are you in favor of the project as proposed?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	
Why or why not?	
····iy or ····iy noc.	
Please provide any additional comments you may have	on the proposed project.
Signature:	(continue on back if necessary)
	(

Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 23, 2019

Ways to submit comments for MRB project



At public hearings



Submit online:

mobileriverbridge.com/project/



By email:

mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us



By mail:

Matthew Ericksen, P.E. Region Engineer ALDOT, Southwest Region 1701 West I-65 Service Road Mobile, Alabama 36618

In person (at public hearing or at region office)

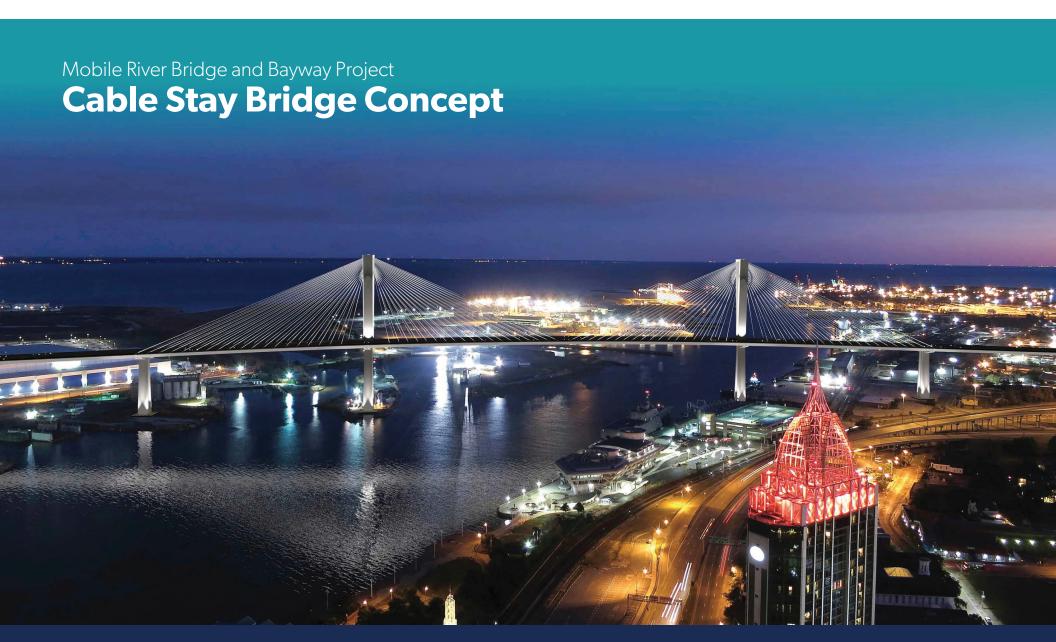






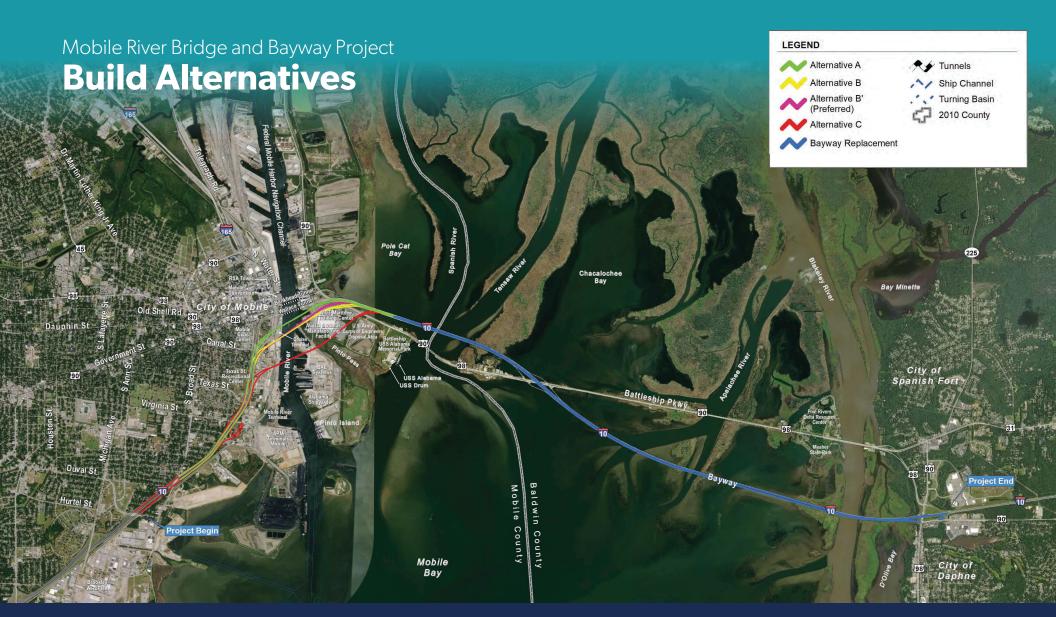






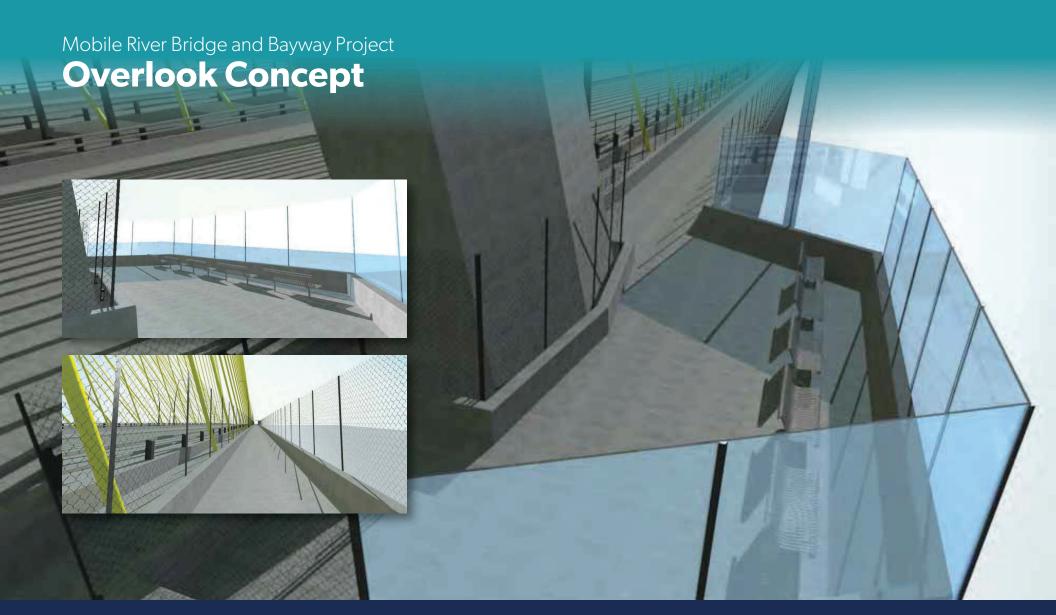


















Understanding Tolling

ALDOT estimates the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project to cost approximately \$2 billion. To fund the project while also addressing vital transportation projects throughout the state, ALDOT is seeking a creative financing package to expedite delivery of the project.

This approach includes grants, bonds, loans, and forming a public-private partnership (P3). ALDOT's first P3 project will bring additional capacity to I-10 before congestion becomes unmanageable.

Tolled Route

Once construction is complete, tolls will be collected along I-10 from Virginia Street in Mobile to the US 90/98 interchange in Daphne and I-10 business from Canal Street/Water Street to the Bayway via the Wallace Tunnel.

Toll-Free Route

The Causeway (US 90/98), the Bankhead Tunnel and the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge will not be tolled as a part of the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project.



All Electronic Tolling

The Mobile Bridge and Bayway will use all electronic tolling (AET) – allowing drivers to travel through the facilities without stopping to physically pay a toll. Electronic toll gantries will span the roadway and initiate the toll collection process via transponder or license plate image. Drivers are encouraged to maintain normal travel speeds.





Tolling Operations

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project is only viable if the corridor is tolled. Toll collection will begin when construction is complete (2025 estimated).

Frequent User Discount

ALDOT is committed to providing a frequent user discount and a free route between Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Paying Tolls

All Electronic Tolling assures speeds are maintained along the alignment. Drivers will have the option of purchasing a transponder, which will cost between \$5 and \$10. Transponders allow tolling equipment to quickly and accurately identify toll users to prepay tolls. Each time a vehicle with a transponder drives through a toll gantry, the transponder is scanned, and the amount of the toll is deducted from the vehicle's registered owner's account. Transponders will be available for purchase before toll collection begins.



Segmented Tolling

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project will feature segmented tolling. Drivers will only pay for the section of the alignment they use. For example, if a driver travels on I-10 from Daphne and exits at Midbay, they will only pay for that segment.

A surcharge of up to 50% may be placed on tolls for users who do not have a transponder. This surcharge covers additional costs associated with capturing an image of the license plate, looking up addresses, and mailing bills to the vehicle's registered owner.

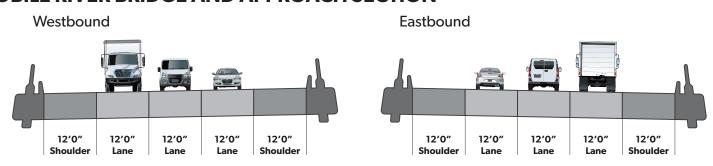




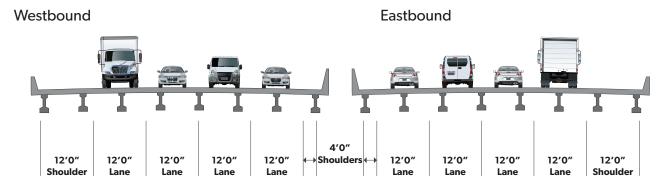


Sections

TYPICAL MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND APPROACH SECTION



TYPICAL BAYWAY SECTION

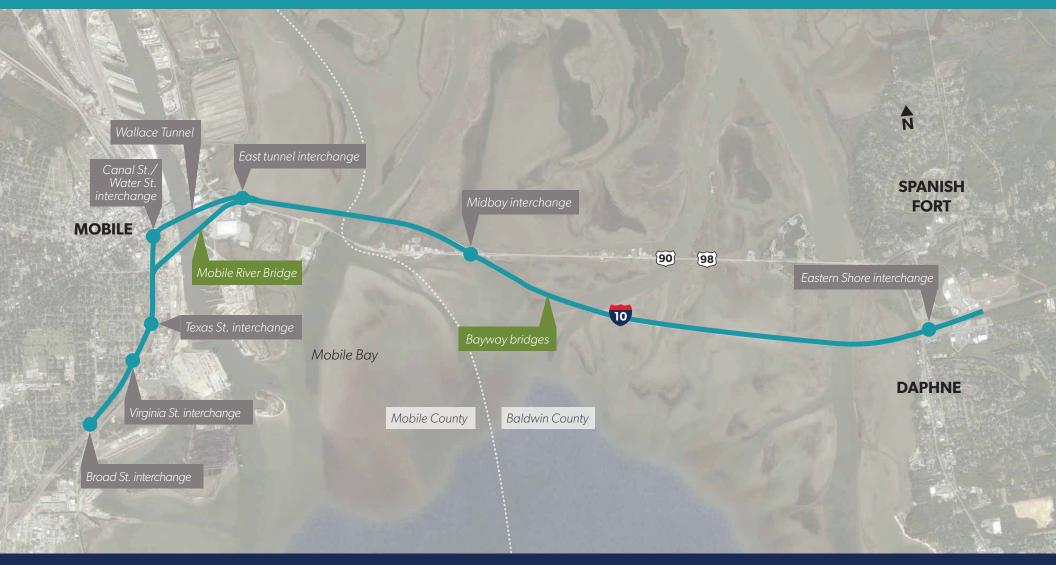








Project Scope and Limits





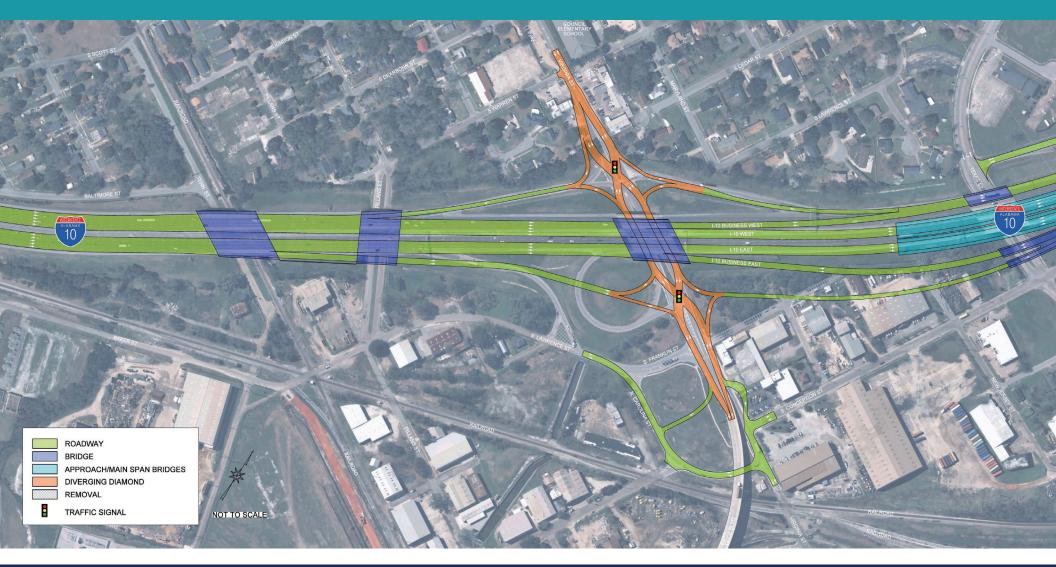
Tolled and Toll-Free Routes



Broad-Duval Street Interchange Concept



Virginia Street Interchange Concept



Texas Street and Canal Street Interchange Concept



US 90/US 98 East Tunnel Interchange Concept





Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project US 90/US 98 Mid-Bay Interchange Concept

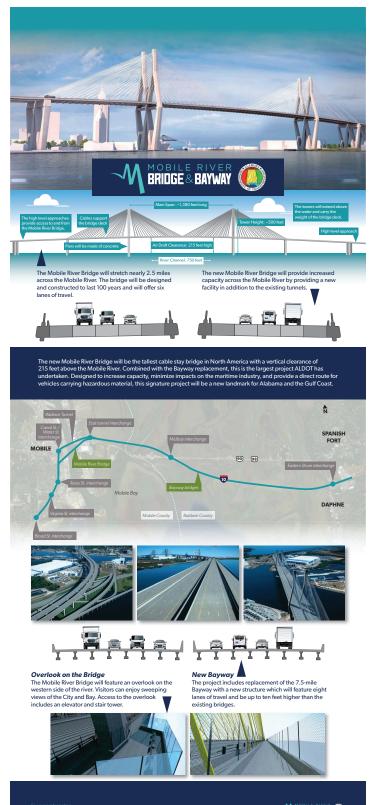




US 90/US 98 Eastern Shore Interchange Concept















































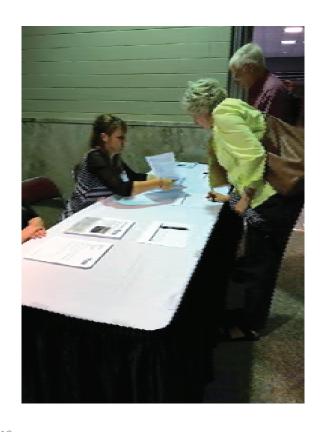


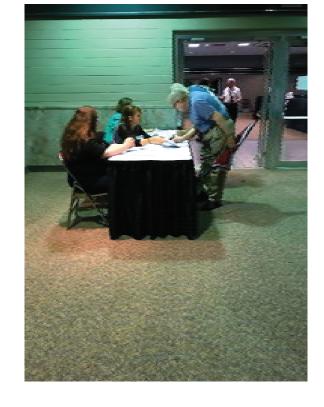






Mobile Public Hearing





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019





May 9, 2019



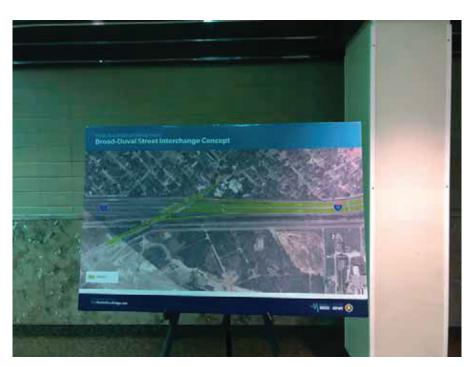


May 9, 2019





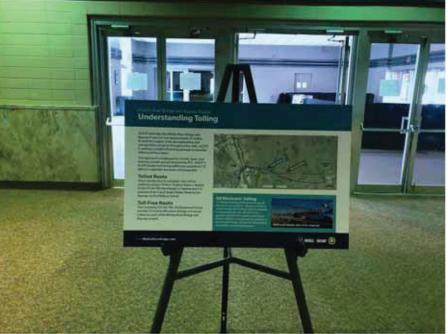
May 9, 2019





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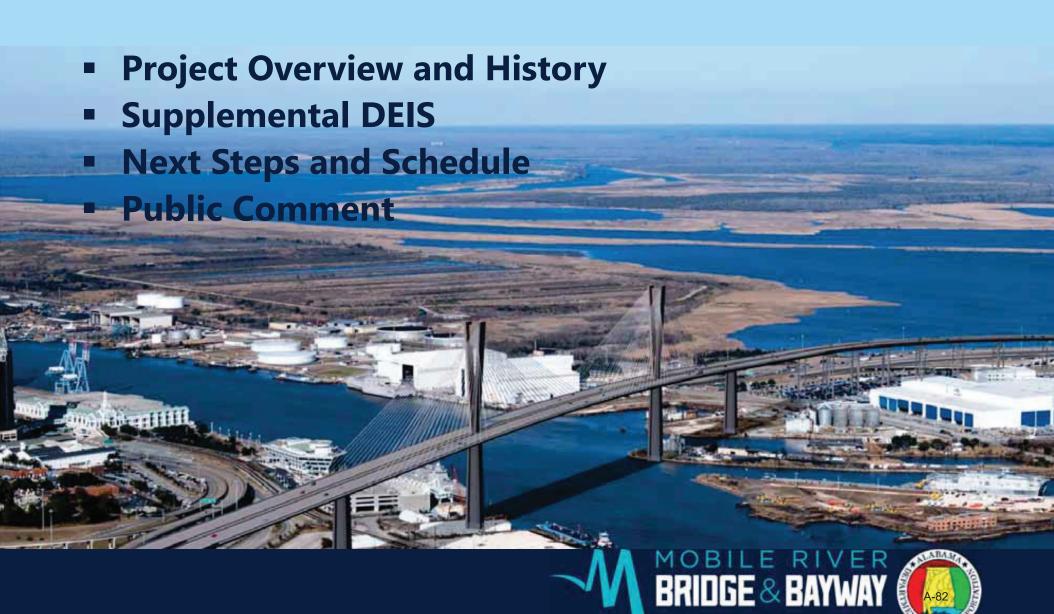




May 9, 2019



Today's Agenda



Project Overview and History



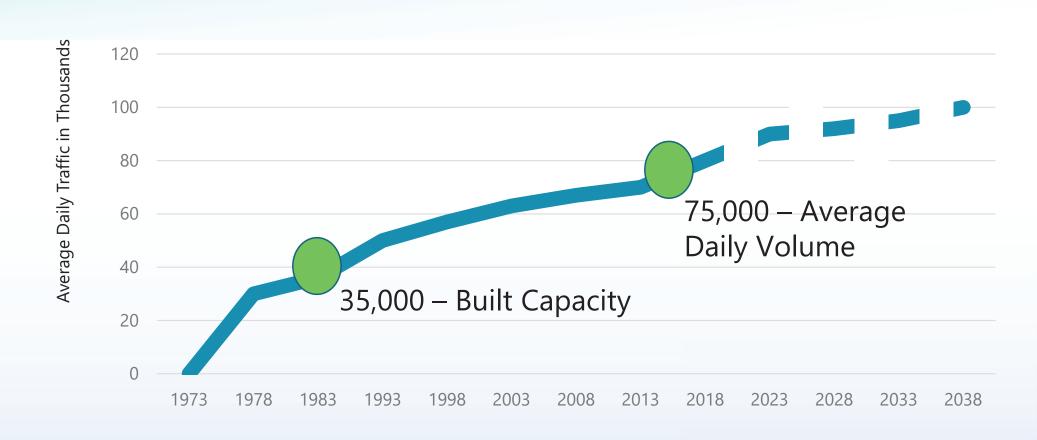
Purpose and Need

- Increase capacity of I-10 to meet existing and predicted future traffic volumes
- Provide a more direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials
- Minimize impacts to Mobile's maritime industry





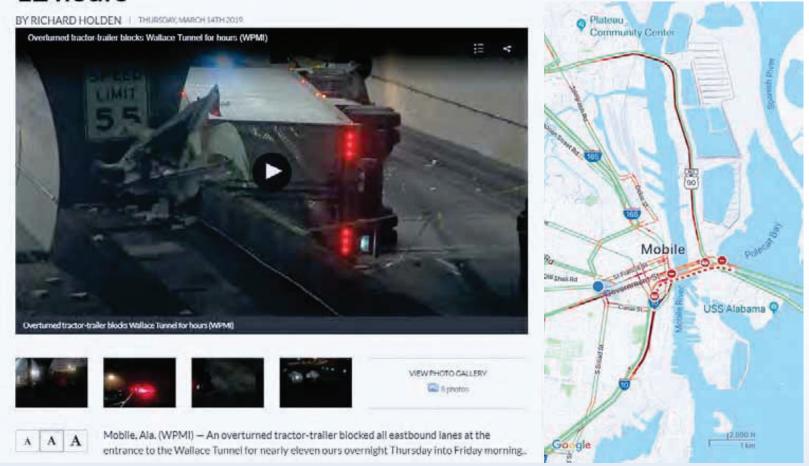
Traffic Projections: George Wallace Tunnel





Congestion in Wallace Tunnel

Overturned tractor-trailer blocks Wallace Tunnel for 12 hours



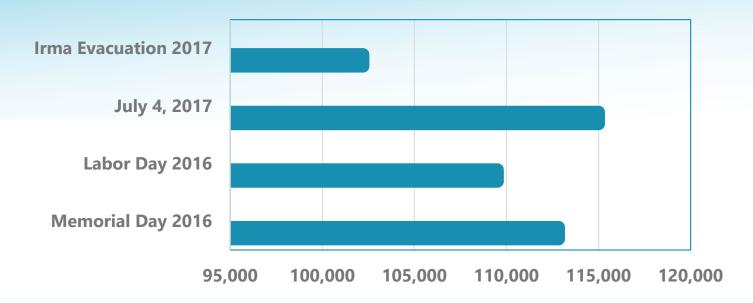


Congestion on Bayway





Historical Peak Traffic Volumes



Why this matters:

Traffic projections show that daily traffic by 2040 will be similar to current peak summer travel traffic.



Project Scope and Limits





Mobile River Bridge Main Span









Mobile River Bridge – Mobile, AL

Cochrane Africatown USA Bridge – Mobile, AL





Mobile River Bridge – Mobile, AL

Ravenel, Cooper River Bridge – Charleston, SC

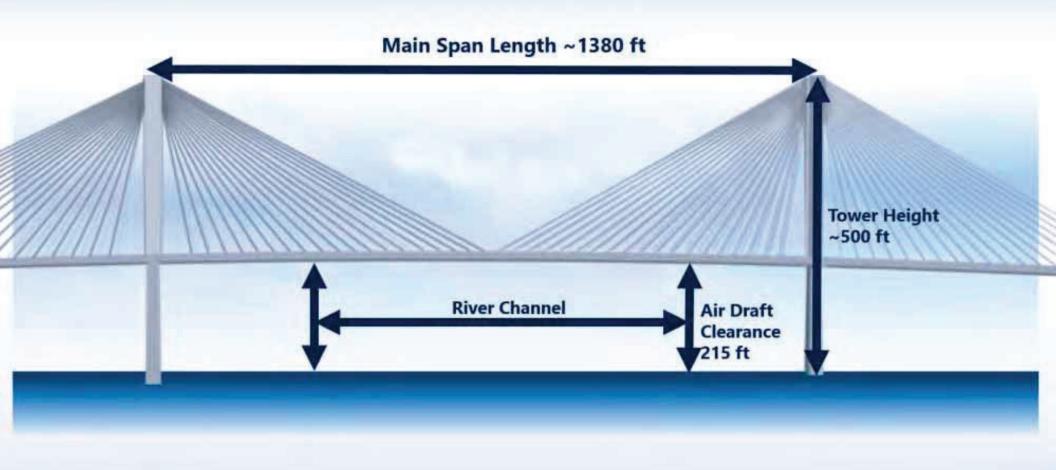




Mobile River Bridge – Mobile, AL

Golden Gate Bridge – San Francisco, CA







Project Scope and Limits





Replace Bayway

- Existing bridges opened in 1978 with 50-year design life
- Replace existing 7-mile bridges above the 100-year storm surge level
- Eight lanes of travel
- Up to 10 feet higher than existing











I-10 Mobile River Bridge and I-10 Business





I-10 Mobile River Bridge and I-10 Business

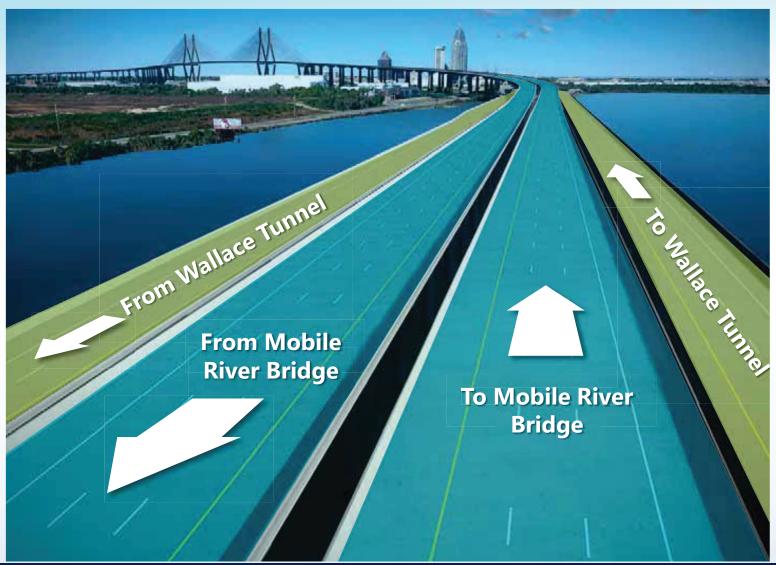


I-10 Mobile River Bridge and I-10 Business





Bayway to MRB and Wallace Tunnel





Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement



What is NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Evaluate potential impacts
- Solicit input from public

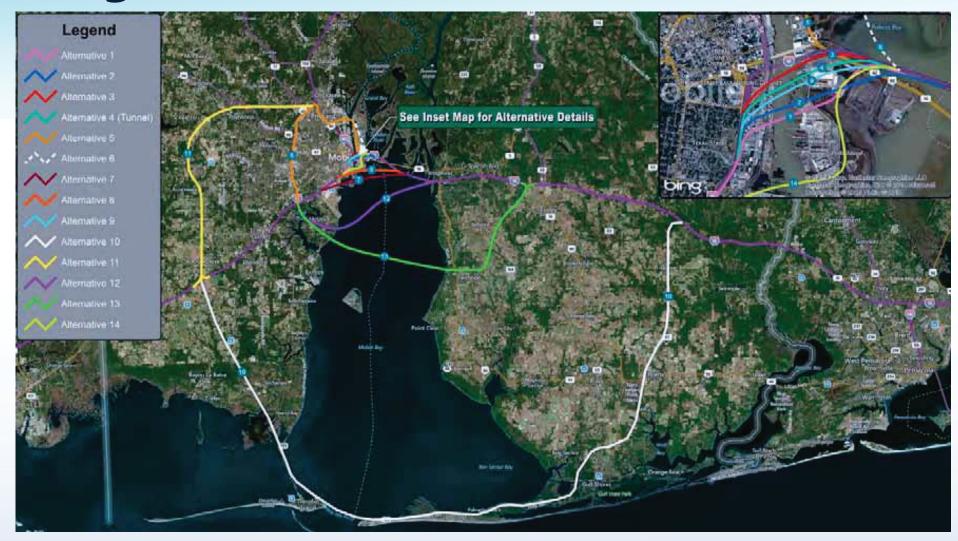
NEPA

Community Impacts
Endangered Species
Wetlands
Essential Fish Habitat
Submerged Aquatic
Vegetation
Air Quality
Noise

Environmental Justice
Parks
Farmland
Construction
State Laws
Local Laws
Federal Laws
And more...

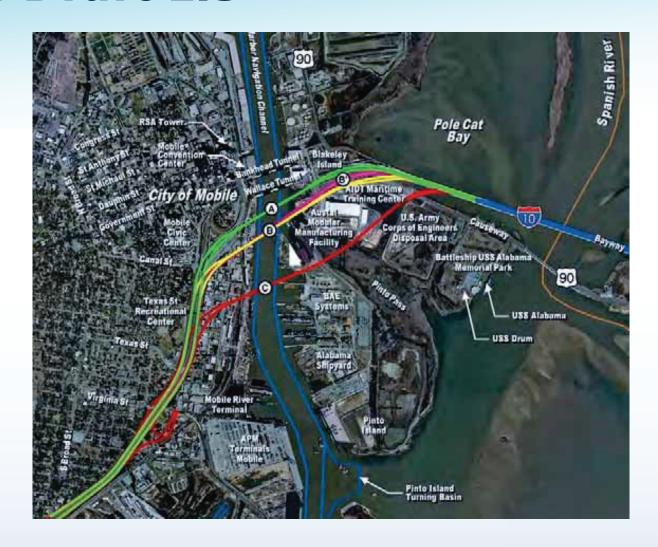


Original Alternatives





2014 Draft EIS





Major Changes Since 2014 DEIS

- Project Funding
- Refinements to Preferred Alternative
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations
- Replacement of Bayway



Activities Since 2014 DEIS

Conducted additional environmental and engineering studies:

Bridge Design Refinements
Roadway/Interchange Design
Bicycle/Pedestrian Alternatives
Traffic Projections
Traffic and Revenue Study
Economic Impacts
Traffic Noise Analysis
Air Quality Analysis
Hazardous Materials Investigation

Geotechnical Investigations
Vibrations Study
Environmental Justice Assessment
Historic Resources
Updated Wetlands and Submerged Aquatic
Vegetation Surveys
Storm Surge Analyses
Updated Threatened and Endangered
Species Consultation







Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

- DEIS committed to bike/ped route across the Mobile River
- Met with stakeholders and bike/ped focus groups representing Mobile and Baldwin Counties
- Bike/Ped Workshop: October 27, 2016
 - Bankhead Tunnel Alternative
 - Cochrane Bridge Alternative
 - New Mobile River Bridge Alternatives

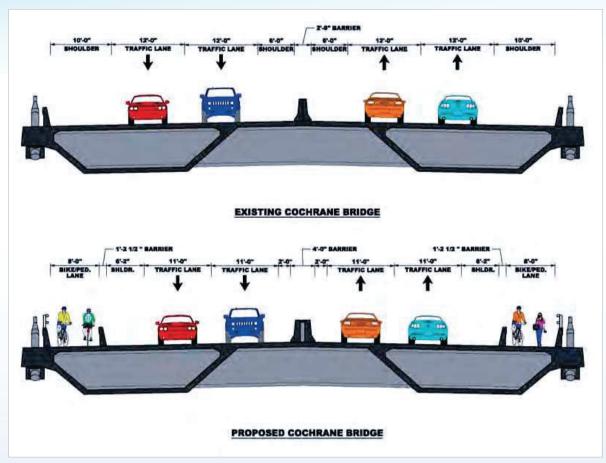


Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities





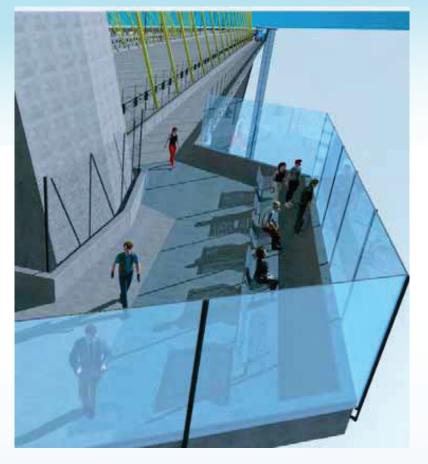
Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge Path



Conceptual – for discussion purposes only



Overlook











Conceptual – for discussion purposes only



Historic Resources

- Adverse visual effects on Church Street East and Lower Dauphin Historic Districts
- Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement documents mitigation measures
- Aesthetics is a large component of the mitigation



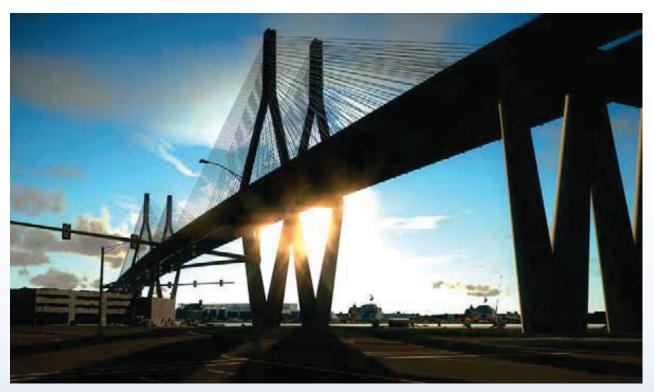


Project Funding and Financing



Project Funding Challenges

- Estimated Project Cost ~\$2.1B
- ALDOT limited budget for capacity projects statewide
- Federal shortages for infrastructure projects

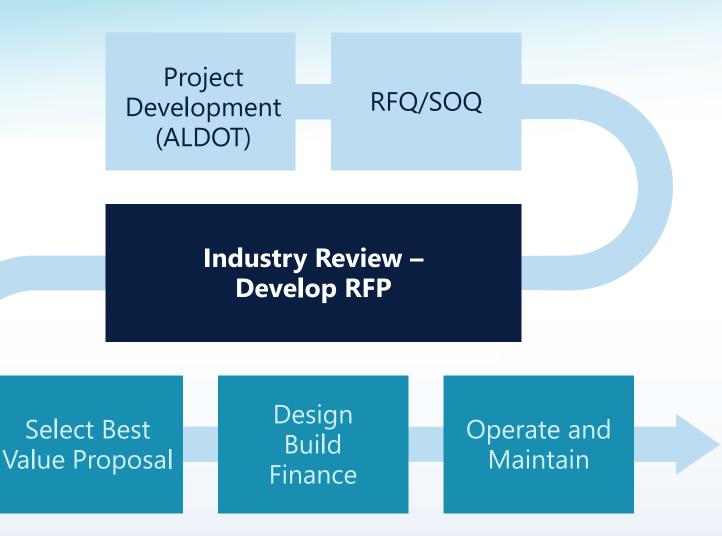


Public-Private Partnership (P3)

- Contract between a private entity and ALDOT:
 - Private entity to invest capital to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain project
 - ALDOT retains ownership and oversight

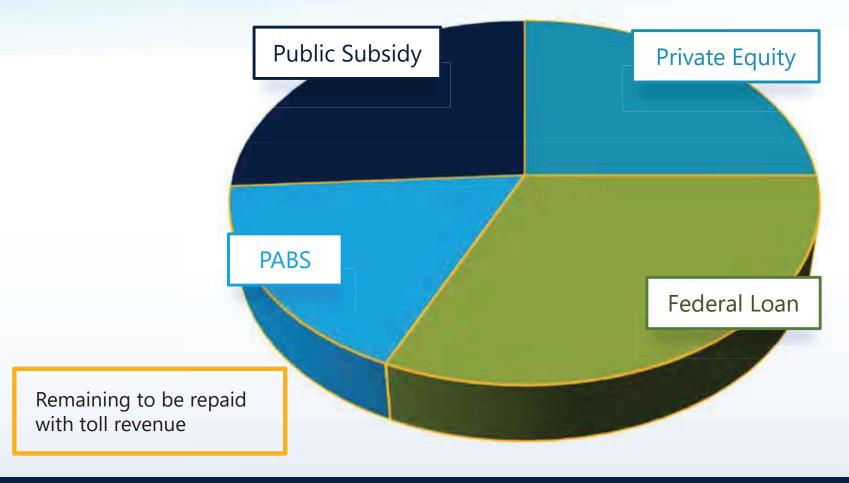


P3 Process





Project P3 Funding/Financing Sources





Tolled and Toll-Free Routes





Tolling

 Maximum opening day rate between \$3-\$6 for use of full route

All-Electronic Tolling

- No toll booths
- Transponders will be available for purchase prior toll prior to toll commencement.
- Toll by Plate

Frequent User Discount

- 15% discount for 20 or more trips per month
- Requires active transponder



Toll collection won't begin until project is completely open to drivers.



Segmented Tolling





No-Build vs. Build Traffic

- Without Project (status quo):
 - I-10, Bankhead Tunnel, Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge, and the Causeway will become increasingly more congested.
- With Project:
 - I-10 will be free flowing because of added capacity.
 - ALDOT to provide mitigation measures for impacts to non-tolled route.



Next Steps



Final EIS/Record of Decision

2014 2019-March 2019-May 2019-Summer

2014 - March 2019

- Conduct additional environmental and engineering studies.
- Prepare Supplemental DEIS to document findings.
- Identify mitigation measures and environmental commitments.

April – May 2019

- Gather public and agency comments on changes in project and SDEIS.
- Comment period closes May 23, 2019.

WE ARE HERE

Summer 2019

- Address agency and public comments.
- Prepare FEIS/ROD to document Selected Alternative, final mitigation measures, and Final Section 106 MOA.



Next Steps

Proposed project schedule, pending FEIS/ROD approval

Milestone	Anticipated Date
Proposals Due	December 2019
Project Award	March 2020
Construction	2020-2025





VISIO

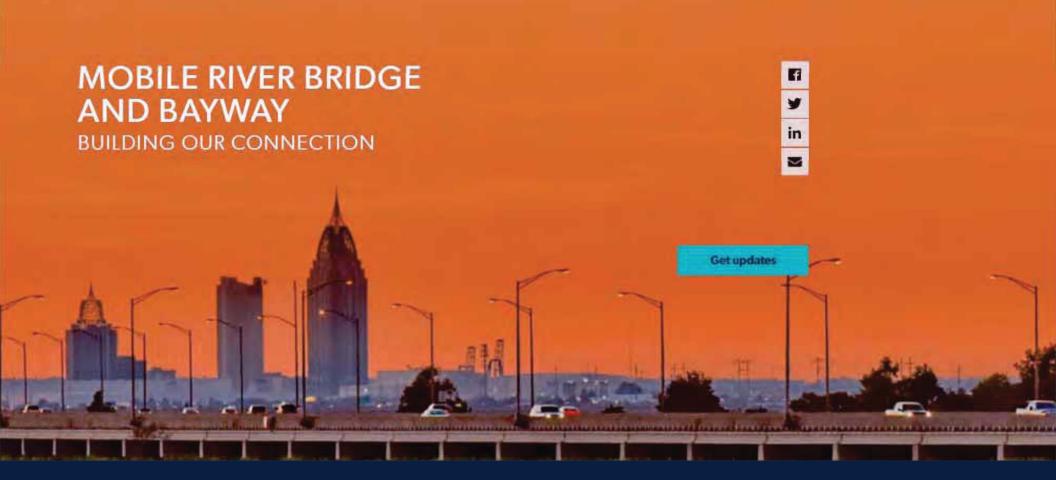
PROJEC

DOCUMENT

OPPORTUNITIE

NEWS & MEDIA

ALDOT is accepting public comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Click here to provide comments. To view materials from the Public Hearings, including the presentation, click here.



MobileRiverBridge.com



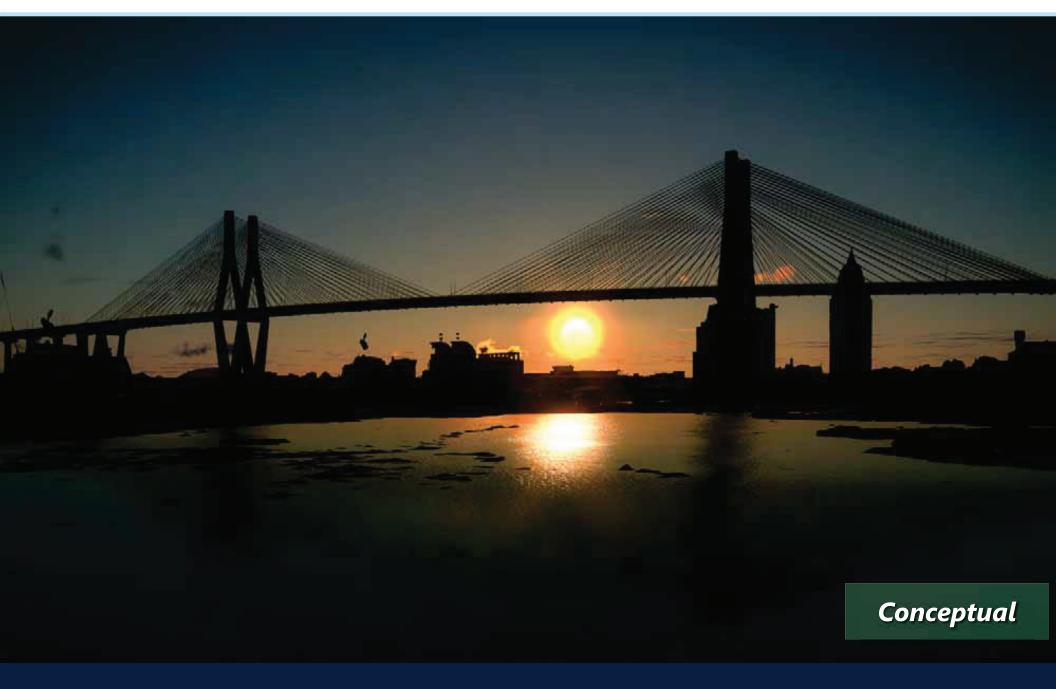
Public Comments

Public Comments Process

- Speakers must sign in at Welcome Area
- Speakers will be called up by number
- Two minutes per speaker
- Speakers must state name and if they represent an organization
- Timing:
 - Green light: Time begins
 - Yellow light: 30 seconds remaining
 - Red light: 2 minutes expired







www.MobileRiverBridge.com

ATTACHMENT C:

Media Coverage April 30, 2019 through May 9, 2019

Media Coverage - SDEIS Public Hearings (April 30 through May 9, 2019)

April 30, 2019:

https://www.al.com/news/mobile/2019/04/public-hearings-on-mobile-river-bridge-set-for-may-7-9.html

May 1, 2019:

https://www.fox10tv.com/public-hearings-planned-for-mobile-river-bridge-project/video_9b397c4c-06a4-5025-8001-

<u>08c49916e442.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=lwAR0PmPmg4wFGZ2Rlz9YunmaxMXcZWwT7iHPtlDlu0RZEktFZgkPYxIBoUwg</u>

May 4, 2019:

https://www.al.com/news/2019/05/should-tolls-support-africatown-environmental-justice-looms-large-in-i-10-bridge-

talks.html?fbclid=IwAR2oURrQHPjvp7XS6GYbmoRJXHpy2T7xAEoTFaoVO45u2xt0zHIwXbR3diA

May 7, 2019:

https://www.fox10tv.com/baldwin-county-residents-talk-about-new-mobile-river-bridge-plan/video 02b866c6-c4d9-58b5-b6d8-31780c5dd9c4.html

https://www.fox10tv.com/news/aldot-asks-for-your-opinion-on-new-mobile-river-bridge/article_a5a84246-70e6-11e9-936f-ab2b9bde4e0c.html

https://mynbc15.com/news/local/baldwin-co-residents-voice-opposition-to-tolls-at-bayway-bridge-project-meeting

https://mynbc15.com/news/local/i-10-mobile-river-bridge-bayway-project-the-toll-on-your-wallet

https://www.wkrg.com/news/baldwin-county/tolls-top-of-mind-at-mobile-river-bridge-meeting-in-spanish-fort/1987581076

https://www.al.com/news/mobile/2019/05/toll-opposition-dominates-i-10-mobile-river-bridge-project-hearing.html

https://www.facebook.com/FOX10News/videos/439849046774566/

May 8, 2019:

https://www.al.com/news/mobile/2019/05/toll-opposition-dominates-i-10-mobile-river-bridge-project-hearing.html

May 9, 2019:

 $\underline{\text{https://mynbc15.com/news/local/did-alabama-dept-of-transportation-dismiss-idea-to-lower-tolls-for-mobile-bridge-project}$

https://www.al.com/news/mobile/2019/05/a-bridge-too-far-concerns-aired-on-i-10-project.html

Proposed Highway Tolls Likely to Rile Up Activists

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"The estimated \$3 to \$6 toll assessed to drivers along the future *Bayway*, a brand-new I-10 Bridge and the existing Wallace Tunnel, sent shockwaves around the fast-growing" Baldwin County "this week. At a public hearing on the bridge *project* in Spanish Fort on Tuesday, opposition to the tolls dominated the meeting."

"The tolls are likely to roil local politics leading up to the 2020 election. Tea party activists are planning to advertise against the tolls soon, and business groups are already taking anxieties to city halls."

Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-01) "has repeatedly spoken of his opposition to tolls. But he also wants to keep the bridge-and-*Bayway project* moving quickly, and is pitching alternative funding sources such as oil and gas reserve revenues to help pay for the *project*. Thus far, ALDOT hasn t included those revenues as an actual option."

Byrne: "The input of local residents must be taken seriously in this process, as it is the local residents on both sides of the bay who will be most impacted." (AL.com)

State Auditor Jim Zeigler (R), who formed an exploratory committee to examine running in the Senate race, called the proposed tolls "irresponsible and economically dangerous." On Sunday, Zeigler "created a Facebook group to wage a campaign against the toll charges. The page is named 'Block the Mobile **BayWay** Toll."

On Facebook, Zeigler said "that he is researching options to pay for the bridge without a toll," and that he will submit his findings by the May 23 comment deadline.

Zeigler: There is no way I can forget to get this done. May 23rd is my birthday." (*Alabama* Political Reporter)

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Source Hotline - May 12, 2019

ATTACHMENT D:

Transcripts



Deposition of:

ALDOT Hearing

May 9, 2019

In the Matter of:

ALDOT Meeting

Freedom Court Reporting

800.808.4958 | calendar-freedom@veritext.com | 205-397-2397

	Page 1	
1		
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3		
4	MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND BAYWAY PROJECT	
5		
6	ALDOT PUBLIC HEARING	
7		
8		
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10		
11		
12	Mobile Civic Center	
13	401 Civic Center Drive	
14	Mobile, Alabama	
15		
16	May 9, 2019	
17		
18	5:33 P.M.	
19		
20		
21	REPORTED BY:	
22	Jan A. Mann, CSR	
23	Henderson & Associates Court Reporters	
24	260 North Joachim Street	
25	Mobile, Alabama 36603	

	I
Page 2	
1 APPEARANCES	1 project overview and history. We will walk through key
2	2 findings in the Supplemental Draft EIS.
3 Mr. John Cooper, ALDOT Deputy Director	3 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Could you speak closer
4 Mr. Don Arkle, ALDOT Chief Engineer	4 to the microphone, please, or pull the microphone to
5 Mr. George Conner, ALDOT Deputy Director of Operations	5 you?
6 Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA Alabama Division Administrator	6 MR. PERRY: Does this sound good? A
7 Mr. Matt Ericksen, ALDOT Southwest Region Engineer	7 little better? We will present the next steps for the
8 Mr. Edwin Perry, ALDOT Project Director	8 project. And at the end, the public will have the
9 Ms. Allison Gregg, Public Information Officer	9 opportunity to provide verbal comments. So we will
10	10 start off with the project overview and history.
11 SPEAKERS	The purpose and need of the project is to
12 No. 1 - Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce	12 increase capacity on I-10 between Mobile and Baldwin
13 No. 2 - Maggie Oliver, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce	13 counties, provide a more direct route for vehicles
14 No. 3 - Herndon Inge, Stop the Bridge	14 carrying hazardous materials because currently hazmat
15 No. 4 - Kevin Pimperl	15 vehicles are required to detour off I-10 through
16 No. 5 - Michael Sullivan	16 downtown Mobile to the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge and
17 No. 6 - Ruth Guess	17 Causeway before rejoining I-10.
18 No. 7 - Steve Flock	These vehicles will now be allowed to
19 No. 8 - Laura Stone, Mobile Baykeeper	19 cross over the new Mobile River Bridge since they are
20 No. 9 - Casi Callaway, Mobile Baykeeper	20 prohibited from using the Bankhead and Wallace tunnels
21 No. 10 - David Underhill, Mobile Bay Sierra	21 and also the project will minimize impacts to the
22 No. 11 - Carol Adams-Davis	22 maritime industry.
23 No. 12 - Michael Lee	The Wallace Tunnel was built to handle
24 No. 13 - Ash Baumann	24 about thirty-five thousand vehicles per day. We are
25 No. 14 - Karen Cassidy, Church Street East and Cyclists	25 currently seeing about twice that on a regular basis.
Page 3	
1 May 9, 2019 5:33 p.m.	1 On average, the annual daily traffic counts for the
2	2 Wallace Tunnel are seventy-five thousand vehicles per
3 PROCEEDINGS	3 day. Traffic modeling indicates that traffic will only
4	4 increase and grow for the foreseeable future.
5 MS. GREGG: Good morning, everybody. I	5 When incidents occur in the Wallace
6 am Allison Gregg and I am the Public Information Officer	6 Tunnel, congestion extends beyond I-10 onto other
7 for the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project. And I	7 routes. For example, last month and even last week, an
8 want to thank you for coming out tonight for joining us	8 overturned truck blocked the Wallace Tunnel entrance
9 for the second public hearing for our Supplemental Draft	9 which caused traffic to back up throughout the city of
10 Environmental Impact Statement. 11 Before we begin tonight, I'd like to make	10 Mobile. This project will provide additional capacity11 so when incidents like this occur the interstate is less
12 introductions. Starting at the far end of the table, we	12 likely to be completely blocked.
13 have Mark Bartlett who is with the FHWA. Next to him is	13 The project will also include
14 George Conner who is our Deputy Director of Operations	14 modifications to the geometry of the west portal
15 for ALDOT. Next to him we have, excuse me, Don Arkle	15 entrance of the Wallace Tunnel. This video from a storm
16 who is our Chief Engineer.	16 evacuation in 2018 shows how traffic moves how slowly
17 Next to Mr. Arkle, we have John Cooper	17 traffic can move during evacuations. Additional
18 who is our ALDOT Director. Next we have Matt Ericksen	18 capacity will provide those seeking refuge quicker
19 who is the Southwest Region Engineer, and last but not	19 access during evacuations but it is not uncommon for
20 least, we have Edwin Perry who is our Project Director.	20 summer weekends and even holidays to look like this.
21 And Edwin and Matt will be walking us through our	21 In the last three years, we have
22 presentation and then we will open up for public	22 experienced historical peak traffic volumes during
23 comment. So I will turn it over to Edwin now.	23 holidays and evacuations. When you look at the traffic
24 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you,	24 projections, we see that these peak numbers will become
25 Allison. This evening, we are going to discuss the	25 a daily traffic count by 2040.
25 Amson. This evening, we are going to discuss the	23 a daily traffic could by 2040.

Page 6 With Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Labor Day 1 1 three bottom pictures, storm surge has damaged similar 2 and Memorial Day in 2016, we exceeded over a hundred 2 bridges in neighboring states. Because of this, ALDOT 3 thousand vehicles per day. On July 4th of 2017, we 3 performed a storm surge analysis which indicated the 4 exceeded over a hundred and fifteen thousand vehicles 4 majority of our bridges would be impacted by storm 5 per day. This is becoming a regular occurrence. So what does ALDOT propose to do about The new Bayway will have eight twelve 7 the congestion on I-10. Here is a map of the project. 7 foot lanes and will be up to ten feet higher than the 8 It begins at Broad Street interchange in the city of 8 existing Bayway to get above storm surge levels. It 9 Mobile and ends just east of the U.S. 90/98 interchange 9 will connect to the Mobile River Bridge and the Wallace 10 in Daphne. Along this section of I-10, ALDOT will 10 Tunnel. 11 modify seven interchanges. We have boards showing these And now I'd like to describe to you how 12 interchanges in more detail outside this room in the 12 to access the city of Mobile from what we are calling 13 open house area if you would like to look at them. 13 I-10 Business. If you're on I-10 heading east and want So now let's talk about the Mobile River 14 to use the Mobile River Bridge, you will stay on I-10 15 Bridge, this rendering of what the bridge could look 15 which will begin decline at Virginia Street. 16 like across the Mobile River. ALDOT evaluated a variety If you are on I-10 heading east on 17 of bridge types and a cable stay bridge was determined 17 Virginia Street and want to go downtown or want to 18 to be the best fit because of its cost effective design access the east side of the river, you will take I-10 19 and its ability to span the navigation channel across Business which will take you to the Canal/Water Street 20 interchange. 20 the river. 21 21 This conceptual rendering shows what a (Weather alert alarms going off.) 22 driver's view could look like. The deck would be 22 MR. PERRY: So if you want to get to the 23 approximately twenty-one stories high and provide six 23 east side of the river, you would stay on I-10 Business 24 lanes of traffic across the river. Each lane will be 24 and go through the Wallace Tunnel. 25 twelve foot wide and have twelve foot shoulders. 25 Here you can see the entrance to the Page 7 Page 9 1 Combined with the Wallace Tunnel, there will be a total

1 Wallace Tunnel on the left and the existing ramps have

2 been removed and a new interchange at Canal/Water Street

3 has been constructed. On the right side is the Mobile

4 River Bridge in blue and in green is I-10 Business which

5 will take you to and from the Wallace tunnels.

If you took the Mobile River Bridge

7 across the river, you can continue on I-10 along to the

8 Bayway. Coming out of the Wallace Tunnel, you will exit

9 like you do today to get on the Causeway or you can

10 continue straight to access the Bayway.

Here is a rendering of the Bayway and the

12 Mobile River Bridge connection looking west before these

13 lanes merge to make the new eight lane Bayway. The blue

14 will take you to and from the new Mobile River Bridge

15 and the green will take you to and from the Wallace

16 Tunnel and east tunnel interchange to access I-10 or

17 I-10 Business.

18 Now since we've talked about the project

scope and limits, we will focus on the Supplemental

20 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT has

21 performed environmental studies and prepared

22 documentation to satisfy NEPA. NEPA stands for the

23 National Environmental Policy Act which is a law that

24 requires federal agencies to consider the potential

25 impacts of a proposed action on the environment. And as

2 of ten interstate lanes crossing the river. The Mobile River Bridge will be the 4 tallest cable stay bridge in North America with a two 5 hundred and fifteen foot vertical clearance over the 6 channel. This clearance was selected to minimize 7 impacts on the cruise ships and other maritime 8 activities. So to compare this bridge to some of the 10 other bridges you may be familiar with, first we have 11 the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge which has a vertical 12 clearance of a hundred and fifty-five feet. Next is the Cooper River Bridge in South 14 Carolina which has a vertical clearance of two hundred 15 and nine feet. Finally here is the Golden Gate Bridge

Here are the dimensions of the proposed

In addition to the new signature bridge,

19 Mobile River Bridge. Again you can see the clearance

20 over the river channel of two hundred and fifteen feet

21 and the main span will be just shy of fourteen hundred

16 which is a suspension bridge and has a vertical

17 clearance of two hundred and twenty feet.

24 we will also be replacing the existing Bayway. The 25 existing Bayway were opened in 1978, and as shown in the

18

22 feet.

23

Page 10 Page 12 1 part of the NEPA process, we studied the impacts of the 1 variety of user groups based on the public's feedback. Here's a map of the Mobile River and the

2 proposed alternatives and documented those impacts in 3 the Environmental Impact Statement.

As part of the NEPA process for the 5 project, we evaluated a range of alternatives based on 5 Road and across the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge. This 6 public input, engineering studies and environmental 6 will be built by the time the Mobile River Bridge and

7 resources. The fourteen alternatives shown here include 7 Bayway Project is complete. ALDOT will also work with

8 northern routes, new routes across the bay and even a

9 southern route, among others.

These alternatives were evaluated for a 11 variety of factors including meeting purpose and need,

12 environmental impacts and cost. The alternatives were

13 narrowed from fourteen to four and a Draft Environmental

14 Impact Statement was prepared to document the potential

15 impacts of each of the four build alternatives and the

16 no build. Alternative B Prime was identified as the

17 preferred alternative because it meets purpose and need

18 and minimized impacts on the cruise terminal, maritime

19 industry and the environment.

20 FHWA signed the Draft EIS on July 22nd, 21 2014 and we had held public hearings in September of

22 2014. Since the Draft EIS was signed, major changes in

23 the project have occurred. ALDOT began to look at

24 different ways to fund the project. We refined the

25 preferred alternative. We incorporated bike and

3 City of Mobile. ALDOT will construct a bike and

4 pedestrian path from I-165 traveling along Bay Bridge

8 the City and NPO to extend the path to downtown Mobile

and to Battleship Park.

As part of the project, ALDOT will

provide an overlook on the Mobile River Bridge on the

12 west side of the river with elevator and stair access.

13 In addition to these commitments, ALDOT will evaluate

option one which is to provide a path along the entire

15 route of the Mobile River Bridge to Battleship Park.

ALDOT will also evaluate option two which

17 is to provide an elevator and stair access on the east

side of the river and a path to the overlook on the

bridge.

20 This is a current -- this is the current

21 typical section of the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge on the

top of the page. The proposed bike and pedestrian

23 improvement would add a protected bike and pedestrian

24 path on both sides of the bridge without reducing the

25 number of lanes of travel.

Page 11

1 pedestrian facilities and we determined that the Bayway

2 should be replaced rather than widened.

Additional engineering and environmental

4 studies were performed to address the potential impacts 5 that may result from these changes. Some of the key

6 studies included roadway and interchange design, bike

7 and pedestrian alternatives, a traffic and revenue study 8 and additional consultation on historic resources and

9 the affected communities and ways to mitigate adverse

10 effects.

11 Because of these changes and updated

12 studies, ALDOT prepared a Supplemental Draft

13 Environmental Statement which was signed on March 26th

14 of this year. The Draft EIS included a commitment to

15 provide bike and pedestrian facilities across the Mobile

16 River.

17 After the Draft EIS, ALDOT looked at a

18 variety of bike and pedestrian alternatives, met with

19 stakeholders and focus groups and held a bike and

20 pedestrian public workshop. Based on the feedback

21 received, the people wanted to be able to experience the

22 views from the bridge and have a safer path across the

23 Mobile River.

ALDOT's preferred solution is a

25 combination of facilities to meet the interests of a

Here is a conceptual rendering of the

2 overlook that would be provided on the Mobile River

3 Bridge to give people an opportunity to experience the

4 views from the new bridge.

Consultation on impacts on historic

6 resources has been ongoing. The project will address

7 adverse visual effects on the Church Street East and

8 Lower Dauphin Historic Districts. ALDOT and FHWA have

9 worked with consulting parties to draft a Section 106

10 Memorandum of Agreement to document mitigation measures

11 for historic resources.

12 Aesthetics is a large component of

13 mitigation for visual effects along with landscaping,

14 lighting and treatment of areas underneath the bridge.

15 We encourage you to visit the visualization table just

16 outside this room if you haven't had the chance to yet.

17 So now I'll turn it over to Matt Ericksen to discuss

project funding and financing.

MR. ERICKSEN: Thank you, Edwin. ALDOT

20 and the U.S. DOT are looking for ways to fund major

21 projects. With the new Mobile River Bridge and

22 replacement of the Bayway, this project has an estimated

23 cost of 2.1 billion dollars. Statewide ALDOT has a

24 limited budget for capacity projects.

25 Due to funding shortages, Alabama and Page 13

Page 14 Page 16

- 1 other states around the country are looking for ways to
- 2 fund these major projects, and with advanced technology,
- 3 there has been renewed interest in using toll revenue to
- 4 fund projects similar to this.
- After the Draft EIS, ALDOT evaluated
- 6 alternative delivery methods to deliver the project and
- 7 fill the funding gaps. With consultation from the
- 8 Federal Highway Administration, ALDOT decided to pursue
- 9 an alternative delivery method in the form of a
- 10 public/private partnership.
- This P3 contract is between a private
- 12 entity and ALDOT where the private entity invests in the
- 13 project to design, build, operate and maintain the
- 14 project while ALDOT retains ownership and oversight to
- 15 ensure compliance with commitments.
- As part of the P3 process, ALDOT
- 17 developed a base plan and conducted studies as part of
- 18 project development. ALDOT issued a request for
- 19 qualifications and shortlisted three qualified teams to
- 20 submit proposals. Since shortlisting the teams in
- 21 February of 2018, ALDOT has been working with these
- 22 teams to develop the request for proposals.
- Following final environmental approval,
- 24 the final RFP will be issued and released to the three
- 25 teams. Teams will then submit their proposals and ALDOT
- 1 will select the best value proposal. The selected team
- 2 will design, build, finance, operate and maintain the
- 3 project for a fifty-five year concession period which
- 4 includes five years for construction.
- With a P3, the four key elements to fund
- 6 and finance this project are private activity bonds
- 7 which are tax-exempt bonds, a federal loan, private
- 8 equity and a public subsidy which could include grants.
- 9 The PAB's, federal loan and private equity will all be
- 10 paid back via toll revenue; therefore, without any toll
- 11 revenue, we do not have a feasible project.
- 12 As shown in the blue, the tolled route
- 13 will be on I-10 from Virginia Street to the U.S. 90/98
- 14 interchange in Daphne. I-10 Business from Canal/Water
- 15 Street through the Wallace Tunnel will also be tolled.
- ALDOT is committed to maintaining a
- 17 toll-free route across the bay. The toll-free route
- 18 includes the Causeway, Bankhead Tunnel and the
- 19 Cochrane-Africatown Bridge as shown in green.
- ALDOT will cap a maximum opening day toll
- 21 rate between three and six dollars for the full route.
- 22 The project will use all electronic tolling which means
- 23 there will be no toll booths. Tolls may be collected in
- 24 a variety of ways which include through transponders in
- 25 your vehicles which allow drivers to prepay for tolls or

- 1 a toll-by-plate program where invoices for toll fees are
- 2 mailed directly to the vehicle owner's address.
- A frequent user discount program will be
- 4 included. ALDOT is currently proposing a fifteen
- 5 percent discount for passenger vehicles totaling twenty
- 6 or more trips across the bay and this would be per
- 7 month. Toll collection will not begin until the project
- 8 is open which currently is anticipated to be in the year
- 9 2025.
- 10 Another feature of the tolling is that
- 11 the tolls will be segmented. This means you will only
- pay for the portion of the toll route you use. This map
- 13 shows the various segments that will be tolled starting
- with the longest and ending with the shortest.
- 15 The actual toll rate for each segment is
- 16 still under consideration but they must fall within the
- 17 limits that will be set by ALDOT. This map is also
- shown on the boards at the tolling station out there in
- the open house area.
- 20 The build and no build options are still
- 21 being considered in the NEPA process and it is important
- 22 to understand the difference in traffic conditions under
- each scenario. Without the project, I-10, the Bankhead
- 24 Tunnel, the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge and the Causeway
- 25 will become more congested as traffic volumes increase.
- Page 15
- Page 17 1 With the project, I-10 will have additional capacity and
- 2 will be free flowing.
- ALDOT will mitigate congestion on the
- 4 non-tolled route which includes an access management
- 5 plan to maintain access to and from destinations along
- Now I will turn it back over to Edwin to
- 8 discuss the next steps in the project.
- MR. PERRY: All right. Thanks, Matt. To
- 10 recap, we have spent the time since the last public
- 11 hearings conducting additional environmental and
- 12 engineering studies and preparing the Supplemental Draft
- 13 EIS to document the results from those studies and
- update the potential impacts.
- 15 The Supplemental Draft EIS identifies
- 16 mitigation measures to address adverse impacts and
- commitments that must be carried forward through design
- to avoid or minimize impacts where possible.
- Now through May 23rd, we are gathering
- 20 public and agency comments on the project. After May
- 21 23rd, we will review and evaluate comments and address
- 22 them in the Final EIS and Record of Decision. The Final
- 23 EIS and Record of Decision will also document the
- 24 selected alternative, final mitigation measures and the 25 final Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement.

Page 20 Page 18 1 We anticipate approval of the Final EIS And when you begin your comments, please 2 and ROD in early August of this year. Pending the final 2 remember to first state your name, your address and any 3 approval of the EIS and ROD, our next steps in the P3 3 group affiliation if you are representing a group. And 4 process are receiving proposals from the three 4 we will start off with our first speaker, with speaker 5 shortlisted teams in December, selecting a team in March 5 number 1. You may come up to the microphone. 6 of 2020 and beginning construction shortly thereafter. SPEAKER NUMBER 1: Good evening. 7 Materials from tonight's meeting are 7 Mr. Cooper, Matt, Edwin, thank y'all for your hard work 8 available online and at our project website 8 on this project and certainly the thorough process that 9 www.mobileriverbridge.com. You can click on the banner you are going through. We certainly appreciate that. 10 at the top of the page and view the boards and other I'm Bill Sisson. I live at 109 Beverly 11 meeting materials we have here tonight. You can also 11 Court in Midtown Mobile and I'm president and CEO of the 12 submit your comment forms online. 12 Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. 13 We are going to take a short break before 13 As the lead economic development 14 we begin the public hearing portion of tonight's 14 organization for the city and the county of Mobile, 15 meeting. You are welcome to stay here and listen to the 15 believe me when I tell you that infrastructure is 16 comments shared or go outside this room and view the important. It matters. It keeps us competitive. 17 17 displays. Thank you. This community is experiencing tremendous 18 (Brief recess.) 18 growth. I think everyone is aware of that with large 19 MR. PERRY: Okay. We will start up in scale projects like Airbus, Austal, our steel companies, 20 about five minutes. All right. We will start the 20 certainly the Amazon and Walmart distribution projects, 21 public forum portion of tonight's meeting. Those of you 21 many, many more and it creates jobs for our citizens and 22 wishing to speak should have signed up at the welcome 22 raises our standard of living. And let's not forget the 23 area and the speakers will be called up by number. many opportunities it provides to all of our small Our public forum is designed to give you 24 businesses here in this area as well. 25 an opportunity to share comments for review and 25 But at the end of the day, our Page 21 1 consideration by ALDOT. We encourage you even if you 1 competitiveness, it comes down to infrastructure. Our

2 excellent infrastructure, whether it be people or 3 products by water, rail, road or air, we -- it's had a 4 truly competitive advantage here and it makes it 5 possible to continue to grow. That is all good, of course, but the 7 growing demands on that infrastructure requires us to 8 continue to maintain and improve our infrastructure. So 9 we cannot allow our modes of transportation to erode and 10 prevent a clogged moving of our business products and 11 people and we certainly cannot allow the people of this 12 great city to experience a deteriorating quality of life 13 because they're sitting in terrible traffic. As I close, let me say that this bridge 15 will make it possible for us to continue to attract 16 businesses and jobs to this area and will keep us 17 competitive in economic development. We can no longer wait. The more and more expensive and complex that it 19 becomes every day we wait. So let's build the I-10 20 bridge. The time is now. Thank you very much. 21 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 2. 22 SPEAKER NUMBER 2: Hey. I'm Maggie 23 Oliver. I work for the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and I 24 live in Midtown Mobile at 271 Kreitner Street. I take

25 great pride in being from Alabama and I love to tell

2 share your comments during the public forum to also 3 provide your comments in writing on our public comment 4 forms. Because your time is limited to two 6 minutes, the comment form allows you to elaborate and 7 express your comments in full detail. And if you need, 8 you can attach as many sheets to our comment forms. This public forum is not a question and 10 answer session, and if you still have questions or need 11 further assistance, ALDOT representatives remain 12 available just outside this room for one-on-one 13 discussions. 14 Tonight's public forum is being 15 transcribed by a court reporter and our timekeeper will 16 use a traffic signal to provide a visual queue of your 17 time. The light will turn green when your two minutes 18 begin. The light will turn yellow when you have thirty 19 seconds remaining and the light will turn red when your 20 time is expired. So with your visual queue of thirty 22 seconds with the yellow light, please begin to wrap up 23 your comments. Please hold your applause between 24 speakers and other noise from the audience so we can 25 make use of everyone's time.

Page 24

- 1 people that I live in Mobile. And what I don't love is
- 2 when people look at me and they say, oh, that place with
- 3 the tunnel where you sit in traffic on the way to the
- 4 beach. I'm like yeah, but there's so much more.
- But what I would say is to keep in mind
- 6 as we're doing this is what economic drivers these two
- 7 counties are for our state, and not only is it, you
- 8 know, Mobile with the port and Austal and things that
- 9 Bill just mentioned but we have a huge attraction with
- 10 our beaches in Baldwin County.
- And making it easier for people to get to
- 12 those beaches is -- it makes us look better and I think
- 13 investing in our community in that way, I know two
- 14 billion dollars is a big number. Taxes and tolls are
- 15 not fun but it is something that we need to take
- 16 seriously and consider the overall impact that it will
- 17 have positively for the economy in our region and
- 18 quality of life, of course. No more traffic in the
- 19 tunnel.
- 20 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 3.
- 21 SPEAKER NUMBER 3: Okay. Got it. I
- 22 address my remarks to Mr. Bartlett. He's the one that
- 23 makes the decision. I've addressed all you other folks
- 24 and y'all aren't listening but Mr. Bartlett listens.
- 25 The practical answer to crossing the

- 2 in downtown Mobile and historic neighborhoods and

If it's talking about the quality of life

- 3 historic structures, then I will take that little bit of
- 4 delay. My office is one block from here on the corner
- 5 of South Cedar Street and Monroe Street.
- I will look out my window and see the
- 7 five hundred and fifty-one feet, two towers and the two
- 8 hundred and fifteen foot vertical clearance roadway from
- 9 my window. And it's -- I will submit all my writing,
- 10 all of it in writing but it's ridiculous and insulting
- 11 for you engineers to say that the visual impact is
- 12 mitigated -- I see it -- is mitigated by fifty thousand
- 13 dollars of tree cover that will not be mature in our
- 14 lifetime.
- 15 It's insulting. And the way y'all have
- 16 bypassed the impact -- FHWA has said there was an
- 17 impact. You guys said there was not an impact. That
- guy listens. So you'll see my comments. You will see
- me in federal court. And, you know, Embarcadero Freeway
- 20 in San Francisco and the I-20/I-59 Birmingham, you build
- 21 it, you realize it was a mistake and you tear it down.
- 22 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you.
- 23 Speaker number 4.
- SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Good evening. My name
- 25 is Kevin Pimperl. I live in Baldwin County, 12138 A D

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- 1 bridge has only been considered here, not the cumulative
- 2 impact on the central business district, historic
- 3 Mobile, tourist impressions of our beautiful city
- 4 downtown, Cooper Riverside Park, the waterfront,
- 5 historic neighborhoods, aesthetics, its residents, its
- 6 history and the very reason that we're here.
- The Chamber of Commerce has had its two
- 8 people because they think that historic preservation and
- 9 they think that tourism is not an industry. The
- 10 industry has spoken. Now I'm speaking for the people.
- By the way, my name is Herndon Inge and
- 12 I'm with Stop the Bridge and I've been around a long
- 13 time and I plan to stay around a lot longer. I also
- 14 intend to be the lead plaintiff in the federal court
- 15 lawsuit if y'all don't follow federal law.
- The Alt B corridor will ruin downtown,
- 17 Mobile's past and future for -- to prevent a few hours
- 18 of delay and the four to six ships per day that crosses
- 19 under the bridge.
- 2.0 The Atlanta mayor, Maynard Jackson, said
- 21 the good news is that we have a state capital, Atlanta
- 22 has a state capital, major baseball team, major league
- 23 football team, international airport, amusement parks
- 24 and we sacrifice a little traffic delay. I'll take that
- 25 sacrifice.

- 1 Rider Road between Bay Minette and Spanish Fort. I
- 2 commute to downtown Mobile every day to work. My wife
- 3 commutes to Mobile, too.
- We travel the Wallace Tunnel twice a day,
- 5 both of us. So you're adding a two hundred and forty to
- 6 four hundred and eighty dollar bill to us per month
- 7 which is not feasible for us.
- So we would have to -- we would be forced
- 9 to take the Bankhead Tunnel which is fine but there are
- 10 thousands of families in my same situation who are going
- 11 to do the same thing. So I want to make sure that you
- 12 guys take that into consideration.
- The added traffic through the Bankhead
- 14 Tunnel is going to be ridiculous and you're basically
- 15 taking away an alternate route. So I'm afraid you're
- 16 going to make a bad problem worse in a lot of ways.
- 17 The bridge is beautiful and I mean I'm
- 18 not opposed to a toll of some kind but I mean a fifteen
- percent discount on three hundred dollars a month is
- 20 still an undue burden on the local people who have made 21 a living for generations in this area living and working
- 22 back and forth in this community. Thanks.
- 23 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 5.
- 24 SPEAKER NUMBER 5: Good evening. My name
- 25 is Michael Timothy Sullivan. I'm seventy-five years

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age 26

- 1 old, a retired shipyard worker and I actually helped
- 2 build the Wallace Tunnel.
- In my opinion, what we have here is an
- 4 engineering nightmare. You have an elevated tunnel.
- 5 You get a tractor trailer with eighteen thousand gallons
- 6 of high test gas off in that Mardi Gras crowd on that
- 7 high turn and that is the end of Mobile financially.
- 8 I have drawn up an alternate thing across
- 9 Pinto Island, a gradual -- you'll never even know it's
- 10 being built. Felix's Fish Camp, all the seafood --
- 11 nobody will be affected. This is strictly for the
- 12 eighty, ninety mile an hour tourist, truck drivers, drug
- 13 dealers, human traffickers to get past Mobile safely.
- 14 No bike lanes, no pedestrian tracks, nothing.
- 15 All this -- if you have a disaster, where
- 16 Pinto Island is is just a scrap yard. The Coast Guard,
- 17 everybody can be there in minutes from the water. And 17
- 18 also the funding, why not get with Texas, Louisiana,
- 19 Mississippi. This is a hurricane evacuation route.
- 20 This thing carries a high volume of traffic. Y'all need
- 21 to kick in a little bit.
- Alabama, get the lottery. There is other
- 23 ways of making this money up because two billion
- 24 dollars -- President Trump wants five billion for the
- 25 wall so two billion for this and down the road no tolls

- 1 that we cannot as locals afford.
- The proposed fifteen percent discount is
- 3 unacceptable. Any toll must contain a provision for an

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- 4 end date and a provision that it cannot increase.
- The new bridge should be moved south of
- 6 the planned site so the existing Bayway can be used by
- 7 the local citizens toll free. Tearing it down at a cost
- 8 of three hundred million dollars instead of using it for
- 9 the Mobile and Baldwin County residents is a waste of
- 10 money. It has already seen a Cat 3 storm, and if in the
- 11 future a storm does take it down, we still save millions
- 12 plus the cost of toll to our local citizens.
- 13 Additionally the toll will create an
- 14 adverse effect on the economy of both counties. The
- 15 presentation included in this discussion of Bankhead
- 16 Tunnel being part of the non-tolled route, it was not
- 17 said that the Bankhead Tunnel will eventually go away.
- 8 Finally there are new construction roads
- 19 throughout the state which are funded and require no
- 20 tolls. One example is the northern belt line project in
- 21 Birmingham. This project is federally funded with no
- 22 tolls. I believe that if ALDOT can find 5.4 billion
- 23 dollars for that, they can find two billion for us.
- 24 Thank you for listening.
- MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 7.

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- 1 or anything like that.
- 2 This is just a gradual, high speed safe
- 3 bridge and traffic way to get you through Mobile.
- 4 Nothing -- you won't even know it's being built from
- 5 downtown. No noise, nothing. You are in the
- 6 renaissance. You won't hear any trucks, any traffic or
- 7 anything. I have some plans that I will give people and
- 8 see this gradual turn. Thank you so much. I'm just
- 9 trying to use some common sense on this, you know, so
- 10 down the road everything will work out.
- MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 6.
- 12 SPEAKER NUMBER 6: Good evening. Can you
- 13 hear me okay? It's kind of tall for me. My name is
- 14 Ruth Guess. I live at 112 Shiloh Drive, Daphne,
- 15 Alabama. Thank you.
- I attended a public meeting at the
- 17 International Trade Center and was told about two
- 18 hundred paper surveys regarding proposed toll amounts
- 19 were mailed to Baldwin County citizens and also comments
- 20 could have been made online.
- 21 Are two hundred mail surveys sufficient
- 22 for fair feedback from the local citizens? The toll
- 23 will be another overly burdensome tax on us and one
- 24 which we did not have an opportunity to cast a vote.
- 25 The proposed three to six dollars is unfair and a burden

- SPEAKER NUMBER 7: How are y'all doing?
- 2 My name is Steve Flock. I live at 2113 Marchfield Drive
- 3 in the city of Mobile. While I certainly think we need
- 4 to do something about the I-10 tunnel, I am opposed to
- 5 the tolls. There are no tolls on I-10 anywhere in this
- 6 area.
- 7 And I also think that the toll
- 8 collections which I understand are going to be something
- 9 like four to six billion dollars over thirty years is
- 10 way too high for the amount of money that we're in
- 11 effect going to borrow for this project for I think you
- 12 said it was about 1.6 billion.
- 13 A couple of examples also. The I-10
- 14 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain after Hurricane Katrina,
- 15 that was rebuilt. It was rebuilt higher and wider at a
- 16 cost of about eight hundred million dollars and there's
- 17 no tolls on that. Also currently, the I-59/I-20 project
- 18 in Birmingham, that's seven hundred million dollars. No
- 19 tolls there.
- 20 Also I'd like to know what is the cost of
- 21 capital for this project. Like what is going to be the
- 22 interest rate on the bonds and what kind of rate of
- 23 return is the concessionaire going to be able to charge.
- 24 So that's all the questions I have.
- MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 8.

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- 1 SPEAKER NUMBER 8: Hi. My name is Laura
- 2 Stone and I work for Mobile Baykeeper. We are an
- 3 environmental nonprofit that serves both sides of the
- 4 bay. And really what I want to do is thank you for
- 5 having us and listening to the public's concerns.
- And what we're seeing as a concern is the
- 7 disproportionate adverse effect that will happen from
- 8 the high toll on the Cochrane Bridge for the community
- that's surrounding it.
- 10 And what we want to kind of charge you
- 11 with is really look at where are other ways that we can
- 12 fund this. Can we buy down the toll with alternative
- 13 special funding, grants, things like that.
- 14 We also want you to consider phasing. Is
- 15 there a way we could do this in multiple phases that
- 16 would help alleviate and have more opportunity to apply
- 17 for those grants. And then lastly we really want you to
- 18 work with that community because we want you to make
- 19 sure that the mitigation is fair.
- 20 And then another concern I kind of wanted
- 21 to bring up is that it crosses over impaired bodies of
- 22 water. Joe's Branch and D'Olive Creek have both been
- 23 listed as impaired bodies of water for siltation, dirt
- 24 essentially, from development over time and it's
- 25 crossing near and over that.

- 1 quality of life but it's also if we don't have great
- 2 waterways and protect those great waterways, we aren't
- 3 able to put back into the state coffers what we are able
- 4 to put into the state coffers. It's everything from the
- 5 port to a beach and all of that in between.
- The issue that we brought up multiple
- 7 times is storm water and making sure that you're
- 8 capturing the rainwater and all that is in that
- 9 rainwater on the length of the Mobile River Bridge as
- 10 well as the Bayway and we understand that that's a cost
- 11 included.
- 12 What we understand you're looking at
- 13 though is one study that says the cost does not equate
- 14 to the expense or it costs more than you're mitigating
- 15 or saving from the environmental perspective and we
- don't agree with that. We're going to find some good
- studies and put it back out to you and challenge you
- 18 with that.
- 19 But there are also some ways to look at
- 20 if you cannot protect and capture that storm water the
- entire length of the bridge, you can find another way.
- 22 You can do pieces and places where -- Joe's Branch or
- 23 D'Olive Bay where you actually have impaired waterways
- 24 you need to protect.
- 25 Also really quickly I want to mention

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- And although there is not a total daily 2 maximum load that's been set by Alabama Department of
- 3 Environmental Management, that's not an excuse to not be
- 4 able to evaluate and minimize the impacts that this
- 5 project will have on that. So I want you to consider
- 6 that as well. Thank you.
- 7 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 9.
- SPEAKER NUMBER 9: Hi. I'm Casi
- 9 Callaway. I'm the executive director of Mobile
- 10 Baykeeper and a resident at 17 North Reed Avenue in
- 11 Mobile.

1

- 12 I want to echo what Laura said. Thank
- 13 you so much for hosting these public hearings and
- 14 listening to us on these issues. I want to also spend a
- 15 minute talking about -- saying thank you to how the
- 16 chamber opened this meeting. They talked about what our
- 17 economy looks like in Coastal Alabama.
- 18 The thing that Laura mentioned with Joe's
- 19 Branch and D'Olive Bay, the issues that we are most
- 20 concerned about and talked about for the entire history
- 21 of this bridge in my lifetime back in Mobile so almost
- 22 twenty -- almost -- one years, we -- the environment is
- 23 our economy in Coastal Alabama.
- It's our fishing industry. It's our
- 25 seafood industry. It's tourism. It's beaches. It's

- 1 mitigation, just your mitigating -- you've upped how
- 2 much you're impacting in this study we've seen but
- 3 you're also saying it's not quality which is kind of
- 4 terrible and wrong.
- Any impact -- any wetland we have in this
- 6 area is vitally important for our fisheries habitat. So
- 7 1.5 ratio is too low. You need to be doing mitigation
- 8 at a higher ratio. If you're going to impact them,
- 9 replace them better. We do love that you're in the area
- 10 though. They are going to replace in the area.
- Okay. One more thing I have to say.
- 12 This is an environmental impact statement presentation
- 13 and you did not one word about the actual impact to the
- 14 environment in your presentation. And there aren't
- 15 great posters out there talking about the environment 16 either.
- 17 So the community is hearing about the
- 18 pedestrian/bike path and they're hearing about the toll.
- 19 Thank you. And the community is very concerned about
- 20 those two points and the historic points but the
- 21 environment is what this is about and it's about our
- 22 community. So next time, it would be awesome if y'all
- 23 talked about the environment from the podium as well. 24 But thank you again. We really do appreciate the
- 25 opportunity.

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1 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number

2 10.

3 SPEAKER NUMBER 10: My name is David

- 4 Underhill. Address, 1220 Texas Street in Mobile. I'm a
- 5 member of both the Mobile Bay Sierra Club and the Mobile
- 6 Environmental Justice Action Coalition though neither of
- 7 those organizations is aware of what I'm about to say.
- 8 This plan is a two billion dollar project
- 9 to build a bridge to the 20th Century. It displays a
- 10 sad failure of imagination and a shocking failure to
- 11 address the actual issues of the 21st Century.
- 12 Imagine if two billion dollars were spent
- 13 on affordable housing near jobs so thousands of
- 14 commuters did not need to cross the bay every workday.
- 15 Imagine if those who must cross the bay had access
- 16 instead to convenient and reliable public transit which
- 17 would remove from the road many of those SUV's with a
- 18 solitary driver and no passengers and imagine alternate
- 19 transit available to weekend and holiday travelers.
- 20 Then consider the actual challenges of
- 21 the 21st Century which include the greenhouse gas
- 22 assaults on our climate of our sole worldly home. This
- 23 threat requires urgent and anticipatory action, not a
- 24 reflexive repeat of antiquated habits that endanger all

Already ten traffic lanes cross the river

2 in Mobile and eight lanes cross the bay but this project 3 says that is not enough. Many more lanes must be added

4 which will not reduce congestion. Rather as experience

7 means more burning of fossil fuels and more greenhouse

5 elsewhere shows, this expansion will attract more

6 traffic and eventually a return of congestion. That

25 living things.

1

- As you know, the U.S. Department of
- 2 Transportation Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
- 3 released in June 2014 focuses on Mobile and examines the
- 4 vulnerability of its transportation infrastructure to
- 5 climate change.
- The analysis information concludes that
- 7 the locations of the present proposed route tying into
- 8 the existing I-10 Bayway are high vulnerability to
- 9 current storms and storm surge that could conceivably
- 10 happen today and of course highly vulnerable to more
- 11 intense storms coupled with sea level rise of the
- 12 future; hence, the DEIS should have included a climate
- 13 change mitigation section and it did not. In light of
- this documented vulnerability, funding for a bridge in
- 15 this location is extremely irresponsible and would be a
- 16 costly mistake.
- 17 There's another popular route that was
- 18 not included in the DEIS but publicly supported for
- years. If you start just east of Michigan Avenue on
- 20 existing I-10 and go straight across the bay using the
- north end of McDuffie Island and by Little Sand Island,
- you will end up in Daphne where ALDOT can design an
- appropriate connection to the existing I-10 on the
- 24 Eastern Shore.
- 25 This could present an opportunity to

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- - 1 mitigate the longstanding problems on the existing
 - 2 Highway 98. This suggested route would avoid the
 - 3 negative impacts on the historic district, parks,
 - 4 residential neighborhoods, schools and nursing homes.
 - It would alleviate construction problems
 - 6 regarding noise in downtown, high quality issues
 - 7 downtown -- air quality issues downtown, vibrations due

 - closing tourist attractions.
- 10 The momentum of this project already

8 gases in a time that demands these things shrink

- 11 achieved to push toward construction will serve well the
- 12 contractors that build it and the economic planners
- 13 whose minds are mired in regressive impulses. It will
- 14 not serve the future well.
- 15 May these thoughts weigh upon your
- 16 conscience as you proceed with this affront to vision
- 17 and reason.

9 swiftly.

- 18 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number
- 19 11.
- 2.0 SPEAKER NUMBER 11: Carol Adams-Davis.
- 21 362 McDonald Avenue, Mobile. I support a bridge but
- 22 definitely not the proposed route. All reasonable and
- 23 smart alternative routes should have been included and
- 24 considered and a comparative level of detail in the DEIS
- 25 and they were not.

- 8 to historic buildings, settling after completion,
- 10 The existing industrial businesses and
- operations would not have to function in the shadows of
- a bridge and persons living in the down the bay
- community would not have to live under a bridge.
- The vertical clearance of an independent
- 15 bridge would be the same as the proposed bridge but the
- 16 incline would be much less intense. The distance of the
- 17 maximum elevation span would be much longer giving the
- maritime industry more flexibility, commercial
- opportunity and leeway. Vehicles transporting hazardous
- 20 materials will not have to shift gears up and down an
- 21 intense incline.
- 22 A new independent I-10 bridge in this
- 23 location would be able to survive a major tropical storm
- 24 and be much better evacuation route alternative.
- 25 MR. PERRY: Thank you for your comment.

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Page 38 Page 40 1 sixty percent of the traffic is out-of-state traffic. 1 SPEAKER NUMBER 11: I've got some 2 solutions. Two minutes is not enough to talk to y'all 2 To me, the biggest thing that favors the toll is why 3 and we don't have that many speakers. So if you don't 3 should Alabamians solve this totally on our own out of 4 mind, I'd like to finish my letter. Thank you. 4 our funds. MR. PERRY: Okay. This allows us to bring sixty percent of SPEAKER NUMBER 11: A new independent 6 6 the funds for the toll from the people who are using it 7 I-10 bridge in this location would be able to survive a 7 out of state. It would be great if we could get money 8 major tropical storm and be a much better evacuation 8 from those states but that's totally unrealistic. There 9 route alternative. Mobile and Baldwin counties would be 9 is no mechanism for those states to throw money to 10 able to receive the much needed supplies while the 10 Alabama's bridges and roads but we can get it out of 11 injured could be transported to the appropriate medical 11 them anyway with these tolls. So that's a very good 12 facilities. 12 reason to me. 13 This bridge would be cost efficient and 13 Also when you couple that investment with 14 the other proposals -- than the other proposals because 14 the federal investment, we're solving a problem for 15 it would still be here at the end of the century and 15 Alabama and particularly for Mobile probably for less 16 than thirty cents on the dollar so that's a good 16 beyond. The State of Alabama and the United States 17 Government cannot afford to build an inadequate 17 business deal. 18 structure that is improperly located and designed. 18 The other thing I wanted to mention is I Of course the new bridge should be heard tourism mentioned. To me, that was completely off 20 accessible to all travelers so it should include a 20 the mark. I'm a businessman but I have served as 21 satisfactory pedestrian/bicycle facility. 21 volunteer chair of the Mobile Convention Visitor Bureau 22 In the last few decades, the bridge 22 for eleven years. 23 construction industry has minimized the negative I learned a lot about tourism during that 24 consequences associated with building bridges. That 24 time and one of the most significant hurdles we had that 25 solution is known as accelerated bridge construction or 25 came up over and over was the fact that you can't get Page 39 Page 41 1 ABC. I know you're familiar with this. This method 1 the people at the beaches to come back into the city and 2 could and should be used on the I-10 Mobile Bridge 2 fight the bridge. You can't get people passing through 3 construction project. 3 Mobile to get off of the road or the bridge and spend a 4 little time in Mobile when they are faced with such It would use new forms of planning, 5 procurement, design, materials, utility installation and 5 congestion. 6 construction methods that are safer and more cost So I think those two points among all 7 effective. ABC significantly lowers the amount of time 7 others support the idea, first, that the toll is a fair 8 it takes to build new bridges and replace or 8 way to pay for it, and secondly, the tourism is just one 9 rehabilitate existing ones. 9 of the many things included with workforce development, 10 10 economic development, quality of life, evacuation routes An independent ABC bridge would reduce 11 the combined time to plan and construct the bridge by and safety. Every one of those things is improved with 12 years and no time down -- no downtime of existing 12 this bridge. Every one of those things gets worse if we 13 transportation arteries. This would also be an 13 don't build the bridge. Thank you. 14 excellent plan for toll. Everything else would stay the 14 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 15 13. 15 same except this independent bridge. Thank you. 16 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 16 SPEAKER NUMBER 13: Hi. My name is Ash 17 12. 17 Baumann. I live at 7800 Bellefield Drive East, 18 SPEAKER NUMBER 12: Good evening. My Theodore, Alabama and I would like to discuss about the 19 name is Mike Lee. I live at 52 -- I work -- I live toll fees that you guys are wanting to implement on us. 20 there more than I work but 52 North Jackson in downtown I am an autism mother. I have a daughter 21 Mobile and I live at 1110 Government Street so I'm a 21 that is eight years old on the spectrum. Our services 22 are across the bay. We travel over there because we 22 downtown Mobilian all the way there. 23 23 could not find any services that fit her over here as First of all, I'd like to say a quick --

24 much as we've tried and our occupational therapy is over

25 there.

24 just a quick remark about the tolls. The studies I've

25 seen indicated that particularly at peak times that

	Pr 42		D 44
1	Page 42 We are not the only family that has	1	Page 44 23rd. Your comments must be received by that deadling
	children on the spectrum that travels across the bay for		to be included in the environmental document. Thank
1	services. When you are implementing a toll, we cannot		you.
	afford it. We barely afford the services as it is.	4	
1	Most half of our income is for services for her.	5	
6		6	
-	the bay. Our the American Autism and Rehabilitation		
	Center where my daughter goes offers occupational	8	
	therapy, feeding therapy, physical therapy, speech	9	
	therapy.	10	
11	* *	11	
	only one that makes the drive over there for our child,	12	
	for her to have a better way of life. Implementing the	13	
	toll road will sever that lifeline for our children and	14	
	not just for us. For families that are working back and	15	
	forth, they can't afford it at all. They're sorry.	16	
	That's it. Thank you.	17	
18	•	18	
	Speaker number 14.	19	
20	*	$\begin{vmatrix} 1 \\ 20 \end{vmatrix}$	
	have a big voice. My name is Karen Cassidy. I live in	21	
	downtown Mobile and I'm a cyclist. First, I wanted to	22	
	say thank you for hearing the requests of all the	23	
	cyclists to build a lane on whatever solution, wherever	24	
	you decide to put it. That was a big deal for us.	25	
1	Page 43 I'm not here to ask about location. I'm	1	Page 45 CERTIFICATE
	here to ask about the rails. So the last time I took a	2	
		3	
	bike across the Cochrane Bridge was also the first time because it was terrifying. The bridge is not only high;	_	STATE OF ALABAMA)
	there are trucks zooming by you and there's no rail here		MOBILE COUNTY)
	and the rail here is pretty low.	6	
7	So I'm grateful that you're putting a	7	
0	barricade between the car and the cyclist. The problem		proceedings were taken down by me and transcribed by me
			and that the above is a true and correct transcript of
	is that if you fall for any reason, even if it's not		
	because of a car, there's debris on the road or you lose		the said proceedings.
	your balance, you know, if you're up on a bike, this is	11	I further certify that I am neither of
	not really that high to keep you from falling over down		counsel nor of kin to the parties nor in anywise financially interested in the outcome of this case.
14	four or five stories into swimming with the fishes.	13	•
	1 5		
	two foot chain link fence or some other thing that would	15 16	
	protect a cyclist who would possibly take a spill from falling over into a dire circumstance, that would be my		
	-	17 18	am / Illiams
18	request. So thank you.	18	
	MR. PERRY: Thank you. Ladies and	20	
20		20	
	public forum. I want to thank you all for attending and		
	1	22	
	We appreciate the comments that you have made.	23	
24	Remember the deadline for submitting	24	
23	comments on the environmental document is Thursday, May	25	

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Deposition of:

ALDOT Hearing

May 7, 2019

In the Matter of:

ALDOT PUBLIC HEARING

Freedom Court Reporting

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3	
4	MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE AND BAYWAY PROJECT
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6	ALDOT PUBLIC HEARING
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12	Spanish Fort Community Center
13	7361 Spanish Fort Boulevard
14	Spanish Fort, Alabama
15	
16	May 7, 2019
17	
18	5:35 P.M.
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20	
21	REPORTED BY:
22	Jan A. Mann, CSR
23	Henderson & Associates Court Reporters
24	260 North Joachim
25	Mobile, Alabama 36603

Page	Page 4
1 APPEARANCES	1 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Allison. This
2	2 evening, we are going to discuss the project overview
3 Mr. John Cooper, ALDOT Deputy Director	3 and history. We will walk through key findings in the
4 Mr. Don Arkle, ALDOT Chief Engineer	4 Supplemental Draft EIS. We will present the next steps
5 Mr. George Conner, ALDOT Deputy Director of Operations	5 for the project and the public will have the opportunity
6 Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA Alabama Division Administrator	6 to provide verbal comments.
7 Mr. Matt Ericksen, ALDOT Southwest Region Engineer	7 First starting off with the project
8 Mr. Edwin Perry, ALDOT Project Director	8 overview and history, the purpose and need of the
9 Ms. Allison Gregg, Public Information Officer	9 project is to increase capacity on I-10 between Mobile
10	10 and Baldwin counties, provide a more direct route for
11 SPEAKERS	11 vehicles carrying hazardous materials because currently
12 No. 1 - Kevin Spriggs	12 hazardous vehicles are required to detour off I-10
13 No. 2 - Patrick McWilliams	13 through downtown Mobile, take I-165, the
14 No. 3 - Cliff McCollum	14 Cochrane-Africatown Bridge and the Causeway to then
15 No. 4 - Joseph Thompson	15 rejoin I-10.
16 No. 5 - Ricky Richardson	16 These vehicles will now be allowed to use
17 No. 6 - Dr. Lou Campomenosi	17 the Mobile River Bridge since they are currently
18 No. 7 - Deborah Hunter	18 prohibited from using the Bankhead and Wallace tunnels.
19 No. 8 - Steven Lorato	19 Also the project will minimize impacts to the maritime
20 No. 9 - Roger Nelson	20 industry.
21 No. 10 - David Dueitt	21 The Wallace Tunnel was built to handle
22 140. 10 - Bavid Bucht 22	22 about thirty-five thousand vehicles per day. We were
23	23 currently seeing twice that amount on a regular basis.
24	24 On average, the annual daily traffic count in the
25	25 Wallace Tunnel is about seventy-five thousand vehicles
	<u> </u>
Page 1 May 7, 2019 5:35 p.m.	Page 5 1 per day and traffic modeling indicates that traffic will
2	2 continue to grow for the foreseeable future.
3 PROCEEDINGS	3 When incidents occur in the Wallace
4	4 Tunnel, congestion extends beyond I-10 onto other
5 MS. GREGG: Good evening. I am Allison	5 routes. For example, last month and even last week, an
6 Gregg. I'm the Public Information Officer for the	6 overturned truck blocked the Wallace Tunnel entrance
7 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project and I want to	7 which caused traffic backups throughout the city of
8 thank you for joining us tonight for our public hearing	8 Mobile. This project will provide additional capacity
9 for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact	9 so when incidents like this occur the interstate is less
10 Statement for the project.	10 likely to be completely blocked. The project will also
11 As we begin tonight, I would like to	
	11 include modifications with the geometry to the west
12 first make some introductions. First we have John	11 include modifications with the geometry to the west12 tunnel portal entrance to the Wallace Tunnel.
12 first make some introductions. First we have John 13 Cooper who is the ALDOT Transportation Director. Next	11 include modifications with the geometry to the west 12 tunnel portal entrance to the Wallace Tunnel. 13 This image from 2018 shows how congestion
 12 first make some introductions. First we have John 13 Cooper who is the ALDOT Transportation Director. Next 14 to Mr. Cooper we have Don Arkle who is the ALDOT Chief 	 11 include modifications with the geometry to the west 12 tunnel portal entrance to the Wallace Tunnel. 13 This image from 2018 shows how congestion 14 on the Bayway can become during storm evacuations.
 12 first make some introductions. First we have John 13 Cooper who is the ALDOT Transportation Director. Next 14 to Mr. Cooper we have Don Arkle who is the ALDOT Chief 15 Engineer. Then we have ALDOT Deputy Director of 	 11 include modifications with the geometry to the west 12 tunnel portal entrance to the Wallace Tunnel. 13 This image from 2018 shows how congestion 14 on the Bayway can become during storm evacuations. 15 Additional capacity will provide those seeking refuge
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Page 6 Page 8 1 a hundred and fifteen thousand vehicles that day and The new Bayway will have eight twelve 1 2 this is becoming a regular occurrence. 2 foot lanes and up to ten feet higher than the existing So what does ALDOT propose to do with 3 bridge to get above storm surge levels. It will connect 4 congestion on I-10? It begins here at Broad Street 4 to the Mobile River Bridge and the Wallace tunnels. 5 interchange in the city of Mobile and ends just east of Now I'd like to describe to you how to 6 the US-90/98 interchange in Daphne. Among this section 6 access the city of Mobile from what we are calling I-10 7 of I-10, ALDOT will modify seven interchanges. We have 7 Business. From Baldwin County, you can take the Bayway 8 boards showing these interchanges in more detail outside 8 onto the Mobile River Bridge and continue west over the of this room in the open house area for you to look at. Now let's talk about the Mobile River 10 If your destination is on the east side 11 Bridge. This is a rendering of what the bridge could 11 of the river and you want to use the Bankhead Tunnel to 12 look like across the Mobile River. ALDOT evaluated a get downtown, you would exit off the Bayway at the 13 variety of bridge types and a cable stay bridge was interchange as you do today or if you want to access 14 determined to be the best fit for the project because of downtown through Canal or Water Street you would remain 15 its cost effective design and its ability to span the 15 on I-10 Business to go through the Wallace Tunnel. 16 river's navigation channel. Here is a rendering of the Bayway and the 17 This is a conceptual rendering of what 17 Mobile River Bridge connection looking west just before 18 the driver's view could look like from the bridge. The 18 these lanes merge to make the eight lane Bayway. Blue 19 deck would be approximately twenty-one stories high and will take you to and from the Mobile River Bridge and 20 provide six lanes of travel across the river. Each lane 20 the green will take you to and from the Wallace Tunnel 21 will be twelve foot wide and have twelve foot shoulders. and the east tunnel interchange to access I-10 Business 22 Combined with the Wallace Tunnel, there will be a total or downtown Mobile if you are headed west or Baldwin 23 of ten interstate lanes to cross the Mobile River. County if you are headed east. 24 The Mobile River Bridge will be the If you are on the Mobile River Bridge 25 tallest cable stay bridge in North America with a two 25 heading west, you will touch down here at Virginia Page 7 1 hundred and fifteen foot vertical clearance over the 1 interchange and you will continue on I-10 as you do 2 channel. This clearance was selected to minimize 2 today. If you are headed on I-10 Business heading west 3 impacts on cruise ships and other maritime activities. 3 out of Wallace Tunnel and want to go downtown, you can 4 exit at Canal/Water Street or you can continue west to To compare our bridge with some of the 5 other bridges you may be familiar with, first we have 5 rejoin I-10. 6 the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge which has a vertical Here you can see the entrance to the 7 clearance of a hundred and fifty-five feet. 7 Wallace Tunnel on the left and the existing ramps have Next is the Cooper River Bridge in South 8 been removed and the new interchange at Canal/Water 9 Carolina which has a vertical clearance of two hundred 9 Street has been constructed. On the right is the Mobile 10 and nine feet and then finally the Golden Gate Bridge 10 River Bridge in blue and the green is I-10 Business 11 which is a suspension bridge. It has a vertical 11 which will take you to and from the Wallace Tunnel. 12 clearance of two hundred and twenty feet. 12 Now that we've talked about the project Here are the dimensions of the proposed 13 scope and limits, let's focus on the supplemental draft 14 Mobile River Bridge project. Again you can see the two 14 impact statement. ALDOT has been performing 15 hundred and fifteen foot clearance over the navigation 15 environmental studies and preparing documentation to 16 channel and the main span will be just shy of fourteen 16 satisfy NEPA.

17

NEPA stands for the National

18 Environmental Policy Act which is a law that requires

federal agencies to consider the potential impacts of

20 proposed action on the environment. And as part of the

As part of the NEPA process for this

25 project, we evaluated a range of alternatives based on

21 NEPA process, we studied impacts of the proposed

22 alternatives and documented those impacts in the

23 Environmental Impact Statement.

25 impacted due to storm surge.

17 hundred feet.

In addition to the new signature bridge, 19 we will be replacing the existing Bayway. The existing

20 Bayway -- the existing Bayway bridge was opened in 1978.

23 because of this, ALDOT performed a storm surge study and

21 As shown in the three bottom pictures, storm surge has

22 impacted similar bridges in neighboring states. So

24 it indicated a majority of our bridge spans would be

18

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- 1 public input, environmental studies and environmental
- 2 resources. The fourteen alternatives shown here include
- 3 northern routes, new routes across the bay and even a
- 4 southern route, among others. These alternatives were
- 5 evaluated for a variety of factors including meeting
- 6 purpose and need, environmental impacts and cost.
- 7 The alternatives were narrowed from
- 8 fourteen to four and the Draft Environmental Impact
- 9 Statement was prepared to document the potential impacts
- 10 for each of the four build alternatives and the no
- 11 build. Alternative B Prime was selected as the
- 12 preferred alternative because it meets purpose and need,
- 13 minimizes impacts to the cruise terminal, maritime
- 14 industry and the environment. FHWA signed the Draft EIS
- 15 on July 22nd, 2014 and we had a public hearing in
- 16 September of 2014.
- 17 Since the Draft EIS was signed, major
- 18 changes to the project have occurred. ALDOT began to
- 19 look at different ways to fund the project. We refined
- 20 the preferred alternative. We incorporated bike and
- 21 pedestrian facilities and we determined that the Bayway
- 22 should be replaced rather than widened.
- 23 Additional engineering and environmental
- 24 studies were performed to address potential impacts that
- 25 may result from these changes. Some of the key studies

- 1 Project is complete. Also ALDOT will work with the City
- 2 and NPO to extend the path to downtown Mobile and to
- 3 Battleship Park.
- 4 As part of the project, ALDOT will
- 5 provide an overlook on the Mobile River Bridge on the
- 6 west side of the river with elevator and stair access.
- 7 In addition to these commitments, ALDOT will evaluate
- 8 option one which is to provide a path along the entire
- 9 route of the Mobile River Bridge to Battleship Park and
- 10 ALDOT will also evaluate option two to provide elevator
- 11 and stair access to the east side of the river with a
- 12 path that connects onto the overlook on the bridge.
- 13 The current typical section of
- 14 Cochrane-Africatown Bridge was shown on the top of this
- 15 image. And the proposed bike and pedestrian improvement
- 16 would add a protected bike and pedestrian path on both
- 17 sides of the bridge without reducing the number of lanes
- 18 of travel on the bottom of this screen.
- 19 Here is a conceptual rendering of what
- 20 the overlook that will be provided on the Mobile River
- 21 Bridge to give people the opportunity to experience the
- 22 views of the bridge.
- 23 Consultation on impacts to historic
- 24 resources has been ongoing. The project will have
- 25 adverse visual effects on the Church Street East and

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- 1 included roadway interchange design, bike and pedestrian
- 2 alternatives, a traffic and revenue study and additional
- 3 consultation on historic resources and affected
- 4 communities and ways to mitigate adverse effects.
- 5 Because of these changes and updated
- 6 studies, ALDOT prepared the Supplemental Draft
- 7 Environmental Impact Statement which was signed March
- 8 26th of this year. The Draft EIS included a commitment
- 9 to provide a bike and pedestrian facility across the
- 10 Mobile River.
- 11 After the Draft EIS, ALDOT looked at a
- 12 variety of bike and pedestrian alternatives, met with
- 13 stakeholders and focus groups and held a bike and
- 14 pedestrian public workshop. Based on the feedback
- 15 perceived, people wanted to be able to access the views
- 16 from the new bridge and have a safer path across the
- 17 Mobile River.
- 18 ALDOT's preferred solution is a
- 19 combination of facilities to meet the interests of a
- 20 variety of user groups based on the feedback. Here is a
- 21 map of the Mobile River and the City of Mobile.
- 22 ALDOT will construct a bike and
- 23 pedestrian path from I-165 traveling along Bay Bridge
- 24 Road across the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge. This will
- 25 be built by the time the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway

- Page 13 1 Lower Dauphin Historic Districts. ALDOT and FHWA have
- 2 worked with consulting parties to draft a Section 106
- 3 Memorandum of Agreement to document mitigation measures
- 4 for historic resources.
- 5 Aesthetics is a large component of
- 6 mitigation for visual effects along with landscaping,
- 7 lighting and treatment of areas under the bridge. We
- 8 encourage you to visit the visualization tables on the
- 9 other side of this room if you haven't had a chance yet.
- 10 And now we will turn over to Matt Ericksen to discuss
- 11 project funding and financing.
- 12 MR. ERICKSEN: Thank you, Edwin. ALDOT
- 13 and the U.S. DOT are looking for ways to fund these
- 14 major projects. With the new Mobile River Bridge and
- 15 the replacement of the Bayway, the project has an
- 16 estimated cost of 2.1 billion dollars. Statewide ALDOT
- 17 has a limited budget for capacity projects.
- Due to funding shortages, Alabama and
- 19 other states around the country are looking for ways to
- 20 fund these major projects, and with advanced technology,
- 21 there has been a renewed interest in using toll revenue
- 22 to fund projects similar to this. After the Draft EIS,
- 23 ALDOT evaluated alternative delivery methods to deliver
- 24 the project and fill these funding gaps.
- With consultation from the Federal

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- 1 Highway Administration, ALDOT decided to pursue an
- 2 alternative delivery method in the form of a
- 3 public/private partnership. This P3 contract is between
- 4 a private entity and ALDOT where the private entity
- 5 invests in the project to design, build, operate and
- 6 maintain the project while ALDOT retains ownership and
- 7 oversight to ensure compliance with commitments.
- 8 As part of the P3 process, ALDOT
- 9 developed a base plan and conducted studies as part of
- 10 the project development. ALDOT issued a request for
- 11 qualification and shortlisted three qualified teams to
- 12 submit proposals. Since shortlisting these teams in
- 13 February of 2018, ALDOT has been working with the teams
- 14 to develop the request for proposals.
- 15 Following final environmental approval,
- 16 the final RFP will be released to the teams. The teams
- 17 will then submit proposals and ALDOT will select the
- 18 best value proposal. The selected team will design,
- 19 build, finance, operate and maintain the project for a
- 20 fifty-five year concession period which includes five
- 21 years for construction.
- With a P3, the four key elements to fund
- 23 and finance this project are private activity bonds,
- 24 which are tax-exempt bonds, a federal loan, private
- 25 equity and a public subsidy which could include grants.

- 1 anticipated for the year 2025.
- 2 Another feature of the tolling is that
- 3 the tolls will be segmented. This means you will only
- 4 pay for the toll route that you use or the portion of
- 5 it. This map shows the various segments that will be
- 6 tolled starting with the longest and ending with the 7 shortest.
- 8 The actual toll rate for each segment is
- 9 still under consideration but they must fall within the
- 10 limits that will be set by ALDOT. This map is also
- 11 shown on the boards at the tolling station in the open
- 12 house area.
- The build and no build options are still
- 14 being considered in the NEPA process and it's important
- 15 to understand the difference in traffic conditions under
- 16 each scenario. Without the project, I-10, the Bankhead
- 17 Tunnel, the Cochrane-Africatown Bridge and the Causeway
- 18 will become more congested as traffic volumes increase.
- 19 With the project, I-10 will have
- 20 additional capacity and will be free flowing. ALDOT
- 21 will mitigate congestion on the non-tolled route
- 22 including an access management plan to maintain access
- 23 to and from destinations along this route.
- Now we will turn it back over to Edwin to
- 25 discuss the next steps in the project.

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- 1 The PAB's, federal loan and private equity will be paid
- 2 back via the toll revenue; therefore, without tolling
- 3 revenue, we do not have a feasible project.
- 4 As shown in the blue, the toll route
- 5 would be on I-10 from Virginia Street to the US-90/98
- 6 interchange in Daphne. I-10 Business from Canal/Water
- 7 Street through the Wallace Tunnel will also be tolled.
- 8 ALDOT is committed to maintaining a
- 9 toll-free route across the bay. The toll-free route
- 10 includes the Causeway, Bankhead Tunnel and the
- 11 Cochrane-Africatown Bridge as shown in the green.
- 12 ALDOT will cap a maximum opening day toll
- 13 rate between three and six dollars for the full route.
- 14 The project will use all electronic tolling which means
- 15 there will be no toll booths.
- Tolls may be collected in a variety of
- 17 ways including through transponders in vehicles which
- 18 allow drivers to prepay for tolls or a toll-by-plate
- 19 program where invoices for toll fees will be mailed
- 20 directly to the vehicle owner's address.
- 21 A frequent user discount program will be
- 22 included. ALDOT is currently proposing a fifteen
- 23 percent discount for passenger vehicles totaling twenty
- 24 or more trips each month. Toll collection will not
- 25 begin until the project is open which is currently

- MR. PERRY: Thank you, Matt. So to
- 2 recap, we have spent time since the last public hearings
- 3 conducting additional environmental and engineering
- 4 studies and preparing the Supplemental Draft EIS to
- 5 document the results from those studies and update the
- 6 potential impacts.
- 7 The Supplemental Draft EIS identifies
- 8 mitigation measures to address adverse impacts and
- 9 comments that must be -- commitments that must be
- 10 carried forward through design and construction to avoid
- 11 or minimize those impacts where possible.
- Now through May 23rd, we are gathering
- 13 public and agency comments on the project. After May
- 14 23rd, we will review and evaluate the comments and
- 15 address them in the Final EIS and Record of Decision.
- 16 A Final EIS and Record of Decision will
- 17 also document the selected alternative, final mitigation
- 18 measures and the final Section 106 Memorandum of
- 19 Agreement for historic resources. We anticipate the
- 20 approval of the Final EIS and ROD in early August of
- 21 this year.
- 22 Pending the Final EIS and ROD approval,
- 23 our next steps in the P3 process are receiving proposals
- 24 from the three shortlisted teams in December, selecting
- 25 a team in March 2020 and beginning construction shortly

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Page 18 Page 20 1 thereafter. 1 Kevin Spriggs. I'm a resident of Spanish Fort and a Materials from tonight's meeting are 2 business owner in Daphne and I've looked over the 3 available online at our project website, 3 materials that you have out here and I believe it's a 4 www.mobileriverbridge.com. You can click on the banner 4 very excellent design. Technically I have no issues 5 on the top of the home page to view the boards and other 5 with the project. 6 materials from this meeting. You can also submit I will make a few comments about changes 7 comment forms online as well. 7 that are, you know, directly relative to one of my We are going to take a short break before 8 businesses but I believe that the engineering and the 9 we begin the public hearing portion of this meeting. 9 design is very good and I think we needed it about ten 10 You are welcome to stay here and listen to the comments 10 years ago. So one hundred percent for the project but 11 or you can view the displays we have outside this room 11 also one hundred percent against the tolls. 12 in the open house area. 12 Right now, ALDOT is replacing a bridge in 13 (Brief recess.) 13 Birmingham, one mile, seven hundred and fifty million 14 MR. PERRY: Okay. We will now start the 14 dollars. Where's the toll scanners? I haven't seen any 15 public forum. For those wishing to speak, you should 15 reports of toll scanners on that highway yet. 16 have signed up in the welcome area just in front of this Okay. When Hurricane Katrina destroyed 17 room and speakers will be called up by number. 17 I-10 across Lake Pontchartrain, we had an eight hundred 18 Our public forum is designed to give you million dollar project to replace that bridge. Very 19 an opportunity to share comments for review and nice. God bless the people of Louisiana but I don't see 20 consideration by ALDOT. We encourage you even if you 20 any toll scanners. I was on that highway about six 21 months ago. 21 share your comments during this public forum that you 22 put your comments down on one of our comment sheets that 22 Same thing, everybody is familiar with 23 we have available tonight. 23 the I-10 across Pensacola Bay. You know, knocked down, 24 Because your time is limited to two 24 susceptible to storm surge, got a new bridge. Where's 25 minutes, the comment forum allows for greater 25 the toll scanners? Page 19 Page 21 1 elaboration and detail and provide -- you can provide The problem I see is if these projects 2 additional pages to fully express your comments. 2 had toll scanners on them, then I would be very

This public forum is not a question and 4 answer session, and if you still have questions or need 5 additional information, ALDOT representatives remain 6 available now and after the public forum for one-on-one 7 discussions with you. Tonight's public forum will be 9 transcribed by a court reporter and our timekeeper will 10 use a traffic signal to provide a visual queue to 11 speakers. The light will turn green when your two 12 minutes begin. The light will turn yellow when you have 13 thirty seconds remaining and the light will turn red 14 when your time has expired. 15 When you get your queue -- when you get 16 your queue for thirty seconds, please begin to wrap up 17 your comments. When your time expires, we will then 18 move on to the next speaker. Please hold your applause 19 between speakers and other noise from the audience so we 20 can make use of everybody's time available. When you begin your comments, please 22 first state your name and any group affiliation that you 23 represent if you are representing a group. And now we

24 will begin with our first speaker. Speaker number 1.

SPEAKER NUMBER 1: Hello. My name is

3 receptive to having toll scanners on ours, and also 4 because of that, the funding would be more available and 5 the tolls would be less instead of being concentrated, I 6 believe, on a very high amount on the local people that 7 are here that actually will depend on this bridge. Yeah, there's alternative routes. It 9 will be difficult, you know, and slow the local people down. Okay. That's their choice, I guess, to do that, 11 but to me, why are we being the first ones to pay toll. 12 The last comment I will make is we 13 destroyed a lot of bridges in Iraq and Afghanistan. 14 I've seen where American contractors are building those 15 back. The question for you guys to go think about is 16 how many toll scanners are there on those bridges before you come and ask me to pay toll. Thank you. MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you. All 19 right. Next, speaker number 2. 20 SPEAKER NUMBER 2: Is the microphone on? 21 Is it on? 22 MR. PERRY: Down on the bottom. 23 SPEAKER NUMBER 2: Is it on? Can 24 everybody hear me? All right. Good afternoon or early

25 evening. My name is Patrick McWilliams and I live at

25

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- 1 31065 State Highway 225 here in Spanish Fort. I also do
- 2 business development for a small company that moved from
- 3 Fairhope, Alabama to Spanish Fort and it's been in
- 4 business for over thirty-eight years.
- Part of the reason why we moved is so we
- 6 could have I-10 access, that basically because we're a
- 7 service-oriented business that deals with hardware and
- 8 software solutions and therefore we need to basically
- 9 get to everywhere from the Ft. Walton Beach on the I-10
- 10 corridor all the way to the Mississippi/Louisiana state
- 11 line and as far north as Hattiesburg and Evergreen.
- 12 So basically as far as my statement is
- 13 concerned, I've lived in this area for about eight years
- 14 now. I'm retired Navy. I've moved twenty-two times
- 15 between my naval career, my father's naval career. This
- 16 is the longest place I have ever lived in my life, okay.
- 17 So this is home. All right.
- 18 Now being a businessman, one of the
- 19 things -- we were very excited to hear about the
- 20 project, okay, years ago and -- you know, because of the
- 21 congestion. All right.
- 22 But one of the things that I wanted to
- 23 bring up is that we were very disappointed in June of
- 24 last year, okay, when the word surfaced out of
- 25 Washington, D.C. that application for a grant wasn't

- 1 possible maximum charge of six dollars, is overly
- 2 burdensome and would lead to an almost two hundred
- 3 dollar per month increase in costs for a daily commuter.
- 4 That amount would be even higher for the trucking
- 5 industry with possible costs of twenty-four or even
- 6 thirty-six dollars in toll charges.
- The proposed changes could also lead to
- 8 unprecedented traffic and issues not only on the
- 9 alternate routes but the roads leading to those routes.
- 10 Traffic in Daphne and Spanish Fort near the current
- 11 bridge is already problematic on a good day. Adding
- 12 thousands of additional vehicles daily to the Causeway
- 13 due to issues of toll avoidance could easily create a 14 nightmare traffic scenario on secondary and tertiary
- 15 routes.
- 16 Additionally a buy-down clause must be
- 17 incorporated into any potential RFP for the tolling of
- 18 this project. A buy-down clause is crucial and gives
- the State the ability to bring down future toll costs as
- 20 the State is able.
- 21 Looking at similar projects around the
- 22 country, the State of North Carolina failed to include
- 23 such a buy-down clause in its agreement and has
- 24 continued to have problems for its state government, its
- 25 DOT and the residents of the state.

Page 23

1 going to get -- wasn't going to get approved.

- 2 So there's a couple of things here, all
- 3 right. What I would like to know is that you have
- 4 several projects out there equaling over a billion
- 5 dollars. All right. You have the I-65 project. You
- 6 have the project up north and -- hold on a second.
- 7 Looking for it. Project up north in Huntsville.
- 8 Basically none of those projects are tolled. Why do you
- 9 feel you need to toll this project down here?
- 10 And secondly, what I'd like to know is
- 11 also we have a senator in Washington, Senator Shelby,
- 12 who is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I
- 13 find it hard to believe that we cannot come up with a
- 14 hundred and fifty million dollars to get this INFRA
- 15 grant going so we can have the bridge. Thank you.
- 16 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you for
- 17 your comment. Next, speaker number 3.
- 18 SPEAKER NUMBER 3: Cliff McCollum on
- 19 behalf of the Baldwin County Legislative Delegation. I
- 20 will be reading a letter from Senator Elliott.
- We must increase the public subsidy prior
- 22 to the final Request for Proposal in order to increase
- 23 the frequent user discount for the people of this region
- 24 that stand to be the most affected by the tolling plan.
- 25 The current plan, which would see a

We must increase the ALDOT investment in

- 2 this project to make sure that the people of this region
- 3 are getting their fair share of state transportation
- 4 dollars. Other projects in different parts of the state
- 5 have had similarly elevated costs without having to be
- ATRIP I project costs are in excess of
- 8 around -- will be around one billion. The Birmingham
- project is around seven hundred million. Pike Road
- 10 Exchange Montgomery, two hundred million. Huntsville
- 11 projects are around a hundred million. No tolls were
- 12 asked for these projects.
- While we share ALDOT's frustration with
- 14 the lack of federal funding, two things are abundantly
- 15 clear. This is our only opportunity to secure this
- 16 project and our one chance for a viable P3.
- 17 Unfortunately the current level of public
- 18 subsidy and corresponding tolling scheme are a
- non-starter for Coastal Alabama commuters who simply
- 20 cannot afford to disproportionately bear the cost of
- such a monumental project. ALDOT should not move
- 22 forward with the RFP's until the public subsidy can be
- 23 increased significantly thereby reducing the cost of the
- 24 tolls for daily commuters. Thank you.
- 25 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you. Speak

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- 1 number 4.
- SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Can you guess which
- 3 portion I'm here to talk about for the project? The
- 4 tolling would be right. My name is Joe Thompson. I'm
- 5 here as a citizen of Spanish Fort who commutes into
- 6 Mobile every day for work. We heard earlier that the
- 7 Bankhead and the Africatown Cochrane Bridge were going
- 8 to remain toll-free.
- However I have the impact study in my
- 10 hand right here, and under the tolling section, nowhere
- 11 in there can I find the words Bankhead Tunnel or
- 12 Africatown Cochrane Bridge. It says on page 69 that
- 13 ALDOT is committed to maintaining a non-toll route
- 14 across the bay and the river but it says nowhere in here
- 15 under the tolling section that I can find that those two
- 16 routes are going to remain toll free.
- 17 Now I'm not anti-bridge. I think we need
- 18 the bridge. I'm not necessarily against a toll that's
- 19 reasonable. When you're talking a six-dollar-a-trip
- 20 toll, that impact that's going to have on people that
- 21 live in this community I think hasn't been fully
- 22 studied, hasn't been vetted.
- And that brings me to another issue. So
- 24 we talked on -- let's see what page is this within the
- 25 impact study. On page 72, we talk about retail and

1 tourism and the impact that having it would be.

- Page 27
- 1 it every day when we're already paying taxes beyond
- 3 tolling, we say that the impact study does not evaluate

Now on the beginning on page 66 for the

- 4 the potential impacts of tolling as tolling was not
- 5 proposed at the time the impact statement was prepared.
- 6 However then we say that potential impact statements
- 7 retail and tourism have been evaluated and you reference
- 8 in this document Section 4.3.1 as saying that it would
- 9 have no effect essentially -- the tolling or that the
- 10 construction of the bridge -- not constructing the
- 11 bridge will have an impact. However Section 4.3 of this
- 12 document deals with hazardous materials. It doesn't
- 13 even deal with the impact for the economy.
- So I drove through the Malbis shopping
- 15 center prior to coming here just to do my own little
- 16 study. Half of those cars were from outside of Baldwin
- 17 County. That means they didn't have Baldwin County tags
- 18 on them.
- How is this toll that's going to be so
- 20 high -- you're talking about potentially two thousand
- 21 dollars a year -- going to impact our economy? So it
- 22 seems like we are potentially on the cusp of having a
- 23 bridge that's paid for disproportionately by our local
- 24 community at our expense. Two thousand dollars a year
- 25 in tolls is two thousand dollars a year that's not

- 1 getting spent in Mobile and Baldwin County. Thank you.
- MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker Number 5.
- SPEAKER NUMBER 5: My name is Ricky
- 4 Richardson here in Spanish Fort. I'm a little bit
- 5 appalled finding out that private funding is the avenue
- 6 that we're going after to fund this bridge.
- And also with the new people we have in
- 8 Washington, D.C. and the discussions in the last couple
- 9 of weeks that there's between two and three trillion
- 10 dollars going to be available in the near future
- potentially -- that's what the President is talking
- 12 about. So I think it's something that you guys need to
- 13 at least put a halt on and review this and make sure
- 14 because we have twenty-five hundred -- twenty-four
- 15 hundred and sixty miles of I-10. Jacksonville.
- 16 California.
- 17 The way I look at it, I can only find one
- 18 toll booth on I-10. It's in El Monte, California. And
- looking at the rates, twenty-five cents per mile,
- 20 fourteen mile travel through that zone, what they charge
- 21 there. But this being the bottleneck of I-10 throughout
- 22 the United States from east to west in the southern
- 23 United States, I just cannot believe that the federal
- 24 government wouldn't be responsible for this federal
- 25 highway instead of coming back to the people that travel

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- 2 comprehension for fuel as well as taxes in each state.
- So I think you ought to go back and take
- 4 another look at what may be available right here in the
- 5 near future with the three trillion budget for roads and
- 6 bridges maybe available soon. Thank you.
- 7 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 6.
- SPEAKER NUMBER 6: Dr. Lou Campomenosi.
- 9 I'm president of the of Common Sense Campaign Tea Party.
- 10 I want to say I support all the previous speakers. I
- think that particularly number four offered you some
- insights about things that perhaps haven't been
- discussed previously.
- Let me just say that the Tea Party folks
- 15 that I'm involved with are not knee jerk against tolls
- 16 and taxes. We have supported some of these things in
- 17 the past.
- 18 We are particularly opposed to those
- taxes that are levied particularly in light of the
- problems associated that we have seen in Baldwin County
- with lack of accountability, lack of transparency.
 - I would also say when you look at what
- 23 has gone on in Baldwin County, we have already passed a
- 24 constitutional amendment that basically said no to but a 25 constitutional amendment about tolling. We don't

22

Page 30 Page 32

1 particularly care for it.

I would argue that when you take the total project you are looking at and start looking at the sales taxes that are already here and are probably going to go up and you look at the gas taxes already

6 here that's definitely going up in September because of

 $7\,$ what, you know, the Legislature just did and more than

8 likely you are going to have another sales tax -- a gas

9 tax rather because of the Feds and then we are

10 anticipating property taxes to go up here. Spanish Fort

11 and Fairhope are entertaining resolutions to do school 12 property taxes.

Now taking into account all of those things that are happening, it seems to me that we need to be prudent and careful about how far you are going

16 with this toll.

17 I would also suggest that the lack of any 18 kind of a sunset provision is important. We've seen

19 that in New Orleans where they did sunset the tolls

20 there. And I also think that we need to be very careful

21 about this issue of the frequent user having a much

22 less -- you know, let's put it this way. Fifteen

23 percent of that is just too high and I think that what

24 Cliff McCollum basically said is an important part of

25 bringing that down so that these folks here who are

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21

1 traveling frequently have a much better opportunity to

2 just not be, you know, taken to the cleaners over tolls.

3 It just doesn't make sense to me and I don't think it's

4 fair at all. Thank you very much.

5 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you.

6 Speaker number 7.

7 SPEAKER NUMBER 7: Hello. I'm Deborah 8 Hunter. I live in Daphne and my husband and I have a

9 business in Mobile so we are frequent travelers to

10 Mobile and would be using this new bridge also.

I agree with many of the things that have

12 been brought up, but more than that, I would like for

13 you to consider ways that you can keep travelers on the

14 present Bayway safe. And there is one way you can do

15 this and it doesn't cost anything and that is to lower

16 the speed limit.

17 You mentioned, sir, an overturned truck 18 recently causing miles and miles of congestion. This is

19 very, very stressful and dangerous. It is harmful to

20 both Mobile County and Baldwin County. This is

21 something that can easily be done. Slow the traffic

22 down on the I-10 Bayway and enforce it.

23 It could be something as simple -- and

24 you wouldn't have access to the troopers but they could

25 just go on the Bayway with the lights flashing and slow

1 the traffic down. Ticketing could be done off the

2 Bayway to eliminate the danger of pulling someone over

3 but this is -- this should have been done years ago and

4 it is not difficult. It's not rocket science.

That truck that overturned probably had

6 speed as a factor, either speed, tailgating or rapid

7 lane change. This problem can be fixed. Lives can be

8 saved and less property damage and less damage to both

9 counties. Thank you very much.

MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 8.
SPEAKER NUMBER 8: Hello. My name is

12 Steve Lorato. I live here in Spanish Fort. We moved

13 here in 2009. I drive back and forth across the bay

14 every day. I can tell you when Spring Break starts. I

15 can tell you when summer vacation starts. I can tell

16 you when school starts.

17 All of the people live and die and work 18 in Mobile and Baldwin County. That's not our problem.

19 That's all the people come from Texas, Louisiana,

20 Mississippi and Florida clogging up the way.

I'm in favor of a toll. If it keeps me

22 from sitting in that traffic jam every morning and

23 afternoon, I will pay a toll but I'm not going to pay

24 for all those citizens of those other states to go back

25 and forth through my state and causing the congestion.

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I think it's a great idea. Like I say,

2 I'm willing to pay a toll but it needs to be fair for

3 the people that live here. There are people that work

4 in Spanish Fort, Daphne and those places, that live in

5 Mobile, minimum wage jobs. They are not going to be

6 able to keep those jobs and the same goes for the people

7 in Mobile.

8 Maybe that's a good idea, keeping those

9 people in their own communities and not tracking back

10 and forth but people want to go where the jobs are and

11 where they feel productive.

We need a minimum requirement on the toll

13 and again I'm not opposed to that but I don't want to

14 pay a hundred, two hundred, whatever that money is to go

15 back and forth for my job every day. Thank you.

16 MR. PERRY: Thank you. All right.

17 Speaker number 9.

8 SPEAKER NUMBER 9: Thank you. I do

19 appreciate you having a public hearing like this. My

20 name is Roger Nelson. I've been a resident of Daphne

21 along with my spouse and my family now since 1989.

22 I work in downtown Mobile and have ever

23 since then. The commute takes me from my house in south

24 Daphne in the mornings twenty-five to thirty minutes,

25 many times in the afternoon thirty-five, forty,

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1 forty-five minutes.

2 I'm not opposed to progress, never have

2 because of the congestion and the traffic. That's all I

3 been and I think it's a good idea to build the bridge
4 and I'm not even opposed to all the tolls, but when you
4 opportunity.
3 wanted to say. Thank you for giving me this
4 opportunity.

5 talk about a toll running between three to six dollars

5 MR. P.

6 one way for someone that say is working forty-eight

7 weeks out of the year and traveling as much as I would

8 be, that's two thousand one hundred sixty dollars a year

9 using the midpoint of four dollars and fifty cents per

10 toll each way. That's about nine dollars a day. That's

11 not chump change when you look at the larger scheme of

12 things.

With a fifteen percent discount, that 14 gets my annual cost to one thousand eight hundred and

15 thirty-six dollars. That is a lot of money. That's a

16 lot of tolls and fees to be considering imposing. A

17 fifteen percent discount isn't going to touch the amount

18 that one would need to defray the expenses.

19 I worry about the cost being passed on

20 through small businessmen; say a pest exterminator is a

21 classic example or construction workers or roofers

22 making the daily trip from Mobile to Baldwin County.

23 Well, you are going to keep perhaps a non-toll route set

24 through plateau across the Cochrane Bridge and across

25 the Causeway. I submit to you that that is going to be

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a huge, tremendous choke point of traffic congestion.
 People will look at their little traffic
 apps and use that as a means to bypass the toll
 altogether. There are going to be thousands
 particularly after Spring Break all the way through
 Labor Day of people that are going to be on the no toll
 route and that's fine but how long can somebody wait in
 traffic trying to get where they need to go particularly
 if it's business related.

I wonder how I can afford the extra time
I in traffic that that perhaps might cost me. I think
that that really needs to be thought through much n

12 that that really needs to be thought through much more 13 carefully. That is a huge expense. It will be passed

14 14:1 6 1 : 1: 11

14 on. I think of a classic example in my mind --

15 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Can you please 16 wrap up?

17 SPEAKER NUMBER 9: I will finish it up.

18 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

19 SPEAKER NUMBER 9: This is an example.

20 Let's say I wanted to go eat at one of the very fine

21 restaurants on the Causeway on Friday evening. How can

22 I get there? Traffic is going to be backed up on the

23 Causeway. I sure don't want to pay four fifty, six

24 bucks to go across the toll Bayway to get there.

25 And those businesses on the Causeway will

5 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Speaker number 6 10. Please remember to state your name and your address

6 10. Please remember to state your name and your address
7 before you give your comment.
8 SPEAKER NUMBER 10: Hello. My name is

9 David Dueitt. I live in Daphne, 104 D'Olive Boulevard.

10 I didn't come with prepared remarks but I did want to

11 come and voice my opposition to this to as many people 12 as I could and I appreciate y'all having this

13 opportunity for us. I just wish that we would have had

some options other than a toll road.
Everybody says, well, you know, if it

16 would have been a property tax, it would have been so 17 high that it would have been terrible. How do we know

18 that? We have the lowest property tax in the country

19 and maybe it would be a lot cheaper for the average guys

20 out here to pay a property tax.

21 It might hurt ten percent of the

22 population a little bit more than everybody else that

23 have hundreds of acres but maybe there's a provision we

24 could have for farmers or whatever but I just think this

25 doing a toll road that our children, our children's

1 children, our children's children, on and on

2 and on for the rest of time is going to be paying for

3 the right to drive on a road.

4 It seems to me that travel should be

5 free. I don't want to become Florida. I don't travel

6 in Florida much because I don't like the toll roads. I

7 think people will start feeling the same way about the

8 bay bridge just as the previous speaker said. Some

9 people are just going to avoid traveling, and when you 10 avoid traveling, you avoid spending.

When people spend, we make tax dollars.

So we might be getting some money from a few, the

13 out-of-towners that are going to Florida or whatever but

14 we are going to be paying the bulk of it, all us locals

15 and I don't think we should do that to our children. I

16 don't want another Fob James bridge that we pay for 17 forever.

I think we ought to do it today with our 19 own tax money and be grown-ups about it instead of

19 own tax money and be grown-ups about it instead of 20 charging our children. We shouldn't be charging our

21 children for what we don't have the guts to do.
 22 MR. PERRY: All right. Thank you. All

23 right. Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the public

24 forum portion of tonight's meeting. I want to thank all 25 of you for attending and a special thank you for those

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 1 who provided public comments. We value your input.
 2
           Remember the deadline to submitting all
 3 comments is Thursday, May 23rd. Your comments must be
 4 received by that deadline to be included in the
 5 environmental document. Thank you again. Have a good
 6 night.
 7
 8
            END OF PROCEEDINGS
10
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                                                    Page 39
           CERTIFICATE
 1
 2
 3
 4 STATE OF ALABAMA)
 5 MOBILE COUNTY)
 7
           I hereby certify that the above
 8 proceedings were taken down by me and transcribed by me
 9 and that the above is a true and correct transcript of
10 the said proceedings.
           I further certify that I am neither of
11
12 counsel nor of kin to the parties nor in anywise
13 financially interested in the outcome of this case.
14
15
16
            Jan a. Mann
17
18
19
               JAN A. MANN
20
           COMMISSIONER - NOTARY PUBLIC
21
               ACCR NO. 321
22
23
24
25
```

[& - applause] Page 40

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ATTACHMENT E:

Written Comments Received

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