Lakepoint State Park Lodge

Eufaula, AL

ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION PLANNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL *Conference*

July 29-31, 2026

ATPA

ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION PLANNERS ASSOCIATION

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Wednesday		**July 29, 2026**
*All Sessions on Wednesday will be held in **Riverside** unless otherwise noted*		
12:00-5:00	Conference Registration	
1:00-1:30	Welcome	*Mayor Jack B. Tibbs, City of Eufaula* *Ann Sparks, Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce* *Reginald Franklin, ATPA President*
1:30-2:15	When Driving Isn't an Option: Planning for Mobility, Access, and Independence	***Ellen Soll and Becky Rogers- Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (Gold Sponsor)***
2:15-2:30	**Break**	
2:30-3:15	From Existing Data to Better Counts: Advancements in Estimating Bicycle and Pedestrian Volumes	*Rachael Thompson Panik- University of Alabama*
3:15-4:00	Sweet Trails Alabama and Urban Trails	***Sara Kovachich- Alta Planning and Design, Inc. (Gold Sponsor)***
4:00-4:45	Board Meeting	*ATPA Members,* **Southern Pine Boardroom**
4:45-5:30	**Hotel Check-in**	
5:30-6:30	**Social**	**Pier's End Bar (Open to 10PM)**
6:30-7:30	**Dinner**	**Dining Room**

Thursday		**July 30, 2026**
*All Sessions on Thursday will be held in **Riverside** unless otherwise noted*		
7:00-8:00	**Breakfast**	**Dining Room**
8:00-8:45	Federal Highway Bill Reauthorization Updates	*Katie Economou- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)*
8:45-9:30	Community-built Transportation Research in Minnesota and Across the U.S.	*Kyle Shelton- University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies*
9:30-9:45	**Break**	
9:45-10:15	Alabama Transportation Institute (ATI) Updates	*Steven Jones- ATI*

Thursday		**July 30, 2026**
10:15-10:45	Overview of the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)	*Tyler Mitchell- ATAP*
10:45-11:00	**Break**	
11:00-11:30	Transforming Ross Clark Circle	*Luke Peters- Thompson Engineering*
11:30-12:00	US 431 Downtown Eufaula Project	*Sharon Holloway- ALDOT Southeast Region*
12:00-1:00	**Lunch/Awards**	
1:00-1:45	"Oxford On the Move" Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	***Elizabeth Wright- EARPDC, David Coggin and Shardae' King- Sain Associates, Inc. (MPO/RPO Presentation Winner)***
1:45 – 5:00	**Afternoon on your own**	
5:30-6:30	**Social/Transportation Trivia Night**	**Pier's End Bar (Open to 10PM)/Riverside**
6:30-7:30	**Dinner**	**Dining Room**

Friday		**July 31, 2026**
*All Sessions on Friday will be held in **Riverside***		
7:00-8:00	**Breakfast**	**Dining Room**
8:00-8:45	Mobility Futures Alliance: Improving Lives Through Better Transportation	*Dave Muyres- Mobility Futures Alliance*
8:45-9:30	Fairhope's Arts Alley- Getting Creative with 5307 Funds	*Sarah Hart Sislak- Eastern Shore MPO* ***Skipper Consulting, Inc. (Gold Sponsor)***
9:30-10:15	**Break/Hotel Check-Out**	
10:15-11:00	Mountain Brook Roundabout Project	***Nathan Currie- Sain Associates, Inc. (Gold Sponsor)***
11:00-12:00	ALDOT Updates	*Bryan Fair- ALDOT Local Transportation Bureau*
12:00	**Adjourn**	

Conference Speaker Bios

Reginald Franklin

Reginald Franklin was elected president of the Alabama Transportation Planners Association (ATPA) in 2024. Mr. Franklin has been a member of ATPA since 2009 and has served on the ATPA Board since 2017. He is currently employed by the City of Dothan in the Department of Planning and Development. Mr. Franklin has been the staff planner for the Southeast Wiregrass MPO for the last 13 years. Previously, he worked for the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for 8 years as a GIS Analyst/Planner. Mr. Franklin earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL, and his Master of Science Degree in Community Planning from Auburn University. Mr. Franklin is married with 3 kids and loves to spend time with family and officiate basketball in his spare time.

Ellen Soll

Ellen Soll, AICP is the Transportation Planning Deputy Practice Lead at Neel-Schaffer based in the firm's New Orleans office. She joined the firm in 2025 with more than 21 years of experience in transportation and community planning and provides leadership and project management for transportation, multimodal, and community planning initiatives across Louisiana and the Southeast. Ms. Soll is particularly experienced in active and multimodal transportation planning, safety action planning, and data-driven plan development for mobility plans, corridor studies, and long-range transportation plans. Her work has been recognized with awards from the American Planning Association Louisiana Chapter and the National Association of Development Organizations.

Becky Rogers

Becky Rogers, PE, PTP, RSP_1 is a Vice President at Neel-Schaffer where she works as a transportation planner and engineer in the Birmingham Office. She attended Auburn University, where she earned a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree and a Master of Community Planning degree. Becky holds professional engineering licenses in five states and is certified as a professional transportation planner and road safety professional. Her experience includes transportation planning, roadway design, safety analysis, transit planning, public outreach, and large-scale data collection. Becky is a fellow of ITE, A Community of Transportation Professionals, where she has served in all offices of the Alabama Section and the Southern District. She is currently representing the Southern District on the International Board of Direction.

Rachael Thompson Panik

Rachael Thompson Panik, AICP, PhD is an incoming Assistant Professor of Transportation Engineering in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama. Dr. Panik received her PhD in Transportation Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and holds degrees in civil engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (B.S.) and urban planning from Clemson University (M.C.R.P.). Before pursuing her PhD, she worked as a transportation engineering and planning consultant, helping communities across the US implement safer infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Conference Speaker Bios

Sara Kovachich

Sara Kovachich, PLA, RSP_1 is a multimodal planner and designer with Alta Planning and Design. She leads regional and local safety action plans, active transportation plans, and trail planning and design across the Southeast. Recent projects in Alabama include the Sweet Trails Alabama Statewide Trails Plan, the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARGOG) Safety Action Plan, the Huntsville MPO Bike Plan, and the North Huntsville Greenway Concept Plan. She and the Alta team leverage decades of national experience to bring safety and multimodal transportation planning expertise to Alabama.

Katie Economou

Katie Economou is a Legislative Director at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), where she leads federal policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of MPOs nationwide. Her work focuses on advancing transportation policies that strengthen regional planning, improve project delivery, and support long-term infrastructure investment. She works closely with Congress, federal agencies, and national partners to shape surface transportation reauthorization and elevate the role of metropolitan planning organizations in the federal transportation program. Prior to joining AMPO, Katie worked with local governments in Michigan to advance resilience initiatives, focusing on policy development, grant strategy, and community engagement. She holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan and dual bachelor's degrees in Public Policy and International Relations from the University of Delaware.

Kyle Shelton

Kyle Shelton, PhD is the director of the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. In this role, he oversees all Center operations, research, education, and partnerships. Shelton has led research and policy work in transportation, urban development, and housing. Shelton has a PhD in American urban history from the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Power Moves: Transportation, Politics, and Development in Houston* (2017). His own research interests orbit around the intersections of the human, built, and natural environments. Shelton has written and spoken widely about transportation and development policy. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, Shelton was the Deputy Director at Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research. There he led several research programs and oversaw external partnerships as well as overseeing overall Institute strategy.

Steven Jones

Dr. Steven Jones is the Executive Director of the Alabama Transportation Institute at the University of Alabama and leads its Transportation Policy Research Center. Steven has 30 years of transportation engineering and planning experience spanning both academic and private sector consulting appointments in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and in sub-Saharan Africa. Jones is the Technology Transfer (T2) Director for the Center for Regional and Rural Connected Communities (CR^2C^2), a USDOT-funded Region IV University Transportation Center (UTC). He serves as an Associate Director of The National Center for Transportation Cybersecurity and Resiliency (TraCR). Additionally, he leads the Alabama teams under the National Center for Rural Road safety and the FHWA New Mobility Center of Excellence. He has authored or co-authored more than 300 journal articles, conferences papers, design manuals, and project reports on a range of transportation topics.

Conference Speaker Bios

Tyler Mitchell

Tyler Mitchell, PE is an Associate Director for Training and Technical Assistance with the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP). He is a licensed engineer with experience in the design, construction, and maintenance of transportation projects and infrastructure. Mr. Mitchell has worked as a consulting engineer for a range of civil projects and served 8 years in county government as a highway department engineer. He holds both a Bachelor and Master of Civil Engineering from Auburn University.

Luke Peters

Luke Peters, PE is a Project Engineer with Thompson Engineering and a licensed Professional Engineer with more than 13 years of experience in transportation construction throughout Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geomatics from Troy University and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Auburn University. Throughout his career, he has worked on a variety of highway and transportation improvement projects, coordinating with contractors, utility companies, local governments, and project stakeholders to help successfully deliver complex infrastructure projects.

Elizabeth Wright

Elizabeth Wright is a Regional Planner for the Calhoun Area MPO at the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC), serving the Anniston-Oxford urbanized area. With a background in GIS, she works with local governments and community partners to advance planning efforts that improve connectivity, accessibility, and quality of life. Outside of work, Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her husband and two young children, exploring the outdoors, and taking family adventures whenever she can.

Conference Speaker Bios

David Coggin

David Coggin, PE is a Project Manager for Sain Associates' traffic engineering and planning team. His experience includes 8+ years of transportation planning, traffic analysis, microsimulation modeling, feasibility studies, traffic impact studies, and traffic safety evaluation. David holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alabama. He is an at-large member of the Birmingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee and a registered professional engineer in Alabama and Tennessee. David and his wife, Hannah, live in Birmingham with their son, Stephen, and golden retriever named Coach.

Shardae' King

Shardae' King is a Transportation Planner with Sain Associates' traffic engineering and planning team. She has four years of experience in transportation planning, including transit feasibility studies, comprehensive planning, long-range transportation planning, and community outreach for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plans. Shardae' earned Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees in Business Management and Human Resource Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2013 and 2017, respectively. In 2021, she earned a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree with a concentration in Housing and Community Development from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville. Shardae' enjoys exploring the history of cities through their streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces and seeing how small transportation improvements can make a big difference in people's daily lives.

Dave Muyres

David Muyres is a global innovation and product development executive dedicated to transforming the future of transportation through design-minded thinking. As the Founder and Executive Director of the Mobility Futures Alliance and Co-founder of Streetscope, David focuses on inspiring systemic change toward safe, sustainable mobility by creating visionary narratives that all stakeholders can clearly see, understand, and embrace. Throughout his career, David has built and led high-impact global teams across North America, Europe, and Asia for industry leaders including Yanfeng Automotive and Johnson Controls. His unique perspective is deeply informed by his academic leadership roles at the Art Center College of Design and his work as an adjunct professor of Future Mobility at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Today, he works at the intersection of technology and community engagement, helping stakeholders adopt next-generation transportation alternatives that are both visionary and practical.

Conference Speaker Bios

Sarah Hart Sislak

Sarah Hart Sislak received her Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 2011. Roll Tide! She joined the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (ESMPO) in 2013 and has served as Director since 2015, leading transportation planning efforts for one of Alabama's fastest-growing regions. Throughout her tenure, Sarah has helped advance several major regional initiatives-- most notably, the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project. Sarah is an active member of the University of Alabama Alumni Association and serves as Vice President of the Alabama Transportation Planners Association (ATPA). A native of Silverhill, Alabama, Sarah now lives in Fairhope with her husband, Adam, and their daughter, Camille. In her free time, she enjoys spending time down by the Bay and at the beach, volunteering at her church and her daughter's school, and watching sports.

Nathan Currie

Nathan Currie, PE is a transportation engineer with Sain Associates in Birmingham, Alabama. Nathan is a principal of the firm and directs Sain's transportation design and CE&I projects in central and south Alabama. He has close to 20 years of engineering experience focused on the planning and design of infrastructure projects, ranging in size from large highway projects and interchange improvements to multi-use trails and streetscape projects. Nathan also has extensive experience with the planning and design of roundabouts throughout the southeast. Born and raised in Clayton, Alabama (roughly 20 miles west of Eufaula), Nathan is a 2004 graduate of Auburn University. He and his wife, Kim, have 4 kids and now reside in Homewood.

Bryan Fair

Bryan Fair, PE is the Assistant Planning Engineer within ALDOT's Local Transportation Bureau. Mr. Fair has served with the Department for over 15 years in both the Local Transportation Bureau and the Transportation Planning & Modal Programs Bureau. Mr. Fair coordinates with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations to administer Federal Aid, develop planning documents, and adhere to state and federal regulations. Mr. Fair worked in ALDOT's Transit Section prior to returning to the Metropolitan Planning Section, helping agencies in Alabama receive funding, training, and vehicles, as well as achieve regulatory compliance. Mr. Fair hails from the same city and state as Ray Perkins, who coached the Crimson Tide from 1983 to 1986.

About ATPA

The Alabama Transportation Planners Association (ATPA) provides a forum for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and rural planning organizations (RPOs) located in the State of Alabama. Through the ATPA, these organizations are able to:

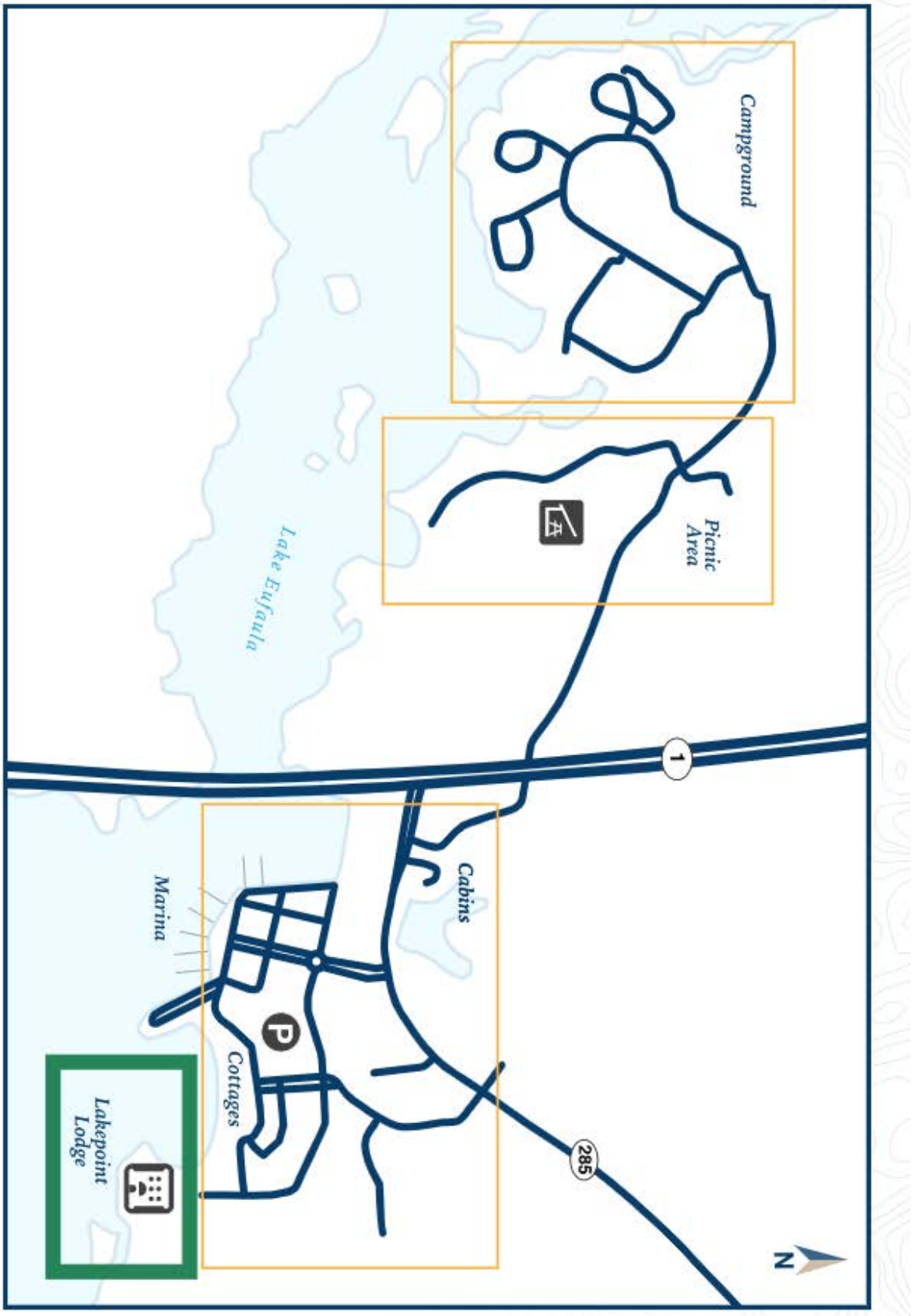
- Exchange information and experiences
- Enhance their understanding of the metropolitan and rural transportation planning processes
- Participate in educational opportunities
- Discuss issues relevant to local, state, and federal policies and requirements for transportation planning

The ATPA promotes both the art and the science of professional transportation planning in the State of Alabama and provides an opportunity for state and federal agencies to interact and collaborate with Alabama's MPOs and RPOs, providing information, and offering guidance on a variety of transportation related issues.

Officers

President: Reginald Franklin, Southeast Wiregrass Area (Dothan) MPO
Vice-President: Sarah Hart Sislak, Eastern Shore MPO
Secretary/Treasurer: James Vandiver, Huntsville Area MPO
Past President: Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Member Organizations

Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission
Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
Decatur MPO
Southeast Wiregrass Area (Dothan) MPO
East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (Anniston MPO)
Gadsden MPO
Huntsville Area MPO
Lee-Russell Council of Governments (Auburn-Opelika MPO)
Montgomery MPO
North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments
Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (Shoals MPO)
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (Birmingham RPO)
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (Mobile MPO)
South Central Alabama Development Commission
Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (SEARP&DC)
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)
West Alabama Regional Commission (Tuscaloosa Area MPO)
Eastern Shore MPO

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