

# **Connections Update**

**September 3, 2008**

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**Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
1731 First Avenue North Suite 200- Birmingham, Alabama 35203  
For RPCGB meeting schedules and information visit our  
website at [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org)**

## ***Headlines in this issue:***

### ***Working Together***

- RPC Finance Committee meeting announcement
- RPC Program Budget Committee meeting announcement
- RPC Board of Directors meeting announcement
- RPC Board of Directors approve Fiscal Year 2009 budget
- RPC planner gains national certification
- Cawaco RC&D introduces new Administrative Assistant

### ***Regional Transportation, Planning and Development***

- 'Best Practices' Site Visit on Air Quality Funding Conducted for Birmingham MPO
- Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves Draft Rebalanced Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Notice of Transportation Public Involvement Meeting
- I-65/US 31 Mobility Matters Project - Open Houses Scheduled
- Human Service Transportation Plan Update
- Governor Riley teams up with CommuteSmart
- Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) Steering Committee
- New Park & Ride Lot added but more are needed

### ***Building Communities***

- City of Pinson public meeting set
- City of Hueytown designating a tax increment district
- Town of Locust Fork successful public meeting
- RPC's staff attending Senior Employment training conference to better serve our region

### ***Community / Economic Development***

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update
- Brownfield Task Force July meeting highlights

### ***Grant and Workshop Announcements***

- RPC Workshop Survey – we need to hear from you
- RPC's Community Planning Assistance Grant Program FY2009 funding cycle – Visit [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) for application - Deadline extended to September 12<sup>th</sup>
- FY 2009 Building Communities Projects - Request for Projects
- Retail Day 2008: Retail as Economic Development
- 2008 Building Communities Conference - *Gateway to Greenspace: Connecting Citizens, Governments and Businesses*

- Clean Air Excellence Awards Program
- Legal Aspects of Condominium and Homeowners' Associations seminar
- Jefferson County Office of Community Development – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application information
- The Year of Alabama Small Towns & Downtowns
- FY2009 Transportation Enhancement grant

## **Working Together**

### **RPC Finance Committee meeting announcement**

RPC Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, First Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203. The purpose of the meeting is to review RPC financials.

### **RPC Program Budget Committee meeting announcement**

RPC Program Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, First Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203. The purpose of the meeting is to review RPC programs, projects and consider budget amendments.

### **RPC Board of Directors meeting announcement**

The next meeting is September 17, 2008, 10:30 a.m., First Floor Conference Room, Center for Regional Planning and Design, 1731 First Avenue North, Birmingham, 35203. The primary purpose of this meeting is to consider reports and recommendations from Committees. For meeting information, including postings of any meeting notices and cancellations please visit the RPCGB website at [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org)

### **RPC Board of Directors approve Fiscal Year 2009 budget**

The RPC Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2009 budget at their August 20, 2009 meeting. The budget is posted on RPC's website at [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org), "What's Hot."

### **RPC planner gains national certification**

RPC Executive Director, Charles Ball is pleased to announce the recent induction of RPC Senior Transportation Planner Mary Grace Lewandowski into the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). To attain the AICP designation, planners must pass a rigorous three-hour examination that measures knowledge in major subject areas such as land use law, transportation planning, and ethics in planning. The exam is offered twice a year. Just over 10,000 planners have the AICP designation worldwide.

### **Cawaco RC&D introduces new Administrative Assistant**

Cawaco would like to introduce its new Administrative Assistant, Amy Feger. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Amy graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelors Degree of Fine Arts. She then moved to Montevallo and began working for the city as a Revenue Clerk in 2002. During her six years at the City of Montevallo, she

served as Administrative Assistant to the Mayor and City Clerk, Acting City Clerk, Grant Administrator and Revenue Officer. In 2004, she became a Cawaco RC&D Council Member. Excited to be a part of an organization that focuses on working together to enhance community resources and educational opportunities, she volunteered to be a part of the Cawaco Grant Committee and the Cawaco Executive Committee. In the spring of 2008, Amy left the city and began looking for part-time employment in order to pursue a graduate degree. She is grateful to find employment working with community leaders and grassroots organizations to help with projects that focus on environmental conservation and education, as well as community and economic development.

Administrative Assistant and Cawaco cornerstone-Annette Drummonds- has transitioned to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, located at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Annette brought vitality and warmth to the Cawaco Council, worked diligently with grantees and Council members, and is greatly missed.

## **Regional Transportation, Planning and Development**

### **'Best Practices' Site Visit on Air Quality Funding Conducted for Birmingham MPO**

The Volpe Center of Boston, Massachusetts conducted a site visit to Birmingham on July 29th to evaluate the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funding coordinated by the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization. The U.S. Department of Transportation is conducting a series of around six site visits around the country this summer to document the most effective approaches for use of CMAQ funds and to prepare information for Congress in the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. Birmingham was chosen due to the historical recognition of documenting emissions reductions impacts of projects funded by the MPO. Some of the best practices projects reviewed were alternative fuel projects, including the truck stop electrification project on I-59 in the Bessemer area, and the marketing and public outreach efforts by the Alabama Partners for Clean Air.

### **Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approves Draft Rebalanced Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

At the August 13, 2008 MPO meeting, the Draft Rebalanced FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program was approved. The review the draft rebalanced TIP visit: <http://www.bhammpo.org/longrangeplan/improvementplan.htm>

### **Notice of Transportation Public Involvement Meeting**

**PURPOSE:** To obtain public comments on the Air Quality Conformity Determination on Amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for Jefferson and Shelby Counties. **SPONSORED BY:** Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) on behalf of the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), **Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 12:00 Noon-1:30 p.m.**, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA) Public Meeting Room, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35203. You are cordially

invited to attend and participate in this public involvement meeting. Visit [www.bhammpo.org](http://www.bhammpo.org). "Upcoming Events" for additional information after September 10, 2008. Anyone requiring special accommodations should contact Cissy Edwards-Crowe at RPC (205) 251-8139 at least one week prior to the meeting.

### **I-65/US 31 Mobility Matters Project - Open Houses Scheduled**

Mobility matters! In fact, it matters a great deal. It matters for our commuters, our economy, for air quality, and for our quality of life. The time spent sitting in traffic each and every day has an economic and environmental impact on our region. Congestion and mobility are not only key concerns of the average commuter but for attracting corporations and potential developers. The **I-65/US 31 Mobility Matters Project** is studying potential improvements along the I-65/US 31 corridor from Valleydale Road to the City Center/UAB area. There are two public Open Houses scheduled to present information on the project and to solicit input from the public. The meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
RPC of Greater Birmingham  
1731 First Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Shades Mountain Elementary School  
**Located at the old Berry Middle School**  
2826 Columbiana Road  
Hoover, AL 35216

There will be no formal presentation at these open houses. The public is invited to drop in at any time between 5 pm and 7 pm to learn more about the project, speak with the project team staff, and comment on the project. For more information visit [www.i65-us31mobilitymatters.com](http://www.i65-us31mobilitymatters.com) or contact Mary Grace Lewandowski at [mgl@rpegb.org](mailto:mgl@rpegb.org).

### **Human Service Transportation Plan Update**

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham hosted a human service transportation stakeholder's workshop with Shelby County during the month of August as part of the update of the region's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. The Plan, which is a requirement of SAFETEA-LU, is meant to provide guidance to the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Senior Services, and the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization about programs, projects, and funding priorities for both local and regional human service transportation initiatives. The plan is due to the Alabama Department of Transportation by 15 September 2008.

The Regional Planning Commission's Board of Directors and the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization's Executive Committee will adopt the plan document and put into effect the portions of the plan that pertain specifically to the rural counties. The Birmingham MPO will adopt the plan document as part of the long-range transportation plan update and put into effect the elements of the plan that pertain specifically to the metropolitan planning area, the urbanized area over which the MPO has purview.

The plan governs the expenditure of Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 -- Elderly and Disabled Program, Section 5316 -- Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program, and Section 5317 -- New Freedom Program.

### **Governor Riley teams up with CommuteSmart**

On Wednesday, August 27, Governor Bob Riley joined CommuteSmart and several local commuters to encourage Alabamians to carpool and vanpool to work. Governor Riley arrived at the press conference in a CommuteSmart van, with members of one of UAB's vanpools. The governor endorsed CommuteSmart to spread the message that alternative commuting saves money, reduces congestion and improves air quality.

In July, Governor Riley held a similar press conference in Montgomery about "Commute with Company," a carpool program for state employees. He approached CommuteSmart about working together to take this message to the general public. The governor also expressed interest in learning more about the scalability of the program to expand to the entire state of Alabama.

For more information about CommuteSmart, please visit [www.commutesmart.org](http://www.commutesmart.org) or call 1-87-RIDEMATCH.

### **Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) Steering Committee**

The next meeting of the Alabama Partners for Clean Air Steering Committee is Thursday, September 11, 2008, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, First Floor Conference Room, 1731 First Avenue North, Birmingham, AL. For additional information contact Scott Tillman, [stillman@rpcgb.org](mailto:stillman@rpcgb.org)

### **New Park & Ride Lot added but more are needed**

The RPCGB has recently completed an agreement with Mountain Brook Community Church for the use of 35 spaces in the lot that faces Church Street. The Church is located off Highway 280 near I-459 at 3001 Highway 280 East.

Park & Ride locations are still needed in the following transportation corridors: US 280 (Inverness or Shelby County), I-65 North and I-20 East. For additional information or to suggest a location, please contact Lindsay Smith at [lsmith@rpcgb.org](mailto:lsmith@rpcgb.org) or 264-8421.

Check out the current Park and Ride lots:

- First Baptist Church of Pelham (at U.S. 31 south), 2867 Pelham Parkway, Pelham
- Hueytown Baptist Church (at I-20/59 south), 3000 Dwaine Ave., Hueytown
- Forestdale Church of God (at U.S. 78 west), 1433 Tomahawk Road, Birmingham
- United Methodist Church of Center Point (at Alabama 75 north), 2129 Center Point Parkway, Birmingham.
- Northpark Baptist Church (at I-59 north), 5700 Deerfoot Parkway, Trussville
- First Baptist Church Trussville (at I-59 north), 128 N. Chalkville Road, Trussville
- Greater Emanuel Temple (at I-59 north), 7901 Second Avenue South in East Lake
- Interstate 65, at exit 284 northbound and exit 219 southbound

For carpool or vanpool information, log on to [www.commutesmart.org](http://www.commutesmart.org) or contact Sean Saffle, [ssaffle@rpcgb.org](mailto:ssaffle@rpcgb.org) , 264-8429.

## **Building Communities**

### **City of Pinson public meeting set**

City of Pinson Master Plan, Zoning Code and Subdivision Regulations public meeting is set for Monday, September 22 at the Council Chamber of the Pinson City Hall from 1pm to 3pm and from 5 pm to 7 pm. The Master Plan will provide the basis for preparing a City of Pinson Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to support the goals and strategies for growth described in the Master Plan. For additional information contact Lindsay Smith at [lsmith@rpcgb.org](mailto:lsmith@rpcgb.org).

### **City of Hueytown designating a tax increment district**

The City of Hueytown, through funding assistance from the RPC's Community Planning Assistance Grants, is in the process of designating a tax increment district. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2008, 6:30pm at Hueytown City Hall. For more information, contact Yvonne Murray (205)251-8139 or [YMurray@rpcgb.org](mailto:YMurray@rpcgb.org).

### **Town of Locust Fork successful public meeting**

The RPC and the Town of Locust Fork conducted a successful public meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 in the Town of Locust Fork. The public meeting was the visioning process for the Town's master plan. Thirty-one residents of Locust Fork participated in the meeting to help guide the future development of Locust Fork. Please feel free to contact Richard Amore, a Senior Planner with the RPCGB for further information regarding the master plan process in Locust Fork at [ramore@rpcgb.org](mailto:ramore@rpcgb.org).

### **RPC's staff attending Senior Employment training conference to better serve our region**

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI) annual conference is in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 8th through September 12th. At this year's sessions the focus will be the outlook for aging, workforce, and community services programs under a new Administration and Congress. An important topic is Senior Service America's SCSEP Innovations discretionary grants to our sub-grantees. Confirmed speakers for the Conference are:

- One of the top policy analysts in aging, Robert Blancato, President, Matz, Blancato & Associates
- US Department of Labor ETA, John Colbert, Partner, Moss, McGee, Bradley and Colbert, and former Chief of Staff
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a); Sandy Markwood, CEO

Attending this year is RPC's Executive Director Charles Ball, Sheila Baker, Director of the Senior Employment Program and Senior Participants Josephine Ham and Johnny Horn.

## **Community/Economic Development**

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update**

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document is completed and available for comment through September 22, 2008. It is available for review on the RPC website, [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) and the document is available at the reception desk at the RPC office. Proposals for projects to be included in the CEDS will be accepted on an ongoing basis through the website, mail and fax. Forms to fill out requests for projects that promote economic development are available on the RPC web site. For more information, contact Yvonne Murray (205)251-8139 or [YMurray@rpcgb.org](mailto:YMurray@rpcgb.org).

### **Brownfield Task Force July meeting highlights**

**Matt Robbins- EPA Region 4 Atlanta** complimented the Task Force and the State of Alabama for making tremendous strides with brownfield redevelopment over the past few years. Matt stressed the following points:

- Applications not awarded last year represent good projects and good potential for reapplication for the upcoming 2009 cycle.
- Applicants should remain focused on strengthening and developing applications.
- There are many additional and complementary sources of funding for brownfield projects: HUD, ARC, Private Foundations, and others were referenced. Matt encouraged those with potential projects to seek those as funding sources as well as the Federal Government.

**Robert Simon- President – Corporate Realty** highlighted the private sector's role and opportunities for profitable real estate transactions through brownfield projects. Following are bullet point highlights of Robert's presentation: *A Developers Perspective of Brownfield Redevelopments:*

- Two Projects were presented: *The Former Tom Williams Cadillac Site* at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> avenue South- Birmingham and *Block 121* at the NE corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Street South and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue- Downtown Birmingham
- Robert stressed the **importance of a strong project team** including: private sector attorneys, environmental consultants, the local governments and regulators.
- Robert also stressed the importance of managing **expectations of the seller** and property owners.
- Benefits of participation in the **Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP)** include: providing for "clean hands" purchasers and other transferable benefits to future purchasers, were defined.
- The *Block 21* segment of the presentation included a discussion of the **Hyatt Place Hotel** which is incorporated within the block redevelopment. The hotel with 150 rooms restaurants and numerous amenities is scheduled to open in approximately six months- January 2009. Also previewed was a **272, 960 sq ft mixed-use residential and retail development** on the site scheduled to open early 2010.

Robert shared the combined project costs at \$62.1 Million. The value added for the City includes the following: **Jobs Generated; Ad Valorem Tax; Sales & Use Tax; Occupational Tax; Hotel & Lodging Tax; Business Licenses; 20th Street Corridor Activity; Services and Products to UAB; Residential Growth; Tourist Dollars for Surrounding Businesses**

## **Grant and Workshop Information**

### **RPC Workshop Survey – we need to hear from you**

RPC is setting their workshop schedule for 2009 and would like to know your areas of interest and workshop topics. Please visit [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) and take our survey. It is easy and simple to do! Thank you for your participation.

## **RPC's Community Planning Assistance Grant Program FY2009 funding cycle – Visit [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) for application - Deadline extended to September 12th**

This program is designed to assist county and municipal governments within RPC's planning area which includes Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker Counties with the development, adoption, and implementation of various community planning projects. Grant funds will be used to provide local governments with planning assistance for the development of **comprehensive plans**, **area plans** such as town center and neighborhood studies, and **management tools** such as zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. Funds can also be used to undertake relevant studies and analyses including economic, retail/market, historic preservation, and transportation-related analyses. Each local government will be required to match the dollars requested in its grant applications. Grant documentation is posted on website [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org).

## **FY 2009 Building Communities Projects - Request for Projects**

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) of Greater Birmingham, on behalf of the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), announces its second round of Building Communities Grants, designed to address the relationship between transportation and land use, recognizing that land use decisions have impacts to the transportation system and vice-versa. Specifically cited under 23 U.S.C. 450.306 is that the metropolitan transportation planning process shall promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.

It is, therefore, the intended purpose of the Building Communities Program to provide grants to local communities within the MPO Planning Area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties for projects, strategies and services that support the SAFETEA-LU planning factors, including transportation and land use integration, economic vitality, safety and security, accessibility and mobility, environmental/air quality, and system preservation. It is also the purpose of the Program to identify physical projects that can be funded under a Building Communities Implementation Program. For the full RFP visit: [www.bhammpo.org](http://www.bhammpo.org), click on Doing Business with the MPO (upper left hand corner of the homepage)

## **Retail Day 2008: Retail as Economic Development INFORMATION – IMAGINATION – INSPIRATION**

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Marketing & Industrial Distribution and the Alabama Retail Association invite you to the **2008 Retail Day** on **Tuesday, Sept. 23!**

**Place: The Club, 1 Robert S. Smith Drive, Birmingham, Alabama**

**Program: Retail as Economic Development Panel Discussion**

- Jeffrey Bayer, CEO, Bayer Properties
- David Carrington CEO, racingusa.com and Council President, City Of Vestavia Hills
- Hugo Isom, Partner, The Shopping Center Group

- Cam Ward, Alabama State Legislator, Alabaster  
**Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Martin Macdonald, Bass Pro Shops**  
**Register now – visit [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) , “What’s Hot” for brochure which includes registration form!**

### **2008 Building Communities Conference - *Gateway to Greenspace: Connecting Citizens, Governments and Businesses***

Thursday October 2, 2008, 8am – 3pm

McWane Science Center – Downtown Birmingham

Topics include:

***Greenprinting for Growth*** - Amy Condon, Trust for Public Land

***Chattanooga Greenways Program***- Rick Wood, Trust for Public Land

***Heart of Alabama: A Gateway to Greenspace*** - Tom Maxwell, Regional Planning Commission

***Metro Birmingham Land Conservation In Action*** - Brian Rushing, Freshwater Land Trust

***Metro Atlanta Greenways – Past, Present & Future*** - Ed McBrayer, PATH Foundation

***Preserving the Visual Qualities of Parkways & Byways*** - Kevin Fry, Scenic America

***Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscapes and Communities*** - Edward T. McMahon, Urban Land Institute

#### ***Roundtable Discussion with Presenters***

Registration brochure is posted at [www.bhammpo.org](http://www.bhammpo.org). What’s New. For more information contact Tom Maxwell, [tmaxwell@rpcgb.org](mailto:tmaxwell@rpcgb.org). Deadline for registration is September 23, 2008.

### **Clean Air Excellence Awards Program**

The Clean Air Excellence Award Program was suggested by the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a senior-level federal advisory committee that provides advice to EPA on air issues. EPA is now accepting applications for the 9th annual Clean Air Excellence Awards Program. All applications must be postmarked prior to September 19, 2008. If you have any questions about the Clean Air Excellence Awards Program, please contact Pat Childers of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation at (202) 564-1082, or [childers.pat@epa.gov](mailto:childers.pat@epa.gov) or visit [www.epa.gov/air/caaac/clean\\_award.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/clean_award.html). There are five categories in which a program, project, or technology may be entered: Clean Air Technology; Community Action; Education/Outreach; Regulatory/Policy Innovations; Transportation Efficiency Innovations.

Award-winning entries are programs, projects, or technologies that directly or indirectly (i.e., by encouraging actions) reduce emissions of criteria pollutants or hazardous/toxic air pollutants; are innovative and unique; provide a model for others to follow; and result in positive outcomes that are continuing/sustainable.

### **Legal Aspects of Condominium and Homeowners' Associations seminar**

With the rise in popularity of Homeowner's Associations it is important for Planning Commissioners and city Administrators to be familiar with how they operate. This

Lorman course offering in September could be very helpful. The Lorman website for additional information is [www.lorman.com](http://www.lorman.com), the course is titled "Legal Aspects of Condominium and Homeowners' Associations" and it will be offered Thursday September 11, 2008. All registration is accomplished through the Lorman organization.

### **Jefferson County Office of Community Development – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application information**

The Jefferson County Office of Community Development will receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications September 16, 2008 – January 30, 2009 from municipalities, non profit organizations and citizens groups located in Jefferson County, Alabama outside the cities of Birmingham, Bessemer, Hoover, County Line and West Jefferson. Information pertaining to the proposal content is available upon request from the Jefferson County Office of Community Development, 716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. No., Suite A-430, Birmingham, 35203. They will also receive Emergency Shelter Grant applications from approved local non profit providers of homeless assistance in Jefferson County. All applicants must attend one of the following public meetings prior to submitting an application:

9-16-08 – Jefferson County Courthouse, Birmingham – 2:00pm

9-25-08 – Midfield Community Center – 6:00pm

10-14-08 – Irondale City Council Chambers 6:00pm

11-18-08, Gardendale City Council Chambers – 6:00pm

12-8-08 – Graysville City Council Chamber – 6:00pm

1-14-09 – Jefferson County Courthouse, Birmingham – 10:00am

For additional information call 325-5761.

### **The Year of Alabama Small Towns & Downtowns**

Governor Bob Riley invites you to celebrate your town in 2010 by participating in the statewide promotion of The Year of Alabama Small Towns & Downtowns.

- Invite former residents back for a special Homecoming Weekend
- Unveil a locally written historic marker on the history of the town.
- Lead a walking tour of the historic area.
- Dedicate a completed civic project, such as a new park or restored landmark building or other needed public project.

The Alabama Tourism Department will publish an attractive book that features photographs and a brief history of each participating town. The books will be sold in stores all over Alabama. **Submission Deadline: Submit your celebration date in 2010 by the deadline of December 1, 2008 to be certified as an official “Year of Small Towns and Downtowns” participant. The Homecoming Weekend:** If you have a popular annual event, declare that date in 2010 to be your town’s Homecoming Weekend and make it even bigger. If your town doesn’t have an annual event, you need one and this is the perfect way to start. When your committee does the event once, you’ll find out how easy it is to do again in 2011. An annual citywide event builds pride and cooperation within the community. Rent booths to food vendors and athletic booster clubs to help cover the costs of putting on the event. Rent booths to local civil clubs and political candidates, if you choose. After all, it is an election year and candidates will

support your event to help draw a crowd. **Here are fun options that will help perpetuate the history of your town**

- Plan a panel discussion at a local elementary school of older residents. Think how much fun it will be hear “local legends” talk about growing up here and how things have changed over the years.
- Interview older residents of the town on tape prior to your special weekend in 2010. It will be duplicated by Alabama Tourism and donated to your local public library and the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The Office of the Governor, The Alabama League of Municipalities, The Alabama State Chambers of Commerce and Alabama Tourism Department are sponsoring the program.

To see the full brochure visit [www.alalm.org](http://www.alalm.org)

### **FY2009 Transportation Enhancement grant**

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is soliciting applications for Transportations Enhancement (TE) projects for FY2009. Applications were mailed to Mayors of Cities and Towns, County Commission Chairmen, Presidents of Universities and Colleges. Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. TE projects must be one of 12 eligible activities and must relate to surface transportation: 1. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities; 2. Pedestrian and bicycle safety and educational activities; 3. Acquisition of scenic or historic easements and sites; 4. Scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers; 5. Landscaping and scenic beautification; 6. Historic preservation; 7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities; 8. Conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails; 9. Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising; 10. Archaeological planning & research; 11. Environmental mitigation of runoff pollution and provision of wildlife connectivity; 12. Establishment of transportation museums. For more details on these 12 areas of eligibility visit [www.enhancements.org/12\\_activities.asp](http://www.enhancements.org/12_activities.asp). The federal government provides funding for TE projects through our nation’s surface transportation legislation. **The closure date for submittal of applications and support documents is Friday, October 3, 2008, 5:00 p.m..** If you need further information, please contact Tom Maxwell, [tmaxwell@rpcgb.org](mailto:tmaxwell@rpcgb.org)

*If you would like to include information in the RPCGB Connections Update contact Cissy Edwards Crowe, Public Information Officer, at [cedwards@rpcgb.org](mailto:cedwards@rpcgb.org) or call (205) 251-8139. If you would like to be removed from this distribution please email [cedwards@rpcgb.org](mailto:cedwards@rpcgb.org)*