

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24

Resolution to Remove the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project from the FY 20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible for the Transportation Planning within the Eastern Shore MPO urbanized area;

WHEREAS, there has long been a recognized need to improve the segment of Interstate 10 traversing Mobile Bay and the Mobile River to provide additional capacity and relief from the bottleneck conditions associated with the Wallace Tunnel and to provide an overall better flow of traffic across these bodies of water as limited alternative routes are available to alleviate the growing local and interstate traffic demands;

WHEREAS, consistent with the declaration of these provisions, the Eastern Shore MPO (“ESMPO”), in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, previously included provisions for improvements for an I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project in the ESMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (“LRTP”) and further amended the LRTP and added specific projects to the ESMPO Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”) at the request of the Alabama Department of Transportation (“ALDOT”) in furtherance of addressing the previously recognized aforementioned need; and

WHEREAS, ALDOT is the project sponsor for the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project (the “Project”) for the design, construction, and funding of the Project; and

WHEREAS, ALDOT’s strategy to implement the Project is to turn the section of Interstate 10 within the extents of the Project into a toll road and utilize a Public Private Partnership (“P3”) to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Project; and

WHEREAS, ALDOT is currently in the latter stages of a lengthy and intensive P3 RFP process for the Project which has several private development teams (“Concessionaires”) competing to be selected as the P3 Partner for the Project, with the RFP process set to conclude in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, although ALDOT has indicated is not at liberty to disclose all documents outlining the parameters imposed by ALDOT due to legal concerns and fairness to all Concessionaires in the competitive selection process, certain details and parameters of the process have been released by ALDOT which include ALDOT imposed parameters of a maximum fee for a single toll for one-way travel in the amount of Six Dollars (\$6.00) and the term of the P3 agreement for the Project shall be fifty-five (55) years; and

WHEREAS, ALDOT has indicated that the full, definitive details associated with the Project cannot be provided until such time as the RFP process for the Project has concluded and a winning Concessionaire selected by ALDOT whereby a final definitive ALDOT plan in the form of a P3 can be compiled and submitted to the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority, provided tolling is indeed involved in the Project, including but not limited to tolling fees, changes to transportation infrastructure for ingress/egress to the I-10 toll road, any proposed transportation infrastructure changes, traffic pattern impacts associated with toll avoidance, impact of any other obligations that may be part of the 55 year term of the P3 agreement, or other potential impacts that

may impact the transportation network within the Eastern Shore MPO Urbanized Area that cannot be foreseen until such time as the final plan and agreements are available; and

WHEREAS, the majority of member governments in the Eastern Shore MPO have taken formal stances against the use of tolls on the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shore MPO finds it prudent, necessary and proper to temporarily remove the Project from the TIP until a final plan can be developed by ALDOT with complete, definitive details in written form can be made available to the Eastern Shore MPO for review, analysis and consideration of the final plan prior to providing support of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of 23 USC 134 and 135 (amended by the FAST Act, Sections 1201 and 1202, December 2015); 42 USC 2000d-1, 7401; 23 CFR 450 and 500; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization,

1. hereby removes all ESMPO project entries from the FY20-23 Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the "Four Year Plan" or "TIP", that relate to the "I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE & BAYWAY PROJECT", including but not limited to:

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Description</u>
100062413	Design	I-10 Bayway Widening from Mobile County Line to East of SR-16 (US 90) at Spanish Fort
100062414	Right of Way	I-10 Bayway Widening from Mobile County Line to East of SR-16 (US 90) at Spanish Fort (Previously Removed)
100062415	Utilities	I-10 Bayway Widening from Mobile County Line to East of SR-16 (US 90) at Spanish Fort
100062416	Construction	I-10 Bayway Widening from Mobile County Line to East of SR-16 (US 90) at Spanish Fort

2. urges ALDOT to provide a plan to deliver the Project in a manner that eliminates making Interstate 10 a toll road as tolling will have a negative impact on the citizens and transportation network within the Eastern Shore MPO urbanized area.
3. encourages ALDOT to formally adopt a policy not to toll any existing portion of the Eisenhower Interstate System in the State of Alabama.

The foregoing resolution was adopted and approved on the 28th day of August 2019, by the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board.


Dane Haygood, Chairman

Date: 9/4/19

ATTEST:



Date: 9/4/19

**My Commission Expires:
November 29, 2021**