

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 27, 2019 Contact: Jessica Walker, <u>Jessica.Walker@fairhopeal.gov</u>

FAIRHOPE RELEASES STATUS REPORT OF TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

FAIRHOPE, Alabama – Fairhope Public Works Director Richard Johnson has released status updates for several traffic and pedestrian safety and capacity improvement projects within the City.

The Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization (ESMPO) has funded the installation of left turn lanes on the east and west approaches of Gayfer Avenue with the intersection of Greeno Road (a.k.a. US Hwy 98). The work will include, but is not limited to grading, drainage, base and paving to widen both approaches to a three-lane section (proposed 11' lane widths) with a dedicated left-turn both north and south. In addition, signal heads and controls will be upgraded to accommodate the new turn lanes and function within the Adaptive ITS System. Design should commence late fall and construction midyear 2020.

Fairhope has submitted a grant application through Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program-II (ATRIPII) for new left turn lanes to County Road 44 (Twin Beech Road) at the intersection with Greeno Road (a.k.a. U.S. Highway 98) in Fairhope, AL. This would be a symmetrical widening for both the east and west bound approaches. The work will include, but is not limited to grading, drainage, base and paving to widen both approaches to a three-lane section (proposed 11' lane widths) with a dedicated left-turn both north and south. In addition, signal heads and controls will be upgraded to accommodate the new turn lanes and function within the Adaptive ITS System. We anticipate confirmation of or denial of Notice of Award sometime in October 2019.

The City has a pending application for a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) through Federal Highway for a new roundabout at North Section Street, Scenic Highway 98 (aka Main Street), Veterans Drive and City Highway 104 (aka Homestead Ave). This intersection lies 0.4 miles west of the intersection of State Highway 104 and U.S. Highway 98 on the north side of Fairhope. All four subject roads are within the corporate limits of Fairhope and City-maintained. The proposed project is an intersection improvement project that proposes to replace a non-symmetrical four-way intersection with a roundabout. Approval and funding are still pending with a hope of award in fiscal 2020. In addition, the ESMPO has assured funding, failing HSIP funding, in Fiscal Year 2023.

The City is advertising for bid to contractors to install a new Pedestrian Crossing mid-block at Pine Street and Section Street in the Central Business District. This pedestrian crossing will you a high-tech Driver Feedback System (DFS) to alert drivers when a pedestrian is entering the crossing. LED lights embedded in the asphalt along the crossing will flash in a distinct pattern and alert drivers to yield to the pedestrian. These directional, high intensity LED lights are clearly observable day and night. This project should be installed early 2020.

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