

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Auburn-Opelika Kicks Off 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Development

Opelika, Ala. (March 18, 2025) – The Lee-Russell Council of Governments (LRCOG) Planning and Economic Development Department, in partnership with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., is excited to announce the launch of the development of the Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (AOMPO) 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

This forward-looking plan will serve as a blueprint for the region’s transportation system, addressing future mobility needs and supporting sustainable growth through 2050. The LRTP will encompass all modes of transportation, including highways, transit, bike and pedestrian pathways, and freight systems, while focusing on accessibility, safety, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

“We are excited the kickoff this vital planning initiative,” said Auburn Mayor Ron Anders, chair of the AOMPO. “The regional perspective of the Lee-Russell Council of Governments provides a valuable way to look at, and hear from, our larger community while planning for this important aspect of East Alabama’s future.”

Public Engagement at the Core

Public input is a critical component of the planning process. Residents, stakeholders, and businesses are invited to share their insights, concerns, and visions for the region’s transportation future. A virtual stakeholder meeting and a community survey will be the primary methods used to gain that input. The survey link will be posted at www.lrcog.com and on social media.

"The success of the LRTP depends on the voices of the people it will serve," said Lisa Sandt, Executive Director, Lee-Russell Council of Governments. "We look forward to engaging with the community and working together to shape a transportation system that meets the diverse needs of the Auburn-Opelika area."

Planning for the Future

The LRTP development process will evaluate current and projected population and economic trends, infrastructure conditions, and technological advancements. It will also align with federal and state transportation planning guidelines, ensuring the Auburn-Opelika region remains competitive for federal aid funding opportunities.

About the AOMPO, LRCOG and Neel-Schaffer, Inc.

The AOMPO is created pursuant to federal laws and regulations by an agreement between the Governor of the State of Alabama and the Cities of Auburn and Opelika and Lee County. It is composed of two local elected officials from each local government and representatives of ALDOT and the FHWA.

The Lee-Russell Council of Governments is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the region through effective planning, coordination, and implementation of programs that meet the needs of its communities. LRCOG provides administrative support and executes the day-to-day tasks of the Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. is a multidisciplinary engineering and planning firm with extensive experience in transportation planning and infrastructure development across the Southeast.

Stay Connected

For updates on the LRTP and opportunities to get involved, visit <https://www.lrcog.com/planning-and-economic-development/long-range-transportation-plan/> or contact David Robison, Planning and Economic Development Director.

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