

50 roadway projects critically needed in Alabama

By Erica Huddleston

TRIP ALABAMA REPORT APPENDIX												
Rank	County	Urban Area	Facility/Route	From	To	Length (mi)	Current Traffic (AADT/ADMT)	Current Lanes	Cost	Project Description	Reason project is needed/Importance of facility to local and regional mobility and economic development	Liberty Impact of project completion on local and regional mobility and economic development
1	Shelby	Birmingham	I-65	US 31	CR-52	3.5	78950	4	\$54,372,399	Add lanes to Interstate 65 in Shelby County to increase capacity.	This is a suburban route that is experiencing growth and frequent congestion. Portions of this project carry the highest traffic volumes that currently exist on four lane planestates. Traffic delays are increasing and safety is a concern.	Added capacity will facilitate the continued growth in the area, improve mobility and reduce traffic delay. Improved traffic flow should enhance the safety of the facility. This route is also significant to commuter traffic of workers who live in the Shelby County Suburbs and contribute to downtown Birmingham.
2	Mobile	Mobile	I-10	Texas St	Eastern Shore	1.5	74250	4	\$650,000,000	Improvements to increase capacity on I-10 from downtown Mobile across the Mobile Bay.	Interstate 10 is the southern most interstate route from California to Florida. A huge volume of freight coming into the numerous Gulf of Mexico ports is transported along this route. Traffic is currently constricted by a four lane tunnel (one lane in each direction). This urban interstate route is experiencing daily and frequent congestion. Traffic delays are increasing. Safety is a concern.	Added capacity will facilitate the continued growth in the area, improve mobility and reduce traffic delay. Improved traffic flow should enhance the safety of the facility.
3	Jefferson	Birmingham	I-65	1st Ave N	Chalkville Rd	8.6	69480	4		Expand capacity to improve mobility, ease congestion and enhance safety.	This is a urban interstate route that is experiencing growth and frequent congestion. Traffic delays are increasing. Safety is a concern.	Added capacity will facilitate the continued growth in the area, improve mobility and reduce traffic delay. Improved traffic flow should enhance the safety of the facility.
4	Mobile	Mobile	US-96	Mississippi State Lane	SR-116	12.2	18630	2	\$36,256,000	Widening US 96 to four lanes from the Mississippi state line to Mobile.	This section of road is one of the highest volume two lane routes in the state and experiences high accident frequencies. Commuters experience daily delays during peak periods.	Widening to four lanes will ease congestion and reduce delays to traffic and greatly improve the safety of the route. The four lanes will enhance the economic potential for the route.
5	Jefferson	Birmingham	I-65	I-459	Valley Rd	10	61300	4		Expand capacity to improve mobility, ease congestion and enhance safety.	This is an urban interstate route portion of the I-459 bypass that is experiencing growth and frequent congestion. Traffic delays are increasing. Safety is a concern.	Added capacity will facilitate the continued growth in the area, improve mobility and reduce traffic delay. Improved traffic flow should enhance the safety of the facility.
6	Houston	Durban	US-231	US-231	Bauman Dr	2.8	33600	4	\$32,116,751	Add lanes US 231 (Ross Clark Circle) in Durban.	This is a suburban route that is experiencing growth and frequent congestion. Traffic delays are increasing. Safety is a concern.	Added capacity will facilitate the continued growth in the area, improve mobility and reduce traffic delay. Improved traffic flow should enhance the safety of the facility.

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National transportation research organization [TRIP](#) has released a report detailing work needed on Alabama roadways. There are 50 projects the organization says are critical for economic recovery and growth.

The projects identified were evaluated on:

- Short-term economic benefits, including job creation.
- Improvement in the condition of transportation facility, including safety improvements.
- Improved access and mobility.
- Long-term improvement in regional or state economic performance and competitiveness.

The number one project listed is adding lanes to Interstate 65 in Shelby County. TRIP says doing so would fuel economic growth by facilitating continued growth in the area and improving mobility.

Other projects include adding lanes to Interstate 59 from 1st Avenue to Chalkville Road and from I-459 to Valley Road and adding lanes to portions of I-65 in Birmingham. Researchers also say widening Highway 119 from Interstate 65 to Highway 280 in Birmingham would help relieve congestion on the highway, which is considered one of the highest volume two-lane routes in the state.

TRIP estimates the cost of improvements would cost \$4.6 billion. The Alabama Department of Transportation says driver safety is of high importance across the state. ALDOT prioritizes needs and makes improvements based on funding.

Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight agrees. Knight says, "We understand we have a duty to keep our roads maintained, get them in good shape, because that effects the quality of life...We have to have a plan in place to maintain our roads. We've done that. We've put a plan in place and we're going to continue to do that. But doing that depends on funding."

See the complete report [click here](#).