

Message From John Cooper
Transportation Director

I've stated before in this space that I'm fortunate to have grown up in Marshall County, just a few miles from Lake Guntersville State Park. It's one of the most spectacular areas of the beautiful state we call home.

I'm proud to have grown up around Lake Guntersville, and my family's permanent home is still in that area. I'm also proud of ALDOT's efforts to keep Alabama clean and beautiful, and our partnership with PALS. Our partnership with PALS is a model for how state government can work with non-profit groups and volunteers to make our state better.

Litter poses a serious threat to Alabama's natural beauty. That's why our partnership with PALS is important. Together, we helped make the 2014 "Don't Drop It on Alabama" Spring Cleanup a huge success with 61 counties holding county cleanup efforts. PALS and ALDOT provided approximately 175,000 bags for the 2014 statewide cleanup. Over 125 groups participated statewide with over 300 tons of litter reported as removed from highways and natural areas. We were joined by the Association of County Commissions as a partner in this year's cleanup.

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup will be held September 20, 2014, and cleanups will be held at 31 zones from Dauphin Island to the Alabama/Florida line. In addition, there will be cleanups focusing on the Mobile Causeway and the Highway 59 corridor, as well as other county and state roads.

The Highway 431 Adopt a Mile partnership has become a model for business partners. The 431 Adopt a Mile group was formed by several auto dealerships in Albertville (Marshall County) has grown from four businesses to 10 businesses, which in turn have committed to cleaning their area every other week. George Conner and Randy Braden from ALDOT's Maintenance Bureau, as well as the ALDOT office in Marshall County, helped put together this pilot program.

The partnership between ALDOT and PALS is valuable in ensuring that our state's resources remain intact for future generations. I look forward to working with PALS as we continue our collective efforts to keep Alabama beautiful.

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