

Alabama Transportation Safety Fund

SB 180 by Senator Dial

Senate Passed Version

Senate Bill 180 creates the Alabama Transportation Safety Fund to receive any new revenues generated during the 2016 Legislative Session for the maintenance, improvement, replacement and construction of state and rural roads and bridges in Alabama. This bill is unique in that it includes protection features to ensure accountability and transparency in a way unseen in Alabama today, such as:

- Requiring public notice of projects being funded with monies from the fund
- Requiring periodic reporting regarding new and existing projects and
- Ensuring that the monies go directly to road and bridge projects.

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), counties and municipalities are each eligible to receive distributions from the fund, which will receive any new revenue generated from legislation introduced this session. A key feature of this bill is that all three levels of government are limited in how these funds may be spent.

The bill allocates any new monies as follows:

- The first \$32 million will be used for a bond issue modeled after the successful ATRIP program. However, the projects will be funded with state dollars and will not be subject to federal restrictions.
 - Each county will receive at least \$2.5 million from this bond issue. All counties with significant bridge deficiencies will be required to address those issues with these funds.
- The bill replaces the existing federal fund money of \$533,000 annually per county with \$500,000 of state tax revenue that can be spent on roads that do not qualify for federal funds.

The remaining revenue after the first tax distribution described above uses a comprehensive distribution of both diesel and gasoline taxes—as closely as possible—to the distribution of proceeds used today.

Floor Amendment

A floor amendment will be offered to ensure that minority contractors are included in the county's bidding process for contracts let locally and to ensure there is a minority member of the Legislature on the ATRIP committee created to issue bonds and establish procedures for selection of projects funded through the bond issue.