

GAS MASK

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north Alabama. As Alabama's senior senator – a role he inherited with the retirement of former Sen. Richard Shelby – Tuberville spearheads efforts in Washington to secure Space Command for Redstone.

Beyond the prestige of having another command based at Redstone Arsenal, Space Command would bring more than 1,400 jobs to the Huntsville area.

Still, after a series of studies and analysis that all identified Redstone as the best location, that ultimate decision has yet to be communicated. The decision comes from the desk of the Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall. But Tuberville said he expects that decision won't come without a sign-off from President Joe Biden.

"I've gotten to know Secretary Kendall well," Tuberville said. "At least once or twice a month, we visit about it. It's always positive. But it's still got to come from the White House. So there's nothing else we can do. I mean, we're just waiting for a decision."

During his speech to about 600 people at the Von Braun Center, Tuberville jokingly said, "I've gotten to be good friends with the secretary of the Air Force. He'll tell me, 'Don't call me again. I'll let you know'" as laughter spread throughout the audience.

"Space Command, I will tell you, Lord help us, we're fighting every day for Space Command. It should be here already."

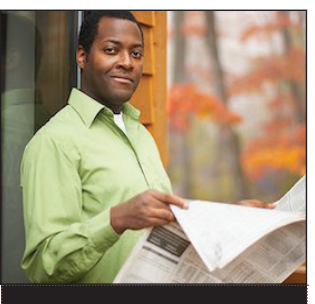
Tuberville speculated that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has detracted the White House from the Space Command decision.

"I don't know whether it's the confrontation in Ukraine that's set it back," Tuberville told AL.com. "We're so involved in that from the proxy side. (Space Command) should be a priority because our biggest and No. 1 adversary is China. And they're consistently putting satellites in space. There ahead of us with the hypersonic (missile)."

Space Command, of course, has been located at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs since its revival in 2019. Last month, Tuberville attributed continued efforts by Colorado lawmakers to "sore loser syndrome." A member of the Armed Services Committee, Tuberville has spelled out to the committee that the ongoing delays are unnecessary after reviews by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General's office "confirmed the Air Force basing decision (preferring Huntsville) was thorough, legal and comprehensive."

Asked Wednesday about Colorado's continued fight, Tuberville said, "They might see the writing on the wall that (a decision) might be getting close. Again, I don't think that they know. They might have a little bit more information than us but I can't imagine it because we're always knocking on the door. What else have we got to do? What's the timeframe? I go into all the Space Command hearings, classified hearings. I hear what we've got, what we don't have, what we need to do."

"And so, to me, there's should be more of a sense of urgency. But I think, again, if you just look at what's going on, the money that we're spending in Ukraine, and I think more of the focus right now is on that than anything when it comes to the military."



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ALLEGEDLY

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address housing, employment, health, and education needs, with a particular focus on creating a cohesive and vibrant neighborhood.

The centerpiece of the plan involves transforming the creek within the development into a greenway park, connecting seamlessly with Huntsville's future "Sky Bridge" pedestrian bridge and the planned linear park along Memorial Parkway, extending down to Brahan Spring Park.

Retail spaces are also part of the vision, strategically placed at key corners, including Governors and Seminole, and Clinton. The goal is to integrate retail and service providers along the creek greenway, creating opportunities for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and cafes.

Public engagement is a central aspect of the project, with three public meetings held to gather input from current residents and the wider community. The Huntsville Housing Authority and city officials are actively seeking community feedback to align the project with residents' desires and the goals of the CNI grant.

The HUD application for the grant is due by December 11, with plans for construction to commence within a year if successful.



The city of Huntsville and the Huntsville Housing Authority are seeking up to \$50 million in federal grant funds to help transform a distressed neighborhood near the downtown core. Oct. 18, 2023.

© Scott Turner/ajl.com/TNS

Residents expressed enthusiasm for the proposed changes, seeing the project as an opportunity for a safer, more vibrant community. While some structures have already been removed due to radon contamination threats, the revitalization plan involves tear-downs and phased construction to ensure residents can move into new housing promptly.

Urban Design Associates, known for their work on Huntsville's MidCity and City Centre projects, brings experience and expertise to this transformative endeavor, reinforcing their commitment to shaping the city's future.

OVERTIME

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the bill in June and signed it ceremonially during Thursday's news conference.

"We know that with the rate of inflation and the things that are going on with high costs, rising costs, and all of these items across the state of Alabama, Alabamians need to be able to take home more money," Daniels said. "And this gives us that opportunity."

State income tax revenues support the education budget. The fiscal note attached to the bill estimates it will reduce revenues by \$45 million a year. But Daniels said that would be offset, at least in part, by people spending the extra money they take home. That spending will help fill tax coffers on local and state levels, Daniels said.

Daniels said the bill would benefit businesses by providing an incentive for more productivity.

Helen Duncan, president and CEO of the Business Council of Alabama, said the tax benefit should help employees dealing with a labor shortage that is widespread

and is worse in Alabama than most states. Alabama's labor participation rate of 57% is third lowest in the country.

"But it also rewards those employees that are working the long hours and getting the work done," Duncan said.

The head of an organization that represents manufacturers and suppliers said the tax exemption should have a two-fold benefit to help address the labor shortage.

"Businesses are trying to do everything they can to continue to be productive when they know they need employees," said Jon Barganier, president and CEO of Manufacture Alabama. "So, I think one thing this is going to do is encourage existing employees to work more hours if they can, if that works for their family."

"But I also think that knowing that they can put more money in their pockets, new employees, especially in hourly wage jobs, will look to get back into the workforce," Barganier said.

The law says the tax exemption will expire in June 2025. Lawmakers could remove the expiration and allow the exemption to con-

ROAD PLAN

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gas tax revenue. Additionally, a county road funding pool is being established using revenue generated from county savings accounts.

Two specific projects in the plan were emphasized by McCutcheon – improvements to two intersections on Slaughter Road and two off McKee Road in the northern part of the county. This includes the implementation of a roundabout and a light-controlled intersection. McCutcheon explained that addressing intersections and incorporating turn lanes can be effective in managing traffic without necessitating extensive road widening.

Furthermore, the plan

encompasses work on Dug Hill Road, with a focus on long-standing drainage issues. Other key components involve improvements to Jeff Road, Blake Bottom Road, Alabama 53, and Wall Triana Highway, as well as safety enhancements to bridges on Elwood Section Road and Pulaski Pike. McCutcheon emphasized that the realization of these projects will require time and sustained effort.

In addition to the road plan, McCutcheon announced a substantial long-term investment of \$50 million in water service infrastructure, including the construction of a new tank. This initiative aims to meet the growing demand for service and address water quality concerns in the county.

HOUSING MARKET

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While Krueger doesn't expect rates to return to the 2%-3% levels seen in 2021, he believes that if rates drop to 6%, it would surpass the historical average. He cautions that the fear-driven perception of a poor time to buy is currently prevalent, creating negotiating room for those ready to enter the market.

Krueger envisions spring of next year as a pivotal turning point, predicting a successful transition to the next phase with lower rates. He emphasizes the importance of learning from historical rate trends, considering the 2 1/2-3% period as a fortunate anomaly.

In the era of ultra-low rates, homes in Huntsville and surrounding areas stayed on the market for less than a week, fetching multiple offers above asking price. How-

ever, as of September, homes in the Huntsville area were averaging 29-30 days on the market, with sellers achieving their asking prices.

The Huntsville Area Association of Realtors notes that while sales have slowed compared to the record year in 2021, they still outpace averages at state, regional, and national levels. Inventory has increased over the past year, with 400 more homes on the market in Madison County in September compared to the previous year.

Krueger acknowledges the strategic efforts of city government and development partnerships in addressing housing needs, particularly in the \$250,000-\$300,000 price range. He commends the city's focus on this tier, aiming for equity and success.

New construction could play a crucial role in boosting inventory, and Krueger suggests the region might see continued growth in this area with supply issues and market disruptions becoming less significant for homebuilders.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

WANTED: Sealed bids in duplicate for the construction of: Pollard Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation, more particularly known as Project No. 71-24-S801.

Description of Project: Approximately 850 Linear Feet of 16" Ductile Iron Gravity Sanitary Sewer backfilled with crushed limestone to be installed in vacant lot in downtown Huntsville for future development. The project includes 4 new Sewer Manholes with an average depth of 7'2". The new 16" sewer will be connected to existing City of Huntsville sanitary sewer mainlines on both ends of the project and new sewer will function as a sewer overflow bypass during peak flows. The project will include a roadway detour for the sewer connection. Bypass pumping may be required due to construction involving live sewer system.

The attention of all bidders is called to Code of Alabama § 34-8-1 and 34-8-2 (1975) and 34-8-1, 34-8-2, 34-8-4, 34-8-6, 34-8-7, 34-8-8 and 34-8-9 (amended 1998) setting forth the definition of general contractor and the licensing procedures and requirements for state licensing. A copy of the above Codes may be obtained from the OWNER (City of Huntsville). No one is entitled to bid and no contract may be awarded to anyone who does not possess a valid general contractor's license and the required classification for the municipal type work to be performed. The general contractor's license and classification must appear on the outside of the bid envelope along with the general contractor's name and address, project name and number and date and time of bid opening. Section 39-3-5 Code of Alabama has been amended as follows:

"In awarding the Contract, preference will be given to Alabama resident contractors and a nonresident bidder domiciled in a state having laws granting preference to local contractors shall be awarded the Contract only on the same basis as the nonresident bidder's state awards contracts to Alabama contractors bidding under similar circumstances."

This project Pollard Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation, more particularly known as Project No. 71-24-S801 requires the contractor to possess a State of Alabama Classification of **MUNICIPAL & UTILITY**.

After proposals are opened and read, they will be compared on the basis of the summation of the products or approximate quantities shown in Attachment "A", multiplied by the unit bid prices. In the event of a discrepancy between the sum of the products and the unit bid price shall govern. A proposal will not be considered unless signed by the bidder or his authorized agent and accompanied by cashier's check or properly signed bid bond, as required by law.

In determining the successful bidder, the Owner will consider in addition to the bid prices, such responsibility factors as characteristics and responsibility, skill, experience, record of integrity in business, and of performance on similar projects of the bidder or similar projects of other bidders. Any other factors not specifically mentioned or provided for herein, in addition to that of the bid price which would affect the final cost of the Owner, will be taken into consideration in making award of contract. The right is reserved to reject any bid or award of contract to the lowest bidder or to award the contract to another bidder if the bidder is not qualified, including financial resources, equipment, and experience on similar projects does not satisfy the Owner that such bidder is qualified to perform the work. The City Council of the City of Huntsville reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Separate sealed bids for the construction of this project will be received at the City of Huntsville Public Services Building, 320 Fountain Circle, in the 1st Floor in the Conference Room, on the 20th day of November 2023, until 10:00 a.m. If bid is mailed, the bid should be addressed to City Engineering, 320 Fountain Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801 and must be received prior to the bid opening date and time. Each bid shall be accompanied by an original signed, dated and sealed Bid Bond in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total shown on a twelfths of price, but not exceeding \$10,000.00. Quantities are known as Attachment "A". No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of opening.

These Addenda, Special Provisions, Plans, the Supplement to General Requirements for Construction of Public Improvements City of Huntsville Specifications, Standard Specifications for Construction of Public Improvements Contract Projects and all supplementary documents are essential parts of the contract, and a requirement occurring in one is as binding as though occurring in all. They are intended to be complementary and to describe and provide for a complete work. Contract Document Order of Precedence shall be as follows:

- Addenda
- General Requirements (Instructions to Bidders and Bid Proposal including Attachments)
- Supplement to General Requirements
- Drawings (City of Huntsville Standard Specifications for Construction of Public Improvements Contract Projects 1991)
- Supplemental Specifications (Earthwork, Chain Link Fences, and Gates)
- Special Conditions
- Current ALDOT Specifications

Standard Specifications for Construction of Public Improvements Contract Projects and Engineering Standards are available for charge by downloading from the City Engineering website: <http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/government/departments/engineering-department/>. Plans and proposals can be downloaded from our website at no cost: <https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/Business/Bid-Procurement/>. Contractors will be responsible for costs of duplicating their own plans and can choose photocopying facility of their choice. Additionally, Contractors are responsible for checking website for any revisions/updates. Contractor is required to submit pricing, provided by the COH (Attachment "A") and made available for download from the engineering website, on either a CD-RW (preferably in a live/flash drive format) in the Excel format. The CD-RW (preferably in a live/flash drive format) and technical organization of the bidder available for the contemplated work, including financial resources, equipment, and experience on similar projects does not satisfy the Owner that such bidder is qualified to perform the work. The City Council of the City of Huntsville reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

E-VERIFY - NOTICE

The Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, Act No. 2011-535, Code of Alabama (1975) § 31-13-1 through 31-13-30 (also known as and hereinafter referred to as "the Alabama Immigration Act") as amended by Act No. 2012-491 on May 16, 2012 is applicable to all competitively bid contracts with the City of Huntsville. As a condition for the award of a contract and as a term and condition of the contract with the City of Huntsville, in accordance with § 31-13-9 (a) of the Alabama Immigration Act, as amended, any business entity or employer that employs one or more employees shall not knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. During the performance of the contract, such business entity or employer shall participate in the E-Verify program and shall verify every employee that is required to be verified according to the applicable federal rules and regulations. The business entity or employer shall assure that these requirements are included in each sub-contract or subcontract. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in breach of contract, termination of the contract or subcontract, and possibly suspension or revocation of business licenses and permits in accordance with § 31-13-9 (e) (1) & (2). Code of Alabama (1975) § 31-13-9 (b) requires that the following clause be included in all City of Huntsville contracts that have been competitively bid and is hereby made a part of this contract:

"By signing this contract the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom."

Contractor's E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding shall be a part of the contract bid documents and shall be submitted with the bid package.

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION ACT (Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, Act No. 2011-535, Code of Alabama (1975))

Compliance with the requirements of the (Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, Act No. 2011-535, Code of Alabama (1975) § 31-13-1 through 31-13-30, as amended by Alabama Act 2012-241, commonly referred to as the Alabama Immigration Law, is required for City of Huntsville, Alabama contracts that are competitively bid as a condition of the contract performance. The Contractor shall submit in the bid package, with the requested information included on the form, the "City of Huntsville, Alabama Report of Ownership Form" listed in the bid proposal as Attachment "I". The bidder selected for award of the contract may be required to complete additional forms relating to citizenship or alien status of the bidder and its employees, including e-verify information, prior to award of a contract.

ALABAMA ACT 2016-312

"In accordance with Alabama Act 2016-312 as adopted and approved on May 5, 2016, on behalf of (insert name of business) I do hereby certify and represent that this business is not currently engaged in, and will not engage in, the boycott of a person or an entity based on or doing business with a jurisdiction with which this state can enjoy open trade.

Title: (Signature of authorized individual)"

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