

# Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO)



# Purpose of HARPO

- Assist ALDOT in meeting requirements for **consultation** with rural elected officials on their transportation needs
- All **Regional Planning Commissions** in Alabama under contract with ALDOT
- Initial **pilot project** to be completed by 9/30/07
- **RPC** (Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham) contact for Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker Counties

# Member Counties

- Blount County
- Chilton County
- St. Clair County
- Walker County



# Goals of HARPO

- Provide a **venue** for public officials to confer with ALDOT about transportation issues, especially the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and 5-Year Plan
- Provide **comprehensive information** about transportation projects and processes
- Provide an avenue for the **public** in rural areas to become involved in the transportation planning process
- Assist rural communities to develop a **long-range vision** for transportation based on identified issues and needs

# Issues and Needs

**Planning Sessions** to address:

- **System Performance and Preservation**
  - over capacity roadways
  - safety issues
  - highway access
  - transit services
- **Mobility and Access for People and Goods**
  - freight movements (truck, rail, water, air)
  - pedestrian and bicycle movements
- **Environment and Quality of Life**
  - air quality

# HARPO Structure

- Rural Transportation **Executive** Committee  
(Governing Body/Policy Making)
- Rural Transportation **Technical Advisory** Committee  
(Technical Expertise)
- Rural Transportation **Coordinating** Committee  
(Citizen Participation)

# Rural Transportation *Executive Committee*

## Responsibilities

- Governing body
- Provides policy direction
- Quarterly meetings in Birmingham with Committee members from all four Counties

# Rural Transportation *Executive Committee*

## Membership

- 4 - **One County Commissioner** per county appointed by respective County Commission
- 4 - **One municipal elected official** per county representing all municipalities appointed by collective body of Mayors in each respective county
- 1 - RPC Board Member
- 1 - RPC Executive Director
- 1 - Third Division Engineer, ALDOT
- 1 - Fifth Division Engineer, ALDOT

# Rural Transportation *Technical Advisory Committee*

## Responsibilities

- Reviews and recommends **State Transportation Improvement Program** projects for their counties
- Reviews **other plan documents** and recommends changes/new projects
- Identifies **transportation issues and needs**
- Maintains a **work program** for planning
- **Quarterly meetings** in Birmingham with Committee members from all four counties

# **Rural Transportation**

## ***Technical Advisory Committee***

### **Membership (from each county)**

- 4 - County Engineer
- 4 - County Planner
- 23 - Chief Administrative Officer from towns/cities > 1,000
- 4 - County Economic Development Director
- 4 - ALDOT District (county) engineer
- 4 - Rural Public Transportation provider directors
- 4 - Area Agency on Aging
- 2 - RPC Transportation Coordinator (Staff) and Board Member
- 3 - ALDOT 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Division, Multimodal Rural Public Transportation

# **Rural Transportation *Coordinating Committee***

## **Responsibilities**

- Coordinate quarterly meetings for the public in each county to address transportation issues and needs and provide input to State TIP and other documents.
- Attend annual meeting of representative from all four counties

## **Membership**

20 - Five representatives from each county appointed by Executive Committee

72 - Two representatives from each municipality

# Contact Information

**William R. Foisy, Transportation  
Planning Director**  
[bfoisy@rpcgb.org](mailto:bfoisy@rpcgb.org)

**Darrell Howard, AICP, Principal  
Transportation Planner**  
[dhoward@rpcgb.org](mailto:dhoward@rpcgb.org)

**Cissy Edwards Crowe, Public  
Information Officer**  
[cedwards@rpcgb.org](mailto:cedwards@rpcgb.org)

**Regional Planning Commission of  
Greater Birmingham**

**1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Suite 200  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203**

**Phone: (205) 251-8139  
Fax: (205) 328-3304  
Web: [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org)**

**Bill Couch, Assistant Bureau Chief**  
**Alabama Department of  
Transportation, Transportation  
Planning Bureau**

**1409 Coliseum Blvd.  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130**

**Phone: (334)242-6439  
Fax: (334)269-0827**