



**Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO)**

**Planning Work Program  
for FY 2010  
(October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010)**

**Prepared by the  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham**

# Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization

## Planning Work Program (PWP)

### Fiscal Year 2010

This document is posted at  
<http://www.rpcgb.org>

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Date adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

This report was financed in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and local participating governments, in partial fulfillment of Task 1.0 of the Fiscal Year 2009 RPO Work Program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**RESOLUTION 08-19-09**

**Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO)  
Planning Work Program for FY2010 as prepared and adopted by  
The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC)**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has contracted with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) to administer the rural planning process for Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker Counties, pursuant to the requirements and applicable provisions of 23 USC., Part 450, Section 216 (Subpart B), and others as may be relevant located in Attachment 1 of this document, and

**WHEREAS**, the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO), composed of the four rural counties in the RPC region, is the organization recognized by the State of Alabama through which the rural transportation planning process is administered, and

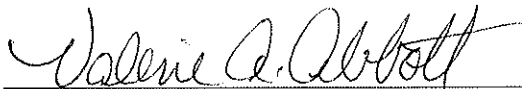
**WHEREAS**, the Planning Work Program is the instrument by which the RPC staff, on behalf of HARPO, describes to the ALDOT how it plans to carry out the rural transportation planning process, and

**WHEREAS**, the RPC staff has developed a Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO) Planning Work Program for FY2010, and


**WHEREAS**, the RPC Board of Directors is responsible for providing the staff and matching funds for conducting the HARPO Planning Work Program,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, on behalf of the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO), representing Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker Counties, does thereby endorse the FY2010 Planning Work Program as presented.

Adopted this 19 day of August, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Valerie Abbott, Chairman  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater  
Birmingham  
(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Ball, Executive Director  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Date 8.19.09

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## **Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO)**

### **Draft Planning Work Program for FY 2010**

**(October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010)**

### **Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham**

The Planning Work Program is the instrument by which the Heart of Alabama Rural Transportation Planning Organization (HARPO) describes to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) how it plans to carry out the rural transportation planning process.

#### **Consultation and Non-Metropolitan (Rural) Defined**

The Planning Assistance and Standards of 23CFR Part 450 define the consultation process for statewide transportation planning in non-metropolitan areas for local officials. The specific applicable regulations are outlined in Attachment 1. To accomplish the consultation process for rural areas, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has contracted with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) of Greater Birmingham to administer the rural transportation consultation process.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the work that will be performed by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham in fiscal year 2010 to continue the rural / non-metropolitan consultation process.

#### **Goals**

The goals of the consultation process are:

1. Establishment and maintenance of a well managed consultation process.
2. Maintain an ongoing organization of Stakeholders.
3. Support for current and future transportation planning as needed.
4. Development of reports that are useful to the ALDOT and the local governments.
5. A well informed public who actively participate in the rural transportation consultation and planning process.
6. To insure that the goals of SAFETEA-LU are incorporated into the plans and projects developed under Task 3.0 including:
  - a. Economic Vitality: Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency.
  - b. Safety and Security: Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
  - c. Accessibility and Mobility: Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight.
  - d. Environment, Energy Efficiency and Quality of Life: Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation and improve the quality of life.
  - e. Transportation System Integration and Connectivity: Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system across and between modes, for people and

freight.

- f. System Management and Operations: Promote efficient system management operations.
- g. System Preservation: Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The Heart of Alabama Rural Transportation Planning Organization administrative staff from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) has reviewed these goals and identified tasks to be completed under consultation and in partnership with the county or local governments.

**Format**

The work program is divided into tasks. The tasks outline the consultation work that will be performed by the RPC staff during FY 2010, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. The description of each task includes the objective, previous work, proposed work, products, staffing, timeline for proposed work and financial responsibility.

## **Task 1.0**

### **Administration and Management**

**Objective:**

To effectively manage the non-metropolitan transportation consultation process.

**Previous Work:**

Products for all tasks were completed on a timely basis. Quarterly invoices were developed based on costs associated with assigned staff. Progress reports were developed semi-annually.

**Proposed Work:**

1. The RPC will manage the consultation process.
2. The RPC will maintain timesheets and prepare and submit invoices as required by the ALDOT.
3. The RPC will prepare semi-annual progress reports.

**Task Activities**

Transportation plans, programs, and project priorities for rural areas within Alabama will be developed that provide for the development of transportation facilities (including, but not limited to automotive, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian), which will function as an intermodal transportation system for the region. The process for developing such plans, programs, and priorities shall provide for consideration of all modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate, based on the complexity of the transportation problems.

Some tasks are ongoing such as a traffic count program or the collection of socioeconomic data. Other tasks have a more defined scope such as a pilot County Transportation Plan.

The following administrative task activities will be conducted for FY 2010:

1. The RPC, as part of the continuing transportation planning process for the Heart of Alabama RPO, will expend administrative time for attending committee meetings, preparing agendas for these meetings, training, preparing progress reports, documenting expenditures for the various planning work items, and filing for reimbursement of expenditures.
2. The RPC will perform daily operations required for dissemination of planning information to the public or other organizations and coordinate with ALDOT and other agencies.

**Products**

1. A well-managed non-metropolitan transportation consultation process.
2. Employee timesheets and invoices and progress reports.

**Staffing:** Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

**Timeline for Proposed Work:** October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

**Financial Responsibility:**

Total	<u>\$ 6,250</u>
SPR Rural	\$ 5,000
Local	\$ 1,250

## **Task 2.0**

### **Public Involvement / Stakeholder Services**

#### **Objective:**

To effectively conduct non-metropolitan consultation stakeholder meetings. To proactively, provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement (23CFR450.212(a) and 450.316(b)(1)).

#### **Previous Work:**

The RPC updated Stakeholder mailing lists for the non-metropolitan area and individual counties.

Public participation meetings were held for each county in November/December, 2008. These meetings focused on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). RPC technical staff presented maps and photos of each individual project in the STIP for each county. The participants were asked to rank the projects with one being the most important.

Public participation meetings were held for each county in March/April 2009 to review the ranking. A presentation was made on the overall impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and included individual county projects funded under the Recovery Act. Informal meetings were held with City/Town Clerks as a means to increase participation.

Public participation meetings were held for each county in August/September 2009 to continue reporting on the progress of projects listed in the STIP. Informal meetings were held with the City/Town Clerks and Mayors.

Documentation of the meetings is at <http://www.rpcgb.org/HARPO/index.htm>

#### **Proposed Work:**

1. The RPC will maintain and periodically update the public involvement mailing list in conjunction with the Stakeholder mailing list.
2. Conduct periodic Stakeholder meetings.
  - a. The RPC will prepare and distribute meeting notices for Stakeholder meetings.
  - b. A forum for rural officials, comparable to that established for the initial meetings and planning sessions, will be coordinated by the RPC to review the draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Statewide Transportation Plan prepared by the ALDOT.
  - c. In addition, the RPC will maintain a process for conducting regular or periodic meetings to continue discussions on rural transportation issues.
3. The RPC will maintain and periodically update a news release mailing list and distribute news releases for rural consultation meetings.

**Products:**

1. An updated public involvement mailing list.
2. Meeting notices.
3. Public involvement meetings.
4. Local media contacts and special interest groups that are notified.
5. A record of public involvement maintained on website.

**Staffing:** Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

**Timeline for Proposed Work:** Public involvement meetings will be held in January/February, April/May and August/September 2010 in all four counties.

**Financial Responsibility:**

Total	\$18,750
SPR Rural	\$15,000
Local	\$ 3,750

## **Task 3.0**

### **Data Management and Project Development**

#### **Objective:**

To gather, maintain and distribute readily available data for the non-metropolitan transportation consultation planning process and identify projects for Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

#### **Previous Work:**

RPC technical staff presented maps and photos of each individual project in the STIP for each county at the public involvement meetings. The participants were asked to rank the projects with one being the most important. Presentations were made on the overall impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and included individual county projects funded under the Recovery Act.

#### **Proposed Work:**

The RPC will maintain transportation related data within databases, spreadsheets and GIS files as available. This includes information resulting from traffic data analysis, data and plans regarding employment and housing availability, data and plans regarding land use control and community development, land use projections, and data done as part of the establishment and maintenance of management systems.

1. The RPC will provide the necessary data to conduct Stakeholder meetings.
2. The RPC will distribute transportation data as available for the consultation process, STIP and Statewide Transportation Plan.

#### **Task Activities**

##### **1. Transportation System Inventory Data**

Update Data and Maps created for each county for use during the initial meetings in FY 2007 and to determine if proposed transportation projects meet current and forecasted demand. These include the following:

- A. Population change by tract and place.
- B. County commuting.
- C. Employment by place of work.
- D. Transportation projects, ALDOT
- E. Average daily traffic counts, including trends.
- F. Transportation infrastructure, including railroads, airports and highways.
- G. Crashes and crash rates.
- H. Transit system data such as routes and ridership.

##### **2. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update**

RPC staff will track all STIP projects in each county and present an update on their status at the public involvement meetings.

**3. New Project Identification**

RPC staff will meet with elected officials to identify potential projects for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

**Products:**

1. An organized method for recording and maintaining transportation data.
2. Transportation databases, spreadsheets and GIS files.
3. Distribution systems and methods for transportation data.
4. Data in support of the STIP and Statewide Transportation Plan.

**Staffing:** Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

**Timeline for Proposed Work:** October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010.

**Financial Responsibility:**

Total	<u>\$37,500</u>
SPR Rural	\$30,000
Local	\$ 7,500

## Staffing and Budget

Director of Planning	0.5 mm
Transportation Engineer	1.0 mm
Public Information Officer	2.0 mm
Senior Planner	2.0 mm
Chargeable Salaries	\$ 23,227
Fringe @ .45	\$ 10,452
Indirect @ .71 (of salaries + fringe)	\$ 23,912
Direct Costs	<u>\$ 4,909</u>
Total Expenses	<u><b>\$ 62,500</b></u>
State	\$ 50,000
Match (RPC dues)	\$ 12,500

### **Consultation and Non-Metropolitan (Rural) Defined**

The RPC proposes to assist the ALDOT in meeting the following Planning Assistance and Standards defined under 23CFR Part 450:

- 23CFR Part 450 – Subpart A, 450.104 – **Planning Definitions**

*Consultation* means that one party confers with another identified party in accordance with an established process and, prior to taking action(s), considers that party's views and periodically informs that party about action(s) taken.

*Cooperation* means that the parties involved in carrying out the planning, programming and management systems processes work together to achieve a common goal or objective.

*Non-metropolitan area* means the geographic area outside designated metropolitan planning areas, as designated under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303.

*Non-metropolitan local official* means elected and appointed officials of general purpose local government, in non-metropolitan areas, with jurisdiction/responsibility for transportation.

- 23CFR Part 450 – Subpart B – **Statewide Transportation Planning**

450.206(c) **Statewide transportation planning process: General requirements.** In carrying out statewide transportation planning, the State shall consider, with respect to non-metropolitan areas, the concerns of local elected officials, representing units of general purpose local government.

450.208(a)(5) **Statewide transportation planning process: Factors.** The transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas (areas outside of MPO planning boundaries) through a process that includes consultation with local elected officials with jurisdiction over transportation.

450.212(h) **Public Involvement.** The state shall provide for non-metropolitan local official participation. The State shall have a documented process(es) that is separate and discreet from the public involvement process for consulting with non-metropolitan local officials representing units of general purpose local government and/or local officials with responsibility for transportation that provides and opportunity for their participation in the statewide transportation planning process and development of the statewide transportation improvement program.

450.212(i) **Public Involvement.** The State shall review and solicit comments from non-metropolitan local officials and other interested parties for a period of not less than 60 days

regarding the effectiveness of the consultation process and proposed modifications within 2 years of process implementation, and thereafter at least once every 5 years. A specific request for comments shall be directed to the State association of counties, State municipal league, regional planning agencies, or directly to non-metropolitan local officials. The State, at its discretion, shall be responsible for determining whether to adopt any proposed modifications. If a proposed modification is not adopted, the State shall make publicly available its reasons for not accepting the proposed modification, including notification to non-metropolitan local officials or their associations.

450.214(f) **Statewide transportation plan.** In developing the statewide transportation plan, affected local officials with responsibility for transportation shall be involved on a consultation basis for portions of the plan in non-metropolitan areas of the State.

450.216(a)(9) **Statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).** For non-metropolitan areas, include only those projects which have been selected in accordance with the project selection requirements in 450.222(c).

450.216(e) **Statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).** In developing the statewide transportation improvement program affected local officials with responsibility for transportation shall be involved on a consultation basis for the portions of the program in non-metropolitan areas of the State.

450.222(c) **Project selection for implementation.** Outside metropolitan planning areas, transportation projects undertaken on the National Highway System with title 23 funds and under the bridge and Interstate maintenance programs shall be selected by the State in consultation with the affected local officials. Federal lands highway projects shall be selected in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 204. Other transportation projects undertaken with funds administered by the FHWA shall be selected by the State in cooperation with the affected local officials, and projects undertaken with Federal Transit Act funds shall be elected by the State in cooperation with the appropriate local officials and transit operators.