

CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

July 2011

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[RPCGB Program
Budget/Finance Committee
Meeting](#)

July 13, 2011
RPCGB Office
9:00 am, 1st Floor Conf. Room

[Metropolitan Planning
Organization Meeting](#)

July 13, 2011
RPCGB Office
1:30 pm, 1st Floor Conf.
Room

[RPCGB Board of Directors
Meeting](#)

July 20, 2011
RPCGB Office
10:30 am, 1st Floor Conf. Rm.

[Transportation Citizens
Committee Meeting](#)

July 20, 2011
RPCGB Office
Noon, 1st Floor Conf. Room

[Transportation Technical
Committee Meeting](#)

July 27, 2011
RPCGB Office
10:00am, 1st Floor Conf.
Room

[Brown Bag Series on
Brownfields](#)

RPCGB Hosts Community Forum for Corridor Study



Connecting Communities, Charting a New Course

On June 21-23 at the Fairfield Civic Center, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) hosted a series of meetings as part of the second Community Forum for the Southwest Corridor Transit Study to interact with citizens, communities, businesses, and cities along the corridor, and establish a shared corridor vision. The Community Forum attracted leaders from U.S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell's office (D-District 7), Jefferson County, the City of Birmingham, the City of Bessemer, the City of Lipscomb and the City of Fairfield. The forum also saw the involvement of major institutions and organizations, including Princeton Baptist Hospital, Miles College, Birmingham Business Alliance, Freshwater Land Trust, United Way of Central Alabama, Bessemer Chamber of Commerce and Mainstreet Birmingham.

Each stakeholder group shared concerns, priorities and perceived challenges for improving transit services, and community and economic development along the Southwest Corridor. The community's input will be used to guide efforts by RPCGB's consultant team to recommend a shared vision for the corridor.

"The levels of involvement and quality of the input helped make our second series of Community Forums a huge success," said Darrell Howard, project manager for the RPCGB.

"Whenever you are able to engage and gain the support of institutions like Miles College and Princeton Hospital, and learn of the unique challenges facing cities along the Southwest Corridor, you are placed in a position to effectively draft a supported corridor vision and make recommendations to address stakeholder challenges. This is exactly what we set out to achieve," said Howard.

The evening of June 23 saw approximately 70 people participate in a Public Forum and polling exercise to measure levels of support for possible transit alternatives along the Southwest Corridor. Among the participants were Mayor Kenneth Coachman, City of Fairfield; and Peter Behrman, executive

July 27, 2011
RPCGB Office
11:30am-1pm, 1st Floor Conf. Room

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)

July 28, 2011
RPCGB Office
1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf. Room

[Scenario Planning Workshop](#)

July 28, 2011
RPCGB Office
8am-4:30pm, 1st Floor Conf. Room

For meeting information, including postings of any meeting notices and cancellations please visit the [RPCGB website](#).

director, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority.

"Gathering people's input is a major part of stakeholder involvement. The audience polling exercise allowed us to do this in an organized and efficient manner, and yielded some important data that will be important to our overall set of recommendations," said Jack Schnettler, vice president of transit division, Atkins, Inc.

The Southwest Corridor Transit Study is aimed at exploring strategies for improving transit services along the Southwest Corridor. Additionally, the study will survey land use and economic development actions that could enhance community livability. The study area covers a 2-3 mile wide area that is 22 miles long, running from downtown Birmingham along U.S. 11 and the Bessemer Super Highway, past I-459 to the Tuscaloosa County line.

The study is funded by a Federal Transit Administration through the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, with support from local jurisdictions in the corridor and the Alabama Department of Transportation. Atkins, Inc. was selected as the lead planning and engineering consultants for this project and are working in partnership with Wallace Roberts Todd, Dovetail Consulting, Contente Consulting and Birmingham-based Wilbron Institute, LLC.

Please contact Darrell L. Howard, the Southwest Corridor Transit Study's project manager, at dhoward@rpcgb.org for additional information.

TIP Public Involvement Meeting

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP),
Air Quality Conformity Determination &
Amended 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Presentation - 12:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Presentation - 5:00 p.m.

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB)

1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 First Avenue North- Birmingham, AL 35203

Purpose: To obtain public comments on the FY 2012-2015 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Determination & Amended 2035 RTP for Jefferson and Shelby Counties.

Topics Covered:

- The process for developing the TIP
- The 14 different funding categories

- The types of projects that are funded
- The amount of funds allocated to each project type
- A summary of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- The Public Involvement process and the comment period

Sponsored by: RPCGB on behalf of the Birmingham MPO

Anyone requiring special accommodations should contact Cissy Edwards Crowe at RPCGB (205-251-8139) at least one week in advance. For more information on the meeting and related documents, please visit the [TIP Events](#) page on the RPCGB website.

RPCGB Kicks Off First Brown Bag Lunch Series Event

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham presents,

#The Brown Bag Lunch Series: "This Business Called **BROWNFIELDS**"

Please join us for a **FREE** presentation and discussion of brownfields. Bring your lunch and listen to experts from the RPCGB and AMEC, a leader in brownfield restoration.

The presentation will cover:

- Regulations and All Appropriate Inquiry
- Myths vs. Reality of Brownfield Redevelopment
- Brownfield Redevelopment Process
- Alabama's Brownfield Redevelopment and Voluntary Clean-up Program
- Project Examples - Atlantic Station, Atlanta Beltline and Choctaw Point Container terminal

Wednesday - July 27 - 11:30a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - RPCGB Offices

Please RSVP to Cynthia Barton at cbarton@rpcgb.org or call 205-251-8139 by Friday, July 22 to reserve your seat.

Tornado Recovery Loans

The devastation caused by the April 27 tornadoes left many businesses in the region in disarray. Through its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), started in 1998, the RPCGB is working to assist businesses affected by this nature disaster.

The RLF was created to aid new and existing businesses in the six county region. Loans generally range from \$50,000 to \$200,000, however, in the wake of the tornado devastation, the RPCGB is providing loans for as little as \$1,000 to affected businesses. Terms of the loans are very flexible and geared towards any business struggling to get back on its feet. Loans can go to any business in the direct path of the tornadoes or those whose client base was also affected.

Businesses interested in applying for a loan must provide a budget of what the funds will be used for, a project description and brief history about the business. Interested applicants can find all information on the [RLF page](#) on the RPCGB website or by contacting Yvonne Murray at

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Tom Henderson of Center Point.

Tom Henderson, Mayor of Center Point

- Elected as Mayor of Center Point on April 23, 2002
- B.S., Masters and Doctoral Degrees in Education-University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- Voted Outstanding Faculty Member-Jefferson State Community College (2000)
- Athletic Director-Jefferson State Community College
- Retired after 40 years in teaching and coaching.
- Inducted into Alabama Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame
- An avid tennis player
- Member of RPCGB Board
- Member of Clastran Board
- Member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Chairman of Metropolitan Planning Organization Sub Committee
- Member of the Alabama League of Municipalities Executive Board
- Family: Wife Betty, Daughter Shearon Holt, Son Tom Jr. and five grandchildren

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Find out more at www.rpcgb.org

