

CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

August 2011

In This Issue

Scenario Planning Workshop a Huge Success

RPCGB Conducts TIP Public Involvement Meeting

Brown Bag Lunch Series on Brownfields

Air Quality Awareness Week

Mayor Profile

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[RPCGB Finance
Comm./Program Budget](#)

August 10, 2011

RPCGB Office

9:00am, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

[Metropolitan Planning
Organization Meeting](#)

August 10, 2011

RPCGB Office

CANCELED

[APCA Steering Committee](#)

August 11, 2011

RPCGB Office

1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

[RPCGB Board of Directors
Meeting](#)

August 17, 2011

RPCGB Office

10:30am, 1st Floor Conf. Rm.

[Transportation Citizens
Committee Meeting](#)

August 17, 2011

RPCGB Office

Noon, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

[Transportation Technical
Committee Meeting](#)

August 24, 2011

RPCGB Office

10:00am, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

Scenario Planning Workshop a Huge Success

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB), sponsored a one-day workshop, entitled *Paths to Prosperity* on July 28 at the RPCGB offices. This workshop was a first step in developing a planning framework for growth and development of the Birmingham region by looking at critical resources and infrastructure, beginning with an update of the Birmingham Regional Transportation Plan.



Workshop attendees listen to a presenter.

The scenario planning workshop enabled the region's elected, business, civic, and community leaders to provide direct input into the regional planning process, and specifically the Regional Transportation Plan update. Over 60 attendees heard from officials with FHWA who discussed the importance of scenario planning as it relates to long range planning, prioritization of projects and cost reductions.

Lew Vilotti, the Planning and Economic Development Director for Southeastern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), served as the primary speaker for the workshop. Vilotti presented on the SPC's scenario planning process and discussed how their process resulted in a coordinated transportation plan and community economic development strategy (CEDs). He emphasized that it was not the plans that were innovative, but the process of developing the plans. Vilotti also emphasized that buy-in from the

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)

August 25, 2011

RPCGB Office

1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

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

planning process has led to better adherence to policies and cooperation in their region.

Attendees broke out into small groups and discussed values, issues and opportunities for the Birmingham region, and their perspective on what the scenario planning process in Birmingham should seek to accomplish. Click [here](#) to learn more about the scenario planning process and to see some of the presentation documents.



Attendees participate in a small group exercise.



Charles Ball, RPCGB Executive Director, addresses attendees.

RPCGB Conducts TIP Public Involvement Meeting



On July 20, the RPCGB held a public involvement meeting to discuss and document comments and questions on the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Air Quality Conformity Determination and Amended 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The public involvement meeting was conducted in an open house format with a short formal presentation during two identical sessions, providing an overview of the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination. Displays were posted representing important aspects of the TIP and the air quality conformity. RPCGB staff was available to respond to any questions and comments. Mike Kaczorowski, RPCGB Planner, made a presentation for each session highlighting all aspects of the TIP adoption process.

Attendees were provided a TIP/Air Quality Fact Sheet, an Amended RTP Fact Sheet, a comment form and a meeting evaluation form. The results of a public involvement meeting are used by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the adoption of plans, programs and projects. The final

written report is made available to the public. Comments on the meeting and related documents will be taken until August 8. Click [here](#) to review the TIP documents, watch the formal presentation and to leave your comments.



Darrell Howard, RPCGB Deputy Dir. of Planning (center), explains the adoption process to attendees .

Brown Bag Lunch Series on Brownfields



The RPCGB hosted its first Brown Bag Lunch Series event on July 27. *This Business Called Brownfields* was a free presentation and discussion on the benefits of brownfield redevelopment. Over 40 attendees from around the region spent their lunch hour listening to Jim DeLano and Dustin Heizer from brownfield industry leader, AMEC, discuss all aspects of redevelopment.

Brownfields are properties that are abandoned or underused because of environmental contamination or perceived contamination from past industrial or commercial practices. The presentation focused on why brownfield redevelopment is important, many of the economic benefits and ways that community leaders and citizens can start the process for redevelopment. DeLano and Heizer attempted to debunk many of the myths and misconceptions surrounding this form of redevelopment. Examples of brownfield

redevelopment included the Atlantic Station, Atlanta Beltline and Eastside Trail in Georgia,

Attendees of the event were encouraged to help revive a Brownfields Task Force for the region and to take an online survey of the event. Click [here](#) for more information on the *This Business Called Brownfields* presentation and to view the survey.



A look at Atlantic Station before and after redevelopment

Air Quality Awareness Week

alabama
partners
for
clean air

The week of August first is Air Quality Awareness Week for Jefferson and Shelby Counties. The Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) organized this week as an opportunity to educate the public on the importance of air quality in the region. Multiple partners with APCA have taken to the airwaves this week to promote healthy and economical ways to improve the region's air quality.

The week culminates with an **Air Quality Expo on Saturday, August 6 at Railroad Park from 9-11 a.m.** This **FREE** expo will provide the community with an opportunity to learn about many ways to make a change. Attendees can receive a free emissions test for their vehicle, free asthma screening coupon from Alabama Allergy and Asthma and also learn about recycling, carpooling and

clean fuel vehicles. Click [here](#) for more information on the event and ways in which you can make a difference in our region's air quality.

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Theoangelo Perkins of Harpersville.

Theoangelo Perkins, Mayor of Harpersville

- Elected Mayor in 2004 (First Black Mayor in Shelby County) served 6 years on city council prior to election as mayor
- University of Alabama (Secondary Eduation - English & History)
- In addition to his role as mayor, Perkins is also an educator and pastor
- Enjoys local history, genealogy and church activities
- Board of Directors - RPCGB
- Board of Directors - Alabama Associaton of Regional Councils
- Board of Directors - Shelby County EMA
- Board of Directors - Shelby County Historical Society
- Advisory Board - Shelby County Extension Service
- Family: Wife - Brittany Battle Perkins Daughters - MaKayla - 4 years old and Kinsley - 2 years old Parents - Theolphus and Frances Perkins - Owners of Perk's Bar-B-Q
- Mayor Perkins is a Certified Municipal Official, Ordained Minister and established the library in Harpersville, updated the city park, updated the Comprehensive Plan and developed other policies.

CONNECTIONS is brought to you by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Find out more at www.rpcgb.org

