



CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

September 2011

In This Issue

Recovery Effort Continues in the Region

RPCGB Conducting More Community Forums for SW Corridor Study

Upcoming RPCGB Events

CEDS Annual Update

Air Quality Expo Promotes Clean Air

ACFC Breaks Ground on E85 Stations

Mayor Profile

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

[Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting](#)
September 14, 2011
RPCGB Office
1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf. Rm

[RPCGB Board of Directors Meeting](#)
CANCELED

[Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting](#)
CANCELED

[Transportation Technical Committee Meeting](#)
CANCELED

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)
CANCELED

For meeting information, including postings of any meeting notices and

Recovery Effort Continues in the Region

On August 4-6, RPCGB staff assisted the Cordova community in developing a plan to rebuild their city after the April 27 tornadoes. The RPCGB staff participated in a planning charrette that included local residents from Cordova, FEMA personnel, faculty and staff from Auburn University's Urban Design Studio (AUDS), and volunteers from Birmingham's architecture and landscape architecture professional organizations. The plan included strategies to rebuild downtown, relocate businesses, relocate ball fields and build a park and greenway that connects Cordova's downtown to surrounding rivers and streams for a diverse range of recreational opportunities.



Members of the charrette team met with community members on August 28 to report on details of the plan. Over 60 Cordova citizens attended the meeting and expressed their enthusiasm for the park and the plan in general. A more formalized plan with greater detail will be presented to the community in the next few weeks.

In addition to participating in the Cordova charrette, the RPCGB is also a recent recipient of a \$100,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to aid communities in the region recovering from the devastation of the April tornadoes. The EDA grant, one of five awarded statewide, will be used to develop a disaster response and preparedness plan that focuses on protecting infrastructure and businesses, and enabling local

cancellations please visit the [RPCGB website](#).

governments to provide both proactive and reactive assistance to their citizens.



Charrette attendees work on a plan to rebuild downtown Cordova.



Cheryl Morgan from Auburn University drafts a downtown plan.

RPCGB Conducting More Community Forums for SW Corridor Study



The RPCGB, along with its consultant team led by Atkins, is conducting the third **Community Forum for the Southwest Corridor Transit Study on Tuesday, September 20 at the Birmingham CrossPlex (former State Fairgrounds) and Wednesday, September 21 at Lawson State Community College in Bessemer.** The study is examining

premium transit alternatives along a 22-mile corridor extending from downtown Birmingham to the Jefferson/Tuscaloosa County Line. The corridor study area lies between I-20/I-59 to the west and Red Mountain to the east with US 11/Bessemer Super Highway corridor at its center. While the study is focused on identifying the most practical transit service and alignment, it is also exploring ways to leverage land use and economic development potential. The study is exploring reshaping communities and identifying retail, industrial, and residential reinvestment strategies.

The Community Forum sessions will be held in an open house format with the public invited to attend anytime from 4 pm to 8 pm to view workshop exhibits and background information. The study team is looking forward to stimulating discussions with the public. Input will advise the study team on the transit alternatives being considered.

For additional information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Darrell L. Howard, project manager, at dhoward@rpcgb.org.

MEETING DETAILS:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Birmingham CrossPlex Center (former State Fairgrounds)
2331 Bessemer Rd. (southeast corner of US 11 and Ensley Ave./Ave. W)
Birmingham, AL 35208-3511
4:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Lawson State Community College - Bessemer
1100 Ninth Avenue SW (US 11 across from Medical West Center)
Bessemer, AL 35022
4:00-8:00 pm

Upcoming RPCGB Events

SAVE THE DATE

**2011 Building Communities Conference
Transformation: Creating New Life from Existing Assets**

Thursday, November 3, 2011, 8:30am - 3:30pm
McWane Science Center, 200 19th Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203
More information available on the [RPCGB website](#) in the coming weeks

SAVE THE DATE

**Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO)
Mark Your Calendars - Public Involvement Meeting For Transportation Planning**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
WE HAVE IDEAS!
WE HAVE STRATEGIES!
WE NEED POLICIES!

Join us as we examine how we will turn our plan into reality.

Chilton County, Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Clanton City Hall, 502 2nd Avenue N., Clanton. Enter on 6th Street

Blount County, Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Frank Green Building, 415 5th Ave. E., Oneonta

Walker County, Thursday, September 22, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Bankhead House & Heritage Center, 800 7th Street W., Jasper

St. Clair County, Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m., St. Clair Economic Development Council, 500 College Circle, Pell City (Jeff State Campus)

CEDS Annual Update

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) annual update for 2011-2012 is now available on the [RPCGB website](#). The CEDS serves to facilitate the connection of economic development projects throughout the region to implementation tools, funding sources, and potential partners. For more information about the CEDS and other economic development initiatives, please visit the website or contact Yvonne Murray at ymurray@rpcgb.org.

Air Quality Expo Promotes Clean Air



The Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) held an **Air Quality Expo on Saturday, August 6 at Railroad Park**. This **FREE** expo provided the community with an opportunity to learn about many ways to improve air quality in our region. Attendees received a free emissions test for their vehicle, free asthma screening coupon from Alabama Allergy and Asthma and also learned about recycling, carpooling and clean fuel vehicles. Be on the lookout for the 2012 Air Quality Expo in the spring!

Images from the 2011 Air Quality Expo





ACFC Breaks Ground on E85 Stations



The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC), a partner with the Alabama Partners for Clean Air, broke ground on two new E-85 ethanol fuel stations for the city of Birmingham in mid-August. Ethanol is fuel produced from corn and will be used for the city's flex fuel vehicles.

"This gives us the flexibility to choose on a weekly basis which fuel is least expensive, whether it is E-85 or unleaded fuel," Bob Rainey with Birmingham's Fleet Management said.

A grant from the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition is paying for 80 percent of the project and the stations are expected to be completed in mid-December. Find out more about the ACFC on the Alabama Partners for Clean Air [website](#).

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Bill Hereford of Pell City.

Bill Hereford, Mayor of Pell City

- Elected Mayor in 2008
- University of Alabama for undergraduate and law degree
- Practiced law from 1970 until appointed Circuit Judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit in 1991. Retired from the bench in 2005
- Appointed Senior Circuit Judge and handled cases assigned around the state by the Alabama Supreme Court
- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps
- Has completed ten marathons
- Charter member of the Pell City Rotary Club and Chairman of St.

Clair County Head Start

- Main hobby is flying. He owns a 2003 Piper Archer III and holds a private pilots license.
- Family: Wife of 45 years- Paula Duncan Hereford. Two grown children and one grandchild
- "I am a big fan of the RPCGB and appreciate all the services it provides to its members."

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Find out more at www.rpcgb.org

