



CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

December 2011

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[RPCGB Program Budget](#)
Canceled

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

[Transportation Citizens
Committee Meeting](#)
Canceled

[RPCGB Board of Directors
Meeting](#)
Canceled

[Transportation Technical
Committee Meeting](#)
Canceled

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Canceled

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

Happy Holidays!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION OF
GREATER BIRMINGHAM!!!**

280 Study Team Holds Open House

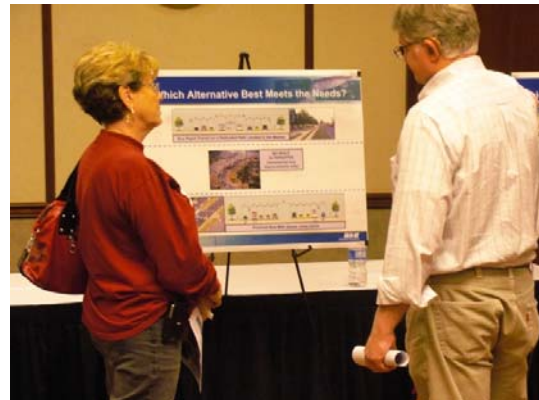


The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and its consulting team at RS&H held a public open house in November for the U.S. 280 Corridor Transit Study. The open house gave the public an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in the study from the team.

After spending the last year analyzing multiple alternatives for improvements to the U.S. 280 corridor, the study is currently in the selection of Locally Preferred Alternatives phase. The team narrowed options down to six possible alternatives, including bus-rapid transit, premium bus and enhanced local bus service.

The study team developed a survey for open house attendees and online participants to gain a better understanding of the desire for transit along the corridor. Approximately 200 individuals responded to the survey, which revealed that the greatest interest was bus-rapid transit. Of those surveyed, 55% would use a bus-rapid transit system and 23% are willing to consider using it. Bus-rapid transit incorporates high quality transit vehicles on a dedicated lane through a corridor.

The next step in the study is to finalize an alternative transit option and present the findings in the first part of 2012. For more information on the study, please visit the [U.S. 280 project website](#).



RPCGB Holds Annual Building Communities Conference



The RPCGB held its annual Building Communities Conference on November 3 at the McWane Science Center. This year's conference was titled *Transformation: Creating New Life from Existing Assets*. The conference focus was finding opportunities for development in the Jones Valley's underutilized properties.

Attendees heard from multiple speakers including Andy Mayo from the City of Birmingham, Harris Hollans from Auburn University's Master of Real Estate Development Program, and Philip Amthor and Steve Ostaseski from the RPCGB.

Highlights from the conference included an overview of the current state of the local economy from John B. Norris of Oakworth Capital Bank and a look at downtown redevelopment from Joe

Minicozzi, the Executive Director of the Asheville, NC Downtown Association.

Stay tuned for the next episode of [RPC-TV](#), as we will feature a story on this year's conference.

SAVE THE DATE: RPCGB Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

2012 RPCGB Annual Meeting

Road Map to Redevelopment

January 25, 2012

The Club

1 Robert Smith Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209

Training Sessions 9am - 11:15am

Luncheon 11:30am - 1:00pm

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Mitchell Silver, AICP, PP

President, American Planning Association

Chief Planning & Economic Development Officer and Director, Department of City Planning for the City of Raleigh

SESSION TOPICS

1. Next Steps of Scenario Planning
2. Revitalization in Progress
3. Corridor Planning as a Tool for Redevelopment
4. Costs of Redevelopment and How to Minimize Them

More information is available at www.rpcgb.org

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Eddie Reed of Jemison.

Eddie Reed, Mayor of Jemison

- Elected as the first minority city councilman of Jemison in 1976; and elected as mayor in 2004 and 2008
- A public high school teacher in the Chilton County School system from 1967-1994; an adjunct instructor of sociology at Wallace State Community College from 1987-2007

• Holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Daniel Payne College and a Master of Education degree from the University of Montevallo. Post graduate studies at UAB, Auburn, Alabama States as well as studies from Southeastern Bible

- College.
- Serves as Worshipful Master of Pride of Jemison Lodge No. 630; serves as Patron of Rainbow Chapter of Eastern Star No. 398; serves as Program Director for The Center of Humanity United for the Revitalization of Church and Home (C.H.U.R.C.H.); and appointed a Member of the Policy Advisory Board of Shelby Baptist Medical Center.

Employee Profile



Each month, we will profile an employee of the RPCGB. This month's profile is Renato Ghizoni. Planner.

Renato Ghizoni, Planner

- **Hometown:** Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- **Education:** I have a dual master's degree in planning and architecture from Georgia Tech and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Florida.
- **How long have you been with the RPCGB?:** I have been working at RPCGB for about 2 months.
- **Give a short overview of your job:** So far I have been involved with the planning and urban design of commercial corridors in suburban and regional contexts.
- **What is your favorite aspect of your job?:** I enjoy the freedom of pursuing my own ideas and to an extent, the direction of my project, while having access to the knowledge and resources from colleagues of various disciplines and backgrounds in the office.
- **Tell us one thing we don't know about you:** I have a twin brother.
- **Finish this sentence: "Ten years from now, I hope to be...":** Leading a team in the planning, design, and development of large-scale projects and setting a high standard for how communities should be built!

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

