

CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

January 2012

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[RPCGB Program Budget](#)

January 11, 2012

RPCGB Offices

9:00am, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting](#)

Canceled

[Transportation Technical Committee Meeting](#)

January 18, 2012

RPCGB Offices

10:00am, 1st Floor Conf
Rm

[RPCGB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Canceled

[Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting](#)

January 18, 2012

RPCGB Offices

Noon, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[Annual Meeting](#)

January 25, 2012

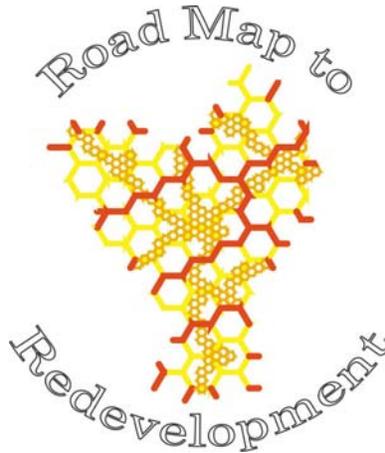
The Club

9:00am - 1:00pm

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)

January 26, 2012

RPCGB To Host Annual Meeting



The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham will Host the 2012 Annual Meeting on January 25 at The Club. Titled **Road Map to Redevelopment**, the meeting will concentrate on redevelopment with a regional focus.

Attendees can participate in morning sessions including, **Going Big: Developing a Regional Plan for Sustainability; Costs of**

Redevelopment and How to Minimize Them; Bus Rapid Transit, and Economic Growth and Redevelopment; and Corridor Planning as a Tool for Redevelopment and Revitalization. After the session, attendees will hear from luncheon keynote speaker, Mitchell Silver.

Silver is the Chief Planning and Economic Development Officer for the City of Raleigh, North Carolina. Silver is an award-winning planner with more than 25 years of planning experience. He is nationally recognized for his leadership in the profession and his contributions to contemporary planning issues. Before coming to Raleigh in 2005 as planning director, Silver worked as policy and planning director in New York City, a principal of a New York City-based planning firm, a town manager in New Jersey and deputy planning director in Washington, D.C. He has taught graduate planning courses at Hunter College, Brooklyn College, Pratt Institute, and North Carolina State University. As planning director in Raleigh, he led the comprehensive plan update process. He is now overseeing a rewrite of the city's Development Code.

For more information on the Annual Meeting and to register to attend, please click on the [Annual Meeting page](#) of the RPCGB website.

RPCGB Offices
1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf Rm

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



Attendees at a session during the 2011 Annual Meeting

RPCGB Receives Distinguished Budgeting Award



The RPCGB is the recent recipient of a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award was presented to the RPCGB for the start of its 2011-12 fiscal year.

According to the GFOA, the award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines

for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, [and] a communications guide.

"To my knowledge, we are the first regional council in the state to receive such an award and one of only four or five other local government jurisdictions in the state," said Dr. Ray Morris, RPCGB Deputy Executive Director.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, as well as the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Award recipients represent excellent examples of budgetary practices by governments throughout North America.

"This is a tremendous testament to the unwavering support of our board and member governments. We look forward to maintaining this level of fiscal responsibility for years to come," said Charles Ball, RPCGB Executive Director.

The GFOA is the major professional association serving the needs of appointed and elected local and state-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top-quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association, which has 17,500 members, is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, D.C.

Study Team Holds Workshop For U.S. 11 Corridor



Connecting Communities, Charting a New Course

The RPCGB, along with its consultant team led by Atkins, conducted a day-long workshop on land use planning around potential premium transit stations in the Southwest Corridor along U.S. 11 on Wednesday, December 7 at the Midfield

Community Center. The purpose of the workshop was to interact with the public, community leaders, property owners, developers and members of the study working groups and get their input about potential land use and development around six target station areas that would be served by new high-quality transit service being proposed for the study corridor. The six target areas are Five Points West, the Princeton Baptist Medical Center area, the Legion Field Area, Aronov Drive at U.S. 11 (Western Hills Mall), downtown Bessemer, and the South Bessemer area near Academy Drive.

Participants viewed a presentation that provided a recap of the study purpose, process and status, and then explained the basic interrelation between transit and land use, showing examples of the types of land uses that could happen around the major transit stop locations.

Participants were asked to complete two survey forms, one seeking their preferences as to urban development patterns, and the second asking questions about what land use types are missing in their neighborhood and any challenges they face as they try to reach needed services and stores if they do not have a car. These surveys were also distributed at a session with Miles College students and with transit patrons at the Central Terminal downtown. In addition, the study team met with a group of leaders involved with regional economic development at the Birmingham Business Alliance office.



Participants view study presentation

The workshop is part of a multi-faceted effort by the RPCGB and its study team to develop land use plans and strategies that will consider the transit station areas, neighborhoods, cargo-oriented development, and other plans that are being developed for the corridor cities and unincorporated Jefferson County. By taking a comprehensive look at these different land use components, the goal is to formulate strategies to encourage revitalization across the entire corridor. These land use strategies will be complemented by groups of strategies focused around transit improvements and economic development initiatives.

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

SAVE THE DATE

The Rise of Walkable Urbanism

Please join us for a **FREE** conversation on Walkable Urbanism led by Chris Leinberger, President of LOCUS and Geoff Anderson, President and CEO of Smart Growth America. Learn about new trends that are driving change in the built environment and what those changes mean for Alabama.

Tuesday - January 17 - 10:30a.m. to Noon - Young and Vann Building.

For more information and to register to attend, please visit the [RPCGB website](#)

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Don Murphy of Pelham.

Donald (Don) R. Murphy, Mayor of Pelham

- Elected to office in October 2008. He is currently serving his first term.
- Attended Kirkman Tech and University of Alabama Birmingham
- Resident of Pelham since 1969
- Married to Martha Murphy. Two children: Gene and Jeff; two grandchildren.
- Independent business owner and Real Estate broker in Pelham for 35 years
- Elected as a Republican to the Shelby County Commission and Alabama State Legislature
- US Army Veteran
- Past President of Cahaba Valley Jaycees, Pelham Civitan Club, Alabaster/Pelham Rotary and Pelham High School Athletic Booster Club.
- Director, Shelby County YMCA
- Interests include creating a fiscally responsible budget, increasing citizen participation with the city, improving roadways, increasing commercial tax base, establishing responsible development and growth for the city, expanding sewer availability and increasing parks, playgrounds and educational opportunities.

Employee Profile



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

Mikhail Alert, Planner

- **Hometown:** Georgetown, Guyana
- **Education:** I have a Master's Degree in Architecture from Andrews University
- **How long have you been with the RPCGB?:** I have been with RPCGB for three months.
- **Give a short overview of your job:** I am currently working with the residents of North Titusville to develop a sustainable neighborhood plan that addresses blight and guides future development in the neighborhood.
- **What is your favorite aspect of your job?:** There are many aspects of my job that I thoroughly enjoy, but one aspect in particular that sums it up is the unique opportunity I have as a planner to use a master plan as an instrument of social and economic change for a community by transforming a "community's vision" from intangible ideas to tangible plans and developments.
- **Tell us one thing we don't know about you:** I love Korean barbeque.
- **Finish this sentence: "Ten years from now, I hope to be...":** a well versed planner developing shrinking cities around the country as a leader of an innovative planning team.

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

