

CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from the
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

February 2012

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[RPCGB Program Budget](#)

February 8, 2012

RPCGB Offices

9:00am, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting](#)

February 8, 2012

RPCGB Offices

1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[APCA Steering Committee](#)

February 9, 2012

RPCGB Offices

1:30pm, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[Transportation Technical Committee Meeting](#)

Canceled

[RPCGB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

February 15, 2012

RPCGB Offices

10:30am, 1st Floor Conf Rm

[Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting](#)

Canceled

[MPO Subcommittee Meeting](#)

Canceled

RPCGB Hosts Annual Meeting



The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham held its 2012 Annual Meeting on January 25 at The Club. The meeting included 130 individuals from around the region learning about regional redevelopment and sustainability.

Attendees participated in morning sessions including:

Going Big: Developing a Regional Plan for Sustainability; Costs of

Redevelopment and How to Minimize Them; Bus Rapid Transit, Economic Growth and Redevelopment; and Corridor Planning as a Tool for Redevelopment and Revitalization. After the session, attendees heard from luncheon keynote speaker, Mitchell Silver, the Chief Planning and Economic Development Officer for the City of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Silver spoke about regional change, and the different make-ups of generations and how they will affect the future. Other highlights of the meeting included the unveiling of RPC-TV, the RPCGB's new online video digest and the formal awarding of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

If you could not attend or wish to view all sessions, the [Annual Meeting page](#) of the RPCGB website will provide session videos in the upcoming days.

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



Jack Schnettler speaks to attendees during the Corridor Planning session



Birmingham City Councilor Valerie Abbott speaks to attendees

RPCGB Hosts Smart Growth Symposium



The RPCGB hosted a Smart Growth symposium in mid January. Titled, *The Rise of Walkable Urbanism*, the symposium was led by Chris Leinberger, President of LOCUS and Geoff Anderson, President and CEO of Smart Growth America. The two leaders spoke to a crowd of over 100 attendees about new trends driving change in the built environment and what those changes mean for Alabama.

To view video or download a print version of the presentation, visit the [symposium page](#) on the RPCGB website.

Revolving Loan Fund Highlight -- Choice Research



This month's Revolving Loan Fund Highlight is Choice Research.

Choice Research manages clinical development trials in partnership with local private practice physicians, offering the opportunity for individuals to participate in cutting edge research while receiving state-of-the-art medical care.

CHOICE*research*

Based out of Innovation Depot in downtown Birmingham, Choice Research has been providing its trial management services since 2009. Mark Hamilton, CEO of Choice Research, received his Masters in Healthcare Administration and Masters in Business Administration from UAB in 2000. He spent the next nine years working in the healthcare industry before writing the business plan for Choice Research in early 2009.

Choice Research manages clinical trials ranging from gout to Type II diabetes. The experienced administrative and research staff manages all aspects of the trial, eliminating much of the headache physicians experience with running multiple trials.

Choice is a recipient of a receivables loan through the RPCGB. This loan program is only for incubator tenants and provides quick, low-cost working capital loans to small businesses using their receivables as collateral over a 30-day term.



Choice Research CEO Mark Hamilton

"The RPCGB has been a life line," said Hamilton, "Having the resources of the RPCGB to help pay a staff and grow my business is crucial. I had one employee when I got my first receivables loan and now I have three employees."

To learn more about Choice Research and the work they are doing to improve the lives of physicians and patients, visit [their website](#). For more information on the RPCGB's Revolving Loan Fund, please visit the [RPCGB website](#).

RPCGB Analyzes Potential For Electric Vehicle Plug-in Stations

In late 2011, the RPCGB began analyzing the potential of electric vehicle (EV) plug-in infrastructure in the state of Alabama.

The Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) was selected by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Cities Initiative to lead a project that will establish a comprehensive, tri-state (Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina) readiness and deployment strategy for electric vehicles and EV infrastructure and begin implementation of the Southeast Regional EV Deployment Readiness Program. As a partner in the project, the RPCGB is helping to locate general areas where electric vehicle charging stations should be located, so that utility companies can analyze impacts on the power grid.

The project supports DOE's goal of bringing electric vehicles to communities across the nation. The RPCGB's Marshall Farmer is conducting the analysis to determine the location for public, workspace and fleet charging stations. The analysis examines variables such as trip length, congestion, transit availability, potential and existing electric vehicle sales and shifts in demographics to present a vision for the future need of charging stations. Results of the study will be available on the RPCGB website in the coming weeks.

Partners include the RPCGB, CTE, City of Atlanta, South Carolina Energy Office, Clemson University (South Carolina Institute for Energy Studies), Georgia Power, Southern Company, Alabama Power, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition, Clean cities - Atlanta and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Mayor Profile



Each month, we will profile a mayor within the six county region. This month's profile is Mayor Rusty Jessup of Riverside.

Rusty Jessup, Mayor of Riverside

- Received a BA in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement from Jacksonville State University.
- Former police officer in Jacksonville and Anniston.
- Worked for State Farm insurance for 12 years before opening an Allstate office in Cahaba Heights in 1990.
- Married Sandra Tyson, a retired school teacher, in 1974.
- Currently serving his second term as mayor of Riverside.
- Received advanced certification as a municipal officer
- Served as Chairman of the Anniston YMCA Board of Directors, President of the Jaycees and Chairman of the St. Clair County Mayors Association.

Mayor Jessup on the growth of Riverside and survival of small towns: *The city realized a 50% growth between 2000-2010. The challenge is to survive as a small town. We want to do two main things: protect residential and commercial property values and we want our city to reach an independent status so it can perform to the demands of its citizens.*

Incomes for small towns are limited but police cars, fire trucks and insurance costs are the same for large and small towns, though large towns have much better cash flow. Management of our funds is paramount and our search for businesses and industries that will create tax revenues is essential. That's where our focus lies.

Employee Profile



Each month, we will profile an employee of the RPCGB. This month's profile is Bridget Phillips, Medicaid Waiver Program Supervisor.

Bridget Phillips, Medicaid Waiver Program Supervisor

- **Hometown:** In all honesty, I do not have a hometown. Up until my mid-20's, I moved around from town-to-town and state-to-state. My birthplace is Jackson, TN but I would say that my roots are in Memphis, TN.
- **Education:** In 2000, I graduated from the The University of North Alabama with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology; before that, I spent two years at Adams State College in Alamosa, CO.
- **How long have you been with the RPCGB?:** I have been with RPCGB for 4 months
- **Give a short overview of your job:** I supervise 13 staff members for the Medicaid Waiver program. I also monitor client files to ensure proper documentation is present for billing requirements and case management purposes. This includes reviewing and approving care plans for each client on the MW program; as well as reviewing assessments to determine eligibility for new and active clients. I also monitor the quality of services that are provided to MW clients, and will communicate all issues with appropriate personnel in an attempt to resolve any and all problems.
- **What is your favorite aspect of your job?:** Working with a talented group of case managers and knowing that I'm apart of a program that has such a positive impact on others' lives.
- **Tell us one thing we don't know about you:** I married my high school sweetheart.
- **Finish this sentence: "Ten years from now, I hope to...":** be someone that my daughter looks up. Most teenagers run and hide from their parents, but I don't want that to be our situation. I want her to have full confidence in me and to know that she can come to me for anything.

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

