

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Board Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Valerie Abbott, City of Birmingham
Honorable Bettye Fine Collins, Jefferson County
Mr. Tom Barnett, City of Birmingham
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Town of Vincent
Mr. Chester Jolly, City of Warrior
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Mr. Reginald Holloway, Shelby County
Honorable Doug Brewer, City of Graysville
Ms. Eunice Rogers, City of Birmingham
Honorable Robbie Hayes, Shelby County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY ALTERNATES

Honorable Waymon Pitts, Blount County
 Represented by Mr. Ray Hamilton
Honorable Delor Baumann, City of Hueytown
 Represented by Mr. Jim Byram
Mr. Devon Laney, City of Birmingham
 Represented by Honorable Valerie Abbott
Honorable Tom Henderson, City of Center Point
 Represented by Honorable Doug Brewer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Honorable David Standridge, Blount County Commission
Honorable Theoangelo Perkins, Town of Harpersville
Honorable William Hereford, City of Pell City
Honorable Bruce Hamrick, Walker County Commission
Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham
Honorable Stan Batemon, St. Clair County
Honorable Tim Mims, Chilton County Commission
Honorable Bobby Humphryes, Jefferson County
Honorable Jim Carns, Jefferson County
Honorable Wayne Gross, Town of Parrish
Honorable Gary Richardson, City of Midfield
Ms. Vanessa Hendricks, Chilton County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Brian O'Dell, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Honorable Valerie Abbott called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. A quorum was declared by the Chairman. The following business was conducted.

MINUTES

The minutes were accepted as presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell presented the financial information for the period ending April 30, 2010.

Statement of Net Assets

1. The current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) for the period is 6.96 compared to April 2009 which was 2.49.
2. The quick ratio (current assets-unbilled receivables/current liabilities) 5.79 compared to April 2009 which was 1.33.

The current ratios reflecting high liquidity are higher than they have ever been. Contributing factors over the course of the last year include finances being managed tightly and effectively for imbursement of salaries and expenses, especially related to the Rideshare and Air Quality programs which presented cash flow problems in the past.

Cash and cash equivalents are \$624,573. Total Current Assets are \$1,161,248 (C), Unbilled Receivables are \$195,162 (D), Total Current Liabilities are \$166,926 (E), Accounts Receivables are \$341,513, Accounts Payables are \$74,411, (G). Deferred Revenues are \$21,040 (H), Total Long Term Liabilities are \$765,513 (I)

Budget Summary

Total Expenditures are under budget by \$661,792 (J), Salaries, Fringe and Indirect are under budget \$51,190 (K), Direct Costs are under budget \$179,514 (L) and Contracts are under budget \$431,088 (M). The reserves in the PL will carry over to next year. Corridor studies funding remains open and eligible for carryover until the project is completed. The Building Communities will carry over to next year's budget.

Dues

The Board reviewed the Dues Status report for FY2010. A comparison chart was distributed indicating dues as of May 31, 2010. 70 member governments had paid (\$469,130) compared to 65 member governments paying (\$559,930) for the same period last year. Not reflected on this report is Jefferson County and City of Birmingham's dues payment that was received in June.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

This RLF funds are maintained in a separate bank account and accounting program. The cash and cash equivalents is \$44,771. The total receivables from loan recipients are \$1,355,806. The net assets held in trust are \$1,400,577. There is very little change from last month. Short-term loans continue to be provided to tenants of the Innovation Depot and the Bessemer Incubator program. The short-term loan with J2F, Inc. has been restructured to a 1-year loan.

PROGRAM BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Hamilton presented the following information for consideration.

HEART OF ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (HARPO)

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has contracted with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) to administer the rural planning consultation process for Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker Counties, pursuant to the requirements and applicable provisions of 23 USC 450.210(b) and 216(b)(c) and others as may be relevant located in Attachment 1 of this document, and

WHEREAS, the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO), composed of the four rural counties in the RPC region, is the organization recognized by the State of Alabama through the rural transportation planning consultation process is administered, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Work Program is the instrument by which the RPC staff, on behalf of HARPO, describes to the ALDOT how it plans to carry out the rural transportation planning process, and

WHEREAS, the RPC staff has developed a Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO) Planning Work Program for FY2011, and

WHEREAS, the RPC Board of Directors is responsible for providing the staff and matching funds for conducting the HARPO Planning Work Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, on behalf of the Heart of Alabama Rural Planning Organization (HARPO), representing Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker Counties, does thereby endorse the FY2011 Planning Work Program as presented.

Mr. Hamilton moved and Mr. Westhoven moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

ALDOT PARK AND RIDE AGREEMENT

The scope of work provides for signage, painting (striping), maintenance, security and insurance for the park and ride lots at various locations with Jefferson and Shelby County, the Blount County Park and Ride Lot located in Hayden and the Chilton County Park and Ride Lot located in Clanton. This agreement is a continuation of a previous agreement and is 100% funding. No staff time is charged to this funding.

Mr. Hamilton moved and Ms. Rogers seconded to approve the Executive Director entering into this agreement by signing the agreement and resolution. Motion passed on a voice vote.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham desires to increase economic development by providing financing to area businesses for the purposes of job creation, energy efficiency and conservation, and;

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission currently operates a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), and;

WHEREAS, the RLF is eligible to be administrator of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Loan Fund for the purpose to assist and enable communities and businesses in implementing energy efficiency and conservation measures and is required by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to solicit an appointed at-large representative with energy sector experience and an appointed representative from Bibb County to the RLF Loan Review Committee, now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham recommends the RLF Loan Review Committee shall be restructured to include a representative from Bibb County for the sole purpose of administering this grant.

Mr. Hamilton moved and Ms. Rogers seconded to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

BIRMINGHAM TO ATLANTA HIGH SPEED RAIL STUDY/MATCH REQUEST

In February, the Georgia Dept. of Transportation (GDOT) learned that it would receive \$250,000 from the Federal Transit Administration to study the feasibility of high-speed passenger rail service between Birmingham and Atlanta. The grant requires a \$250,000 match, so the total cost of the proposed study is \$500,000. Because of the economic development implications of this project for our region, I am seeking a recommendation

to the Board that our FY 2010 budget be amended to provide \$75,000 for this project. This request comes after a lengthy and tedious fundraising effort on our part.

Soon after the February announcement, we participated in a conference call with officials from GDOT's rail division, ADECA and the East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission. It was agreed that we would work together to raise half of the match from our respective states; \$125,000 each.

In March we learned that GDOT had come up with \$125,000 from internal sources, which left \$125,000 to be raised in Alabama. ALDOT will not be participating in this project. ADECA has actually been charged with coordinating planning for passenger rail projects in our state, but they have no funding for the project. The East Alabama MPO is not able to assist financially. We have requested assistance from at least ten other entities in Central and East Alabama including the BBA, the EDPA, Honda, the Talladega Superspeedway, Vulcan Materials and Alabama Power. So far, we have secured a commitment for \$50,000 from Norfolk-Southern, which we learned of only yesterday. We would be very surprised if anyone else came forward.

GDOT cannot proceed with the study until commitments are in place for the entire match. In addition, GDOT has informed us that their \$125,000 will likely be moved to other projects if the entire \$500,000 is not obligated by the end of June.

The \$75,000 would be taken from un-programmed dues. If you will recall, one of the purposes of our reserve is to provide matching funds for grants that benefit the region. I have discussed this at length with Brian O'Dell and have been assured that this would not place the agency in a bind. We will also be asking the Finance Committee to consider this prior to next week's Board meeting. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Mr. Hamilton moved and Mr. Holloway seconded to provide up to \$75,000 toward the match with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and for the Executive Director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with GDOT. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The Board commented on the need for this study that will hopefully lead to construction of this project and complimented the leadership that RPC is taking in pursuing this project.

OTHER

Mayor Brewer stated that the Birmingham News erroneously reported information concerning the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization which is staffed by the RPCGB. Mr. Ball and Mr. Foisy very professionally defused the situation by meeting with mayors. The Birmingham News corrected the information with a followup article.

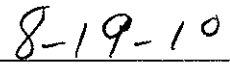
Councilor Abbott stated how much she appreciates the RPC staff for the work they have accomplished since the change in staff leadership several years ago.

Meetings for July were announced.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



Honorable Bettye Fine Collins, Secretary



Date