



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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August 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee

FROM: Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, 12:00 Noon, RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Doris Powell, Vice Chairman, City of Birmingham
Ms. Jackie Dye, Shelby County
Mr. Willie Osborne, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jeff Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Thelma Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham
Mr. Butch Ferrell, South / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Steffen Waendelin, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County

Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Mr. Michael Morrison, City of Birmingham
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jim Ketchersid, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. John Saddler, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters
Ms. Anna Brown, Birmingham
Mr. Jerrel Leonard, Birmingham
Ms. Carolyn Wynn, League of Women Voters
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT
Ms. Charlene Pugh, Trussville

Chairman Ouida Fritschi called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Dr. Johnny Peebles, III made a motion to approve the July 15, 2009 minutes. Ms. Judy Gordon seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO reviewed a five-minute simulation video for the In-Town Transit Partnership and approved a resolution supporting the project. The MPO approved the TIP modification as recommended by the TCC. The MPO also

approved the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program. Information was presented to the MPO on the proposed new transportation bill.

COMMUTESMART

Due to technical difficulties the video presentation will be shown at the September TCC meeting.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND FUNDING PROCESS

Mr. Darrell Howard and Mr. Mike Kaczorowski gave a presentation on transportation planning and funding processes. The objective of the presentation was to educate the TCC in how to do the following:

- Explain What an MPO Is and What It Does
- Identify the Metropolitan Planning Process
- Explain the Roles and Responsibilities of the MPO
- Identify the Metropolitan Planning Process Players
- Recognize the Components of the Transportation Plan and the TIP
- Explain the Relationship Between Planning, Programming and Project Development

The following areas were reviewed:

1. What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is...

“The forum for cooperation transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area” (Source: 23 CFR Part 450.104)

2. What do MPOs Do?

- Carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process in cooperation with ALDOT and transit operator (BJCTA)
- Responsibilities are determined in concert with ALDOT and BJCTA
- Cooperatively develop, update, and approve:
 - Unified Planning Work Program
 - Metropolitan (Regional) Transportation Plan
 - Transportation Improvement Program
 - Congestion Management Process
 - Coordinated Human Service Transportation Program

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Annual list of planning projects and programs
- Identifies sources of funding, schedules, and responsible agencies
- Coordinates the planning undertaken by all participants

Metropolitan Transportation Plan e.g. RTP

- Covers at least a 20-year time horizon
 - Includes both long-term and short-term policies, strategies, & actions
- Updated every 4 years in air quality non-attainment and air quality maintenance areas
- Addresses multiple travel modes, the movement of people, and goods
- Conforms with national ambient air quality standards
- Is fiscally constrained i.e. cannot spend more money than is available
- Considers 8 Federal Planning Factors
- Documents conclusions and decisions of the planning process
- Addresses transportation system preservation, transportation system operations, and system expansion
- Early and continuous public involvement

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Identifies funding for each project by programmatic funding source and fiscal year of expenditure
- Covers at least four (4) years, and provides a list of projects to be implemented within this time period (Note: The TIP can be updated more frequently)
- Must be consistent with the approved Regional Transportation Plan
- Must conform to national ambient air quality standards
- Is fiscally constrained i.e. cannot spend more money than is available
- Includes all transportation projects proposed to receive federal funds
- Includes all regionally significant projects, regardless of funding source

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

- Is required in Transportation Management Areas (TMA)
- Provides information on transportation system performance
- Identifies/evaluates alternative strategies to address congestion and enhance mobility
- Must identify single-occupant vehicle projects in non-attainment areas
- Provides a step-by-step process for addressing congestion where capacity improvements are the solution of last resort

Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (CHST)

- Is required of both the State and metropolitan planning areas in order to spend:
 - FTA Section 5310 – Elderly and Disabled Funding
 - FTA Section 5316 – Jobs Access and Reverse Commute
 - FTA Section 5317 – New Freedom
- Identifies transportation gaps for transportation disadvantaged, with a focus on low-income, elderly, and disabled
- Proposes strategies/lays groundwork for overcoming gaps
- Funding is awarded competitively
- Qualified NGOs, non-profits, and transportation providers (public and private) are eligible to apply for funding
- Projects/programs must be derived from plan in order to be eligible

The MPO also produces these Planning Products

- Public Participation Plan
- Annual Listing of Projects
- Functional Plan Documents i.e.
 - Regional Thoroughfare Plan
 - Regional Transit Strategy
 - Freight, Goods Movement, and Intermodal Access
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
 - Regional Transportation Operations Plan
 - Corridor Specific Plans

3. What is the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process?

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is...

- A process of examining travel and transportation issues and needs. This includes:
 - Demographic Analysis
 - Examination of Travel Patterns and Trends
 - Analysis of Alternatives
- ...leading to informed decision-making on transportation policies, plans, and programs

4. Who Sits on the MPO?

- The Birmingham MPO membership is identified in its membership bylaws, and includes:
 - Elected officials from cities in both Jefferson and Shelby Counties
 - State officials (as deemed appropriate), and
 - Public agencies that operate major modes of transportation i.e.
 1. Public Transit
 2. Airport Authority
 3. Port Authorities
- Membership is determined by (a) the Governor and (b) units of general purpose local government representing 75% of the metropolitan area population

5. Who are the Players and What are their Interests?

Players

Public
Regional Agencies
Local Government
State Agencies
Interest Groups
Private Sector
Legal System
Federal Government
Tribal Governments

Interests

Central City
Urban Interests
Transit Advocates
Neighborhoods
Transportation Fiscal Needs
New Infrastructure
Suburbs
Rural Interests
Highway Interests
Regional Interests
Other Fiscal Needs
Preservation

6. MPO Roles and Responsibilities

- MPO (Membership and Committees) Role
 - Develop Regional Vision
 - Establish Regional Policies
 - Adopt UPWP, Transportation Plan, and TIP
- MPO Staff Role
 - Provide Information and Technical Support
 - Prepare Plans and Documents
 - Foster Interagency Cooperation

7. The MPO is expected to:

- Consult with Agencies and Officials Responsible for Other Planning Activities
- Coordinate its Planning (to the maximum extent practicable) with Other Planning Activities

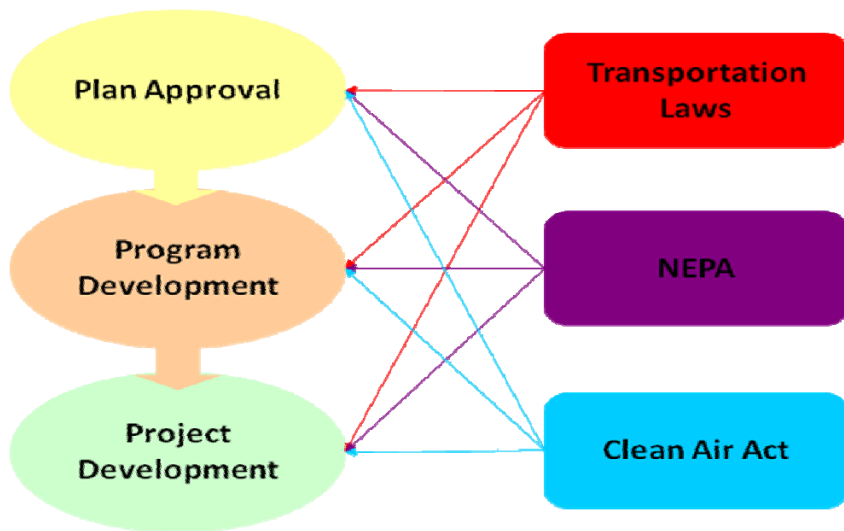
8. Federal Legislation & Regulations

Historical Legislation

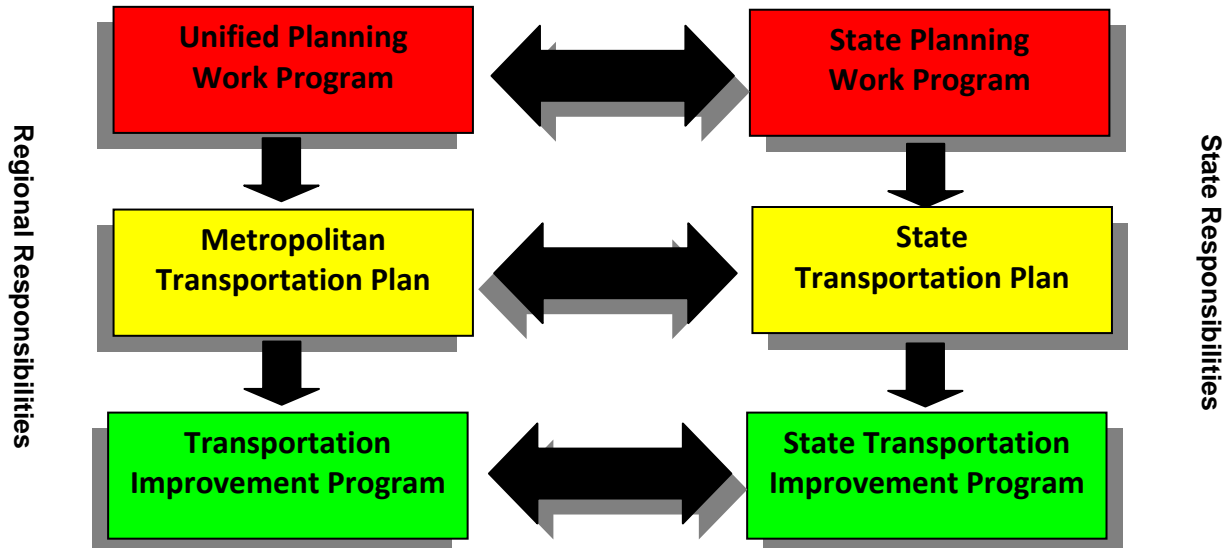
- The Federal-aid Highway Acts of 1962 and 1973
 - Created metropolitan planning organizations (MPO)
 - Established the “3C” planning process
 - Increase role of local officials
- Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)
 - Increased funding flexibility
 - Required fiscally constrained plans and programs
 - Emphasized MPOs authority to program funds
 - Established Congestion Management
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century – 1998 (TEA-21)
 - Increased funding levels
 - Stressed simplification and streamlining of processes
 - Listed Federal emphasis areas i.e. Planning Factors
- Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) 2005
 - Added new requirements for consultation and consistency
 - More emphasis on project delivery through environmental streamlining
 - Placed more emphasis on transportation security
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) Created additional “process” requirements
 - Consideration of social, economic, and environmental impacts in decisions
 - Consideration of alternatives
 - Additional public involvement
 - Mandated environmental documents
- The 1970 Clean Air Act and Amendments (CAAA)
 - Established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)
 - Require State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for air quality

- Requires conformity of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and programs i.e. Transportation Improvement Program with SIP
- Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Is the statutory basis for Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice
 - Improving access to Services for persons with Limited English Proficiency
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
 - Requires equal access to transportation opportunities provided by any institution.
 - Requires wheel chair accessible accommodations on transit system

Where Statutory Requirements Apply



Relationship between Metropolitan and Statewide Planning Process



The Money Flow

Money for transportation related projects comes from the federal government. FTA funds are sent to the BJCTA, including Section 5307 and 5309 (Bus and Bus Capital) funds. FHWA funds go through the Alabama Department of Transportation and is dispersed to MPO's in Alabama. Birmingham MPO funding includes STP-BH funding (20%) and CMAQ funding (100%).

OTHER

Chairman Ouida Fritschi reviewed a list of upcoming meetings of interest to the group. Meetings included:

- MPO Subcommittee, August 27, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

The next meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 12:00 Noon, RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date