



2009



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September 16, 2009

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Citizens Committee  
**FROM:** Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/  
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 12:00 Noon, RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County  
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County  
Mr. Butch Ferrell, South / Southwest Jefferson County  
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast 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. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham  
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Steffen Waendelin, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Jim Ketchersid, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Steve Ostaseski, RPC  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC  
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters  
Mr. Jerrel Leonard, Birmingham  
Ms. Carolyn Wynn, League of Women Voters  
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT  
Mr. Michael Morrison, City of Birmingham

Chairman Ouida Fritschi called the meeting to order at 12:05 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 August 19, 2009 minutes. Ms. Judy Gordon seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Steve Ostaseski presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO did not meet in September. The MPO Subcommittee received information on the rebalancing of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program in light of rescissions as well as a status report on the MPO Recovery Act projects.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Steve Ostaseski and Mr. Tom Maxwell presented a request to modify the TIP to include the following:

**ALDOT Request –Enhancement Projects**

<u>SRTS</u> <u>RW100</u>	100054271	Birmingham safe routes to school, acquire property as part of STPBH-CN07(906) a project to build sidewalks near Martha Gaskins School	10/14/2009	RW	10/1/2009	2010	\$88,500.00	Exempt	Safety Projects	11
<u>STPTE</u> <u>TE09(975)</u>	100054269	Sidewalks along AL-25 at the intersection with US 280 in the Town of Harpersville	10/14/2009	CN	12/15/2009	2010	\$214,607.25	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8
<u>DEMO</u> <u>A1880</u>	100054137	Sidewalks & Landscaping along Cahaba Road between the Botanical Gardens & the Birmingham Zoo	10/14/2009	PE	11/21/2009	2010	\$107,500.00	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8
<u>DEMO</u> <u>A1880</u>	100054138	Sidewalks & Landscaping along Cahaba Road between the Botanical Gardens & the Birmingham Zoo	10/14/2009	CN	7/30/2010	2010	\$967,500.00	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8

**This request is for sidewalks and landscaping and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

<u>STPAA</u> <u>PE09 ( )</u>	100054259	Traffic study on McAshan Drive accessing Norfolk Southern Railroad yard freight corridor access from CR-18 (Eastern Valley Road) to I-59	10/14/2009	PE	10/1/2009	2010	\$150,000.00	Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2
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**This request is for a traffic study and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

Ms. Sandra Bonner noted that the Traffic study request is contingent on Norfolk Southern receiving the grant money they requested for the Railroad Hub.

Mr. Willie Osborne made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP amendment. Dr. Johnny Peebles, III seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**NOMINATING / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Doris Powell presented a report from the Nominating / Membership Subcommittee. The Nominating / Membership subcommittee met September 3, 2009 to discuss additions to the Transportation Citizens Committee. Two people were recommended for membership based on district vacancies and bylaws attendance criteria, including:

- Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham
- Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County

Two persons were removed based on attendance requirements. Two persons were given notice that they are close to removal based on attendance.

Dr. Johnny Peebles, III made a motion to add Ms. Brown and Ms. McKenna to the TCC as recommended. Ms. Jackie Dye seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

## **BYLAWS**

Ms. Doris Powell reviewed the TCC bylaws that were amended in March 2009, specifically areas relating to attendance, qualifications, and responsibilities of the TCC and speaking on behalf of the TCC as noted in Article 3 Section 4 Letter D.

Mr. Gilbert Klein asked for further clarification of speaking on behalf of the TCC. Ms. Cynthia Barton explained that only elected officers of the TCC and the RPC Director of Planning can invoke the name of the TCC when discussing any item that can be viewed by the public as a position statement.

## **U.S. DOT TIGER GRANT**

Mr. Al Folcher presented information on the submittal of the In-Town Transit Partnership project to the USDOT for TIGER Grant funding. The Regional Planning Commission submitted a grant request to the USDOT on September 15 for \$65 million to build and operate the ITP system. Mr. Folcher noted that the project is divided into two sections, including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) portion along 18<sup>th</sup> street and the Neighborhood Feeder System that connects Birmingham neighborhoods to the BRT route.

The Neighborhood Feeder will run every 15 minutes during peak travel times and every 30 minutes thereafter from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight every day. Questions were taken from the Committee, including:

- What will the cost be to ride?
  - o The cost to ride will be the same as the BJCTA costs at this time.
- What about permanent funding?
  - o RPC staff is working with members of the Legislature to secure permanent funding beyond 2012.
- What about permanent routes for outer areas?
  - o The TIGER grant money is strictly limited to the City limits of Birmingham.
- Who will operate the BRT portion of the project?
  - o RPC is working with the BJCTA to potentially operate the ITP system.
- Will money be available to the BJCTA to expand service time for regular bus to service to match Neighborhood Feeder service hours?
  - o That would need to be determined by the BJCTA.

Mr. Willie Osborne requested the TCC be kept informed of any changes to the project. Mr. Folcher stated that any changes will go through the Public Involvement process as established by the TCC.

**OTHER**

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

- Transportation Technical Committee, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- I-65 Mobility Matters Steering Committee, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO, October 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

The next meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 12:00 Noon, RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham.

Ms. Jackie Dye applauded the ITP project as a beginning for better transit projects in the MPO area.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman  
Transportation Citizens Committee

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Date

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