



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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October 21, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee

FROM: Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, October 21, 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. 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
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
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
Mr. Steffen Waendelin, South / Southeast Jefferson County

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Mr. Jim Ketchersid, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, RPC
Mr. Steve Ostaseski, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Ms. Laurel Land, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC
Mr. Philip Amthor, RPC
Mr. Tom Maxwell, RPC
Mr. Greg Wingo, RPC
Mr. Robert Smith, Montgomery MPO / City of Montgomery
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT
Mr. Bob Friedman, City of Birmingham Housing
Mr. Courtney Newton, United Way
Ms. Helen Rivas

Chairman Ouida Fritschi called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. David Russell made a motion to approve the September 16, 2009 minutes. Dr. Johnny Peebles, III seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO amended the TIP as recommended by the TCC to include five projects. The MPO 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. The MPO also received an update on the In-Town Transit Partnership Project TIGER Grant application. Awarding of TIGER grants is expected in January. \$56 billion in grant requests were received with only \$1.5 billion available for award. Mr. Foisy noted that at least 50% of the projects were for roads and bridges.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Sub-Committee met October 14, 2009 to review the list of Recovery Act (Stimulus) projects and solicit updates from the project sponsors. The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the bids from five of the higher cost projects. The bids proved to be an average of about 20% less than the project cost estimates. ALDOT must de-obligate these additional funds and the funds must be obligated again before March 2, 2010 or the Birmingham MPO will lose the stimulus funding.

The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the list of existing projects in the TIP and discussed those projects that could be ready for authorization before the March 2010 deadline. As a result of this discussion, the Sub-Committee recommended that the following two projects be added to the list of stimulus projects as alternates:

Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate
Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham CL to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.&Const.	\$4,637,905
Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000

These projects would potentially utilize any de-obligated stimulus funds available. All projects on the original stimulus list would be funded in their entirety before any funds would be allocated to these two alternate projects. The available stimulus funds may not cover 100% of the total project cost for these alternates. All costs that are not covered by stimulus funds would be funded at 80% federal / 20% match under their original funding category. A full list of stimulus projects, including the two proposed alternates, was included in the meeting packet and is included as Attachment 1.

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.

RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. Robert Smith of the Montgomery MPO / City of Montgomery presented a request from the Montgomery MPO to approve a resolution of support for an inter-city rail line from Mobile to

Birmingham. ADECA has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Mobile to Birmingham corridor. Previous north-south service existed in Alabama until 1995. Inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities. The resolution is included as Attachment 2.

The following questions were raised:

1. Q- Do you envision intermediate stops?
A- Yes, but stops would be dictated by demand
2. Q- Are MPO's in North Alabama being asked to do a resolution for their area?
A- Not known. The current resolution would only cover the Birmingham to Mobile route.
3. Q- Will the state be asked to fund this project and if so, would it interfere with transit funding?
A- A request for state funding would depend on the amount raised locally and any funding received would not interfere with transit funds.

Mr. Willie Osborne made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution. Dr. Johnny Peebles III seconded the motion. The motion passed with one no vote.

COLLEGEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD

Mr. Steve Ostaseski and Mr. Phillip Amthor presented a report on the Collegeville Building Communities project. The scope of work for the Collegeville Building Communities Project includes:

Community Assessment

- Identify the strong points or assets of the Collegeville neighborhood. Define the paths to progress for the community and the path to a fully engaged neighborhood.
- Define community assets.
- Map community businesses.
- Map community infrastructure.

Transportation Assessment

- The connectivity, traffic volumes, and accessibility to the neighborhood are important in its successful sustainability. It is important and crucial to examine site connectivity, non-motorized access, and flow between properties, motorized access between and to properties and the opportunities to improve both.
- Site inventory and circulation.
- Roadway assessment.

Scenario Development

The team of the Auburn Urban Design Studio, RPCGB, and the City will host a charrette process to assist in developing concepts for development. The RPCGB will use proven community involvement techniques to develop the community view of the future. The process will concentrate on the assets of the Collegeville neighborhood.

Community Concepts

The team will present to the community multiple concepts that build upon the Collegeville assets. Concepts would most certainly include how the community would build upon Maclin Park, the new Hudson School campus and the Collegeville Center housing.

A follow-up report will be given to the committee once staff meets with the Collegeville community.

NOMINATING / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Doris Powell presented a report from the Nominating / Membership Subcommittee. The Nominating / Membership subcommittee met October 15, 2009 to discuss recommendations for officers for 2010-2011. The committee recommended the following for officers:

Chairman: Ouida Fristchi
Vice-Chairman: Doris Powell

A call was made from the floor for any additional recommendations to be emailed to Cynthia Barton and they will be presented at the November TCC meeting prior to a vote being taken.

Ms. Powell also reviewed the discussion held by the Nominating Committee on ways to recruit new membership for those districts with vacancies. It was agreed that the officers, along with members of the Nominating Committee, will contact local radio stations and ask for airtime to discuss the Committee and invite citizens to attend and join the TCC.

YOU DECIDE 2010

Ms. Cynthia Barton presented a request to the Citizens Committee to submit ideas for meeting topics for the 2010 meetings. Ideas can be emailed to Cynthia at cbarton@rpcgb.org and the topics will be collected for use as agenda items when there is a shortage of discussable items.

OTHER

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

- Transportation Technical Committee, October 28th, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee, October 29th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- 2009 Building Communities Conference, November 5th, McWane Science Center.
- MPO, **Tuesday** November 10th, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

The next meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee will be held **Tuesday** November 17th, 2009, 12:00 Noon, RPC, RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham. It was noted that the meetings for November and December would be moved to the 3rd Tuesday due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date

Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) Project Status Summary

Birmingham MPO - Transportation Improvement Program
FY 2009/2010

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	FY 2009 Project Recovery Act at 100%	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act Funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (new lanes)	\$339,737			Yes			Nov. or Dec.	Air Quality Hot Spot analysis is done - Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - FHWA Environmental approval is pending - Plan to bid in November or December
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from 50th St. to 40th St. (Phase I)	\$2,971,198	\$2,624,716	\$346,482	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion has been cleared by FHWA - Bid on September 25th
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	\$2,900,627	\$805,538	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	with a Finding of No Significant Impact - Bid on September 25th
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement at ALDOT-Div 3 and is pending - Cost increased to \$726,426 as per to bid in December
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital	\$709,929			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100052169	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,057,841			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100053532	RPC/Clastran	Vehicle Acquisition (16 vehicles)	\$784,030	\$784,030	\$0	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Agreement signed on August 12th - RPC has submitted orders for new vehicles to ALDOT - funds authorized September 22nd
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signal/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Plan to bid in January
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	\$1,878,318	\$420,573	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bids came in 20% lower than estimate
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,375,027			Yes			Dec.	Funding Agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Utilities have started relocation - ROW is clear - Plan to bid in December
100042381	Leeds/Jefferson Co.	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	\$5,497,449	\$1,594,010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - ROW is recorded - Utility agreements signed - Bid on September 25th
Total Programmed			\$22,983,937	\$13,685,139	\$3,166,603	Total Authorized:		\$16,851,742		
Total Available			\$22,996,589					73%		

Alternate Stimulus Projects

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100040855	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.	\$1,985,711			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100029490	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Const.	\$2,652,194			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100039930	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000			Yes	Yes		Jan.	

Total of Alternate Projects: \$6,672,905

Stimulus funds available: \$3,179,256

Amount of Alternate project costs currently not funded by Stimulus: \$3,493,649

Note: These alternate projects would be funded with the de-obligated funds available from the original stimulus projects listed above

**RESOLUTION
BIRMINGHAM AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**SUPPORTING RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIRMINGHAM MPO AREA AND
THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the current federal transportation funding bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), was signed into law on August 10, 2005 governing urban transportation planning under the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, and

WHEREAS, the SAFETEA-LU transportation funding bill expired on September 30, 2009 with extensions expected, and a next generation of transportation funding bill will be authored that will promote, encourage and require multi-modal transportation options, advocate for passenger rail transit, and provide for transportation choices for commuters and travelers, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO is designated by the Governor and the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a continuous, cooperative comprehensive transportation planning process for the Birmingham Area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO desires to improve and expand multi-modal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the MPO Area and the State of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby support efforts to develop corridor transportation plans for inter-city passenger rail service in the State of Alabama on a north-south corridor connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization at a meeting held on November 10, 2009.

Kenneth R. "Randy" Cole, Chairman

Date