



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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August 18, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)

FROM: Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2010**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, 12:00 Noon, RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Doris Powell, Vice Chairman, City of Birmingham
Mr. Willie Osborne, City of Birmingham
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Jackie Dye, Shelby County
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham
Mr. Steffen Waendelin, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Nichalaus Sims, West / Southwest Jefferson County

Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Mr. Jeff Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Thelma Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham
Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Ball, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Ms. Cissy Crowe, RPC
Mr. Greg Wingo, RPC
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC
Mr. Shannon O'Dell, RPC
Mr. Tom Maxwell, RPC
Ms. Arianna Blackwell, RPC / Holy Family
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT
Mr. Lou Willie, City of Birmingham
Ms. Marva Douglas, Birmingham
Mr. Willie Terry, Birmingham
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County
Ms. Dannette Ratcliff, ALDOT
Ms. Keri Till, Homewood
Mr. Webb Lyons, Birmingham
Mr. Robert Smith, Birmingham

Vice-Chairman Doris Powell called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Cynthia Barton noted an error in the July 21, 2010 minutes that should correctly read June 16, 2010 minutes, not March 17, 2010 minutes on page 3. Dr. Johnny Peebles III made a motion to approve the July 21, 2010 meeting minutes with the correction. Ms. Peggy Cochran seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a report on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) actions. The MPO approved the Transportation Improvement Program and 2010 Unified Planning Work Program modifications recommended by the TCC. The MPO also received a report on the CommuteSmart Rideshare Annual Report and the U.S. 280 Transit Study.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request from ALDOT to modify the 2008-2011 TIP to include the following project:

ALDOT Requests

BR-1065(0)	100055322	Bridge widening on I-65 over CSX RR & Buxahatchee Creek, South of Exit 228 (Calera Exit)	9/8/2010	PE	6/1/2011	2011	\$674,172	Exempt	Bridge Projects	6
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This project will not add capacity and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Mr. Bruce Ludwig made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Dr. Johnny Peebles III seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Darrell Howard presented the RPC Work Program for review and comment. The TCC was requested to review the projects and provide comments on tasks that can be incorporated into the work program. A detailed list of program areas and projects to be conducted in FY 2011 by the RPC and the ALDOT, including third-party contractors was included in the packet.

Mr. Howard reviewed the seven task areas consistent with the RPC Work Program goals, including:

1. Administration.
2. Data Collection and Analysis.
3. Unified Planning Work Program.
4. Public Involvement.
5. Environmental Mitigation and Streamlining.
6. Transportation Systems.

7. Special Projects and Corridor Management Planning.

The federal funding source for each task area and project was also identified. Total federal funds available for each source are as follows:

1. FHWA PL = \$1,075,273
2. FHWA STP = \$1,593,267
3. FTA 5309 = \$2,332,751
4. FTA 5310, 5316/5317 = \$145,000
5. FHWA CMAQ = \$1,100,000

The MPO is responsible for adoption of the proposed work program including funding sources. The Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee is responsible for programming staff and match dollars in its annual budget for the five funding sources in order to complete the planning projects.

Questions asked in relation to the 2011 UWPW work tasks included:

- In Task 5.1, how much of the money allocated will be used for the voluntary emissions program and repair program?
- Are CMAQ budgets available for viewing?
- Why can't information presented at meetings be given in advance for review?
- Why are the RPC staff tasked with doing work that ALDOT and BJCTA should be doing?

Mr. Scott Tillman noted that the Alabama Partners for Clean Air Steering Committee is responsible for drafting and approving the annual budget for Task 5.1.

Mr. Charles Ball explained the specific timeline in the formulation of the UPWP. Tasks are listed and presented to the committees for review and recommendations before MPO adoption. The RPC Board is then responsible for programming staff and match dollars in the RPC budget.

Dr. Johnny Peebles made a motion to move the 2011 UPWP work tasks forward to the MPO for consideration. Ms. Jackie Dye seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with three persons voting no.

LIVEABLE CITIES SIDEWALKS PROGRAM

Mr. Tom Maxwell presented the first in a series on the Liveable Cities Sidewalks Program. The series of discussions will take place over the next few months and will engage the TCC in discussion of policies for the funding of sidewalk projects.

The MPO utilizes several sources of federal transportation dollars to fund a variety of transportation services and facilities within Jefferson and Shelby Counties. The funding sources were authorized by Congress in the most recent transportation bill, the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act a Legacy for User (SAFETEA-LU).

In addition to roadways, transit, freight, and intermodal facilities, the bill also provides federal funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects at the metropolitan and statewide levels. The MPO is responsible for allocating certain federal transportation funds at the metropolitan level—including Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program (STP). The MPO has “programmed” numerous non-motorized projects including shared use trails, sidewalks, and on-street bikeway improvements documented under their respective funding sources in the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The ALDOT provides local governments other federal transportation funds for non-motorized transportation (a.k.a. bicycle and pedestrian) projects throughout the state. ALDOT’s two primary federal funding sources for non-motorized projects are the Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) programs. Congressional appropriations are also occasionally “earmarked” for specific projects across the state—including some non-motorized projects within the Birmingham metropolitan planning area that neither ALDOT nor the MPO directly awards.

These other federal transportation funding sources are not controlled by the MPO, but the FHWA requires and oversees the coordination between statewide and metropolitan level planning and budgeting all federal aid transportation projects. Therefore, non-motorized projects funded with TE, SRTS, and other congressional appropriations are not subject to any formal review process by the MPO, but the ALDOT must request that these projects be amended to the MPO’s TIP before being officially added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Mr. Maxwell noted that he will look into forming a Bicycle / Pedestrian / Sidewalk Committee to meet quarterly.

Due to time constraints, the presentation scheduled on Sidewalk / Greenway / Pedestrian projects in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan will be given at the September meeting.

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES

Ms. Laurel Land presented a questionnaire for the future of public transportation in relation to door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled. Information received from the questionnaire will be incorporated into the new Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan that is currently being developed.

OTHER

Vice Chairman Doris Powell introduced Mr. Robert Smith of Lawson State to the Committee.

Ms. Judy Gordon asked to change her opposing vote on the 2011 UPWP to a yes vote. The Committee agreed to accept her request.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date

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