



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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November 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)

FROM: Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2010**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 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
Mr. Willie Osborne, City of Birmingham
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County

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Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Mr. Jeff Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Thelma Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County
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. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Steffen Waendelin, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Nichalaus Sims, West / Southwest Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, RPC
Mr. Charles Ball, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Ms. Laurel Land, RPC
Mr. Harry He, RPC
Mr. Marshall Farmer, RPC
Ms. Cissy Crowe, RPC
Ms. Willa Dean Hinson, Leeds Scenic Byways
Mr. Matt Lacke, JCDH
Mr. Richard Smith, Lawson State
Mr. Calvin Rumph, SSA
Ms. Anna Monroe, Alabama AEGIS, Inc.

Chairman Ouida Fritschi called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) actions. The MPO approved a Transportation Improvement Program modification for resurfacing on U.S. 78 and funding for the two-county Resurfacing Program in the amount of \$10 million for FY 2011. The MPO also received an update on the Alabama

Partners for Clean Air program, including information on the Car Care Program, proposed new ozone standards for the 8-hour standard, and the initiatives and projects of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

Chairman Fritschi asked for an update on projects along U.S. 78 West. A \$2.8 million resurfacing project was approved by the MPO in October from I-59 to Cherry Avenue. In addition, U.S. 78 is being widened from I-59 to Finley Boulevard, referenced further in agenda item #4.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented the public involvement documentation for the air quality conformity determination for the 24-hour particulate matter standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and the Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

The meeting documentation included outreach procedures, information presented at the meeting, as well as a summary of comments and questions received. The report can be viewed on line at <http://www.bhammpo.org/upcomingevents.htm>

A question was asked in regards to the estimated emissions (short tons per day) for 2035. Are these estimated numbers? Staff noted that the numbers are projected estimates based on modeling including new measures aimed at reducing emissions, including cleaner vehicles.

There was a committee consensus to concur that the documentation report accurately reflected the results of the public involvement meeting and the report be forwarded to the MPO for adoption.

JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) AND NEW FREEDOM GRANTS

Ms. Laurel Land presented a report from the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Committee. The Committee met on October 26, 2010 to review seven proposals for projects to be funded with Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and/or New Freedom funding. The JARC Program supports the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. Funding under the New Freedom Program is for projects that overcome barriers and/or expand transportation mobility options available to individuals with disabilities.

Proposals were due October 4, 2010. The Committee recommended three projects for funding, including:

- Tender Care Transport - \$32,000 for one lift-equipped vehicle (New Freedom)

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- Aletheia House - \$247,758 (\$182,958 for operation; \$64,800 for three 15-passenger vans) (JARC)
- Lovelady Center - \$64,000 for two 15-passenger vans, one lift-equipped

The estimated balance will be \$800,000 for JARC and \$65,000 for New Freedom after payment to the three agencies.

Questions were asked about the notification to the public for these types of requests for proposals (RFP). Staff noted that this RFP was issued to the MPO Committees as well as the appropriate organizations included in the MPO Public Involvement List prior to the official issue date. The dates of notification included:

September 3, 2010	e-mail to MPO Committees and public involvement organizations
September 3, 2010	posted to MPO website @ www.bhammpo.org
September 7, 2010	supplemental e-mail to MPO Committees and public involvement organizations
September 7, 2010	RPC Connections Newsletter to Contacts list
September 15, 2010	announcement of grant RFP at Transportation Citizens Committee meeting and documentation in minutes.

Additional questions included:

- Did Clastran request funds? (No they did not)
- Why was Yellow Cab's request not recommended? (FTA rules note that taxi companies that provide only exclusive-ride service are not eligible sub recipients; however, they may participate in the New Freedom Program in that exclusive-ride taxi companies can receive funds to purchase accessible taxis).

There was a committee consensus to move the JARC/New Freedom recommendations forward to the MPO for adoption.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee that met on November 3, 2010. Information discussed by the TIP Subcommittee and presented to the TCC included:

Resurfacing Program

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the distribution of funds for the Resurfacing Program and discussed the issue of who would pay for Preliminary Engineering (PE). Several of the Subcommittee members proposed that 5% of the total amount be programmed into a PE phase for each jurisdiction. The PE funds would be used for ALDOT's cost to review and let the

projects, and could potentially be used for the design and engineering costs at the discretion of the project sponsors.

The TIP Subcommittee also reviewed and commented on a letter drafted by Subcommittee members and addressed to Don Vaughn, ALDOT's Chief Engineer and Deputy Director. The purpose of the letter is to consider several modifications to the design and review requirements for the resurfacing projects that will be developed from this program in order to expedite project implementation. The letter was approved by the Subcommittee and will be signed by engineers from all four jurisdictions receiving funds from the program.

Homewood Broadway Street Sidewalk Project

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed a request from the City of Homewood to increase federal funding for a sidewalk project on Broadway Street. The project is programmed for \$172,992 of Surface Transportation Program Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funds. The low bid for the project was higher than the programmed amount. ALDOT has instructed Homewood to obtain MPO approval for an additional \$109,000 of STPBH funds. The TIP Subcommittee discussed the merits of the project and approval was recommended for the funding requests.

Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility

The Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility proposed in McCalla has received a TIGER grant in the amount of \$52.5 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The ALDOT has requested in writing that the project be added to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

In addition to the \$52.5 million from the TIGER grant, the ALDOT has also requested, on behalf of Norfolk Southern, \$8.0 million in Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funding for FY 2011 for supportive automated gate and lift equipment. The RPC noted that a revised dollar amount and timeline for these activities are \$3.35 million in FY 2012 and \$3.22 million in FY 2013.

The TIP Subcommittee agreed to recommend the TIGER grant portion of the project for the current FY 2008-2011 TIP, and to consider the request for supportive automated gate and lift equipment in the development of the FY 2012-2015 TIP, scheduled for the spring of 2011.

Balance of CMAQ Funds

A rescission of nearly \$2.7 million of CMAQ funds in September 2010 has resulted in a negative balance of about \$2 million for the program. The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the current list of CMAQ projects and agreed to move four projects to fiscal year 2012 based on project readiness.

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

FTA3C-5309()	100055845	Section 5309, American Village, Transit, Capital, Construction Project	12/8/2010	TR	1/14/2011	2011	\$417,039	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
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<u>DE-A194()</u>	100055720	Revitalization along SR-75 in the City of Center Point; scope includes: pedestrian lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping at various locations along SR-75	12/8/2010	PE	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,500	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects	12
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These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

<u>APD-0471(534)</u>	100055382	Demolition and structure removal at three locations on SR-4 (Corridor X) from 1.5 miles west of I-65 to SR-3 (US-31)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,200	Non-Exempt	Appalachian Highway System Projects	4
<u>HPP-AL16(900)</u>	100055393	Demolition and structure removal at 13 locations along the Northern Beltline (SR-959) in Pinson from west of SR-79 to east of SR-75	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$69,680	Non-Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
<u>NH-0005(536)</u>	100055397	Demolition and structure removal at 10 locations along SR-5 (US-78) for widening of SR-5 from I-59 to Finley Blvd.(Phase 1)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$73,840	Non-Exempt	National Highway System	3

These projects are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of larger projects which were included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See pages 5C-16 & 17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

<u>CTGR-CMAQ-FAUP-CN11()</u>	100055911	Norfolk Southern Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility, McCalla	12/8/2010	CN	12/15/10	2011	\$52,500,000	Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
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This project is exempt from regional emission analysis since it does not add highway capacity and therefore is not subject to transportation conformity.

Mr. David Russell asked if the Sidewalk Committee was still active. Staff noted that the Sidewalk Committee was a one-time Committee formed to review proposals for a Livable Cities Sidewalk program included in the TIP. If another category for funding of sidewalks is included in the TIP, the Sidewalk Committee will provide review of project proposals. Staff recommended that schools contact RPC for guidance and recommendations for specific programs and potential funds that could be used to fund sidewalks for schools.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the Norfolk Southern environmental study has been completed and can be found at www.mccallacan.com. After discussion, the TCC agreed to move the requests forward to the MPO for adoption with the following concerns on the proposed Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility in McCalla to be addressed:

- Resurfacing of McAshan Drive travelling east from I-59/20.
- Need for interchange improvements at I-59/20 and McAshan Drive.
- Site specific pollution concerns over the amount of daily incoming truck traffic (400-500), though regionally and statewide the amount of truck traffic should be reduced due to transfer of freight to rail.
- Safety (police traffic enforcement for accidents).

OTHER

Mr. David Russell asked if the TCC could submit a letter to the City of Birmingham to encourage additional funding for Transit and Paratransit. Staff noted that a reaffirmation of transit/paratransit plans included in the Regional Transportation Plan can be reviewed with the Committee at the December meeting for use in a letter.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date

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