



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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December 14, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)

FROM: Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2010**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Tuesday, December 14, 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. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham
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
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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Mr. Jeff Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Ms. Thelma Hodgson, North / Northwest Jefferson County
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Ms. Laurel Land, RPC
Ms. Cissy Crowe, RPC
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC
Mr. Jason Howanitz, JCDH
Mr. Richard Smith, Lawson State
Mr. Calvin Rumph, SSA
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT
Mr. Chuck Jeffries, CAC
Mr. Richard Goldstein, CAC

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

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Dr. Johnny Peebles III made a motion to approve the October 2010 TCC minutes. Mr. Willie Osborne seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote. Dr. Johnny Peebles III then made a motion to approve the November 2010 minutes. Mr. Willie Osborne seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a report on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) actions. The MPO approved a Transportation Improvement Program modification for the projects recommended by the TCC at the November meeting, including three demolition projects, one revitalization project along SR 75, and the \$52 million stimulus portion of the Norfolk Southern intermodal facility. The MPO also approved funding the three recommended Jobs Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom grant requests.

TRANSIT FUNDING

Mr. Darrell Howard moderated a discussion on the development of a position statement for transit funding. A question was posed to the TCC asking, "What do you want to tell the City of Birmingham and Financial Planning Partners about transit?"

A question was asked in regards to who exactly are the financial planning partners? It was explained that financial planning partners are anyone subscribing to the BJCTA or contributing to transit services. Financial Planning Partners can include local, state and federal governments as well as certain private investments.

The purpose of the interactive exercise was to receive comments that the TCC could incorporate into a letter to be used as an official response in regards to transit in the MPO area. Attendees were instructed that if they wanted to add a comment / question, they must also include an option for or idea on how to resolve the issue. Questions / comments received included:

1. Why is it not incumbent on these municipalities to pay their bills?
Impose leverage on these cities to pay their bills.
2. Transit officials should not hold the City of Birmingham hostage for transit.
BJCTA should audit the County Commission books to see if all ad valorem taxes have been received that is due to them.
Look at bill passed in the 1980's that authorized tobacco tax dollars to go to transit and make sure that money is being paid.
3. Tell the legislative delegation that the state should fund public transportation with dedicated funding.
Options- Use any combination of sales, property, occupational, vehicle or gas taxes.
4. Jefferson County is suffering from a bill passed in the 90's based on a bill to repeal occupational tax. No governmental interest is being shown to fund transit.
Until the state constitution is rewritten so that all legislators do not have to vote on specific areas, no help is forthcoming.

5. Jefferson County delegation has to stop looking at itself as one entity to fight this. Get Jefferson, Montgomery, Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Madison, and Houston County Delegations to help fight since they are all suffering from the same problem. Join together and show benefits of public transit to rural counties. Educate rural counties. Let them see the benefits of funding for public transit. Let them know it is not just a Birmingham problem.
6. If there is any money in the budget, call a meeting of the legislators together at maybe Boutwell and teach them (maybe February). We need to make them want to come.
7. Montgomery is a central location for all of the delegations. This is not just a Birmingham problem. Meet them in a neutral / common place.

After discussion, the committee decided to ask the MPO staff to draft an open letter to all media outlets and the Jefferson, Montgomery, Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Madison, and Houston County Delegations to show the benefits of public transit to rural counties and let them see the benefits of funding for public transit. Let them know it is not just a Birmingham problem.

Mr. Jason Howanitz recommended that the letter should go through the MPO process so that the municipalities will have an opportunity to concur before it is sent.

Ms. Jackie Dye made a motion for the MPO staff to draft a letter with the questions / comments outline and bring it to the TCC for review before deciding whether to move forward to the MPO for consideration. Mr. Willie Osborne seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date