



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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Jun 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Honorable Tom Henderson, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2009

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Randy Cole, MPO Chairman, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Doug Brewer, MPO Vice Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Honorable Maxine Herring Parker
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Alex Dudchock
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Victor Blackledge
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member
Represented by Mr. Dave Harris
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Honorable Roger McCondichie
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Honorable Doug Brewer
Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Ms. Millie Diliberto
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Carol Smitherman, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Carol Duncan, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Jim Lowery, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Jim Carns, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Steve French, Remaining Voting Representative
Honorable Mike Hill, Remaining Voting Representative
Honorable Barbara Hyché, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Roderick Royal, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member
VACANT, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Chris Lewis, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Sean Saffle, CommuteSmart
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates
Ms. Ginny MacDonald, Birmingham News
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. David Hunke, Shelby County
Mr. Richard Caudle, Skipper Consulting
Mr. Jason Howanitz, JCDH
Mr. Preston Huddleston, MDB
Ms. Christy Calahan, BKI
Mr. William Parker, City of Birmingham
Mr. Doug Hale, City of Birmingham
Mr. Dennis Dickey, City of Birmingham
Ms. Francesca Gross, CAWACO Five-Mile Creek Partnership
Ms. Lacy Genard, CAWACO
Mr. Patrick Welch, CAWACO
Ms. Kelly Burns, CAWACO

MPO Chairman Randy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to approve the April 8, 2009 meeting minutes. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Subcommittee met April 27, 2009 to discuss the process to be used to insure that the 14 projects approved by the MPO for 100% Recovery Act funding are obligated by the March 2, 2010 deadline. A list of the projects was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Howard noted that ALDOT had informed staff that the two BJCTA projects approved by the MPO for Recovery Act funding have already been flexed to the Federal Transit Administration and would

not be eligible for 100% funding. The projects were flexed in March as they were included in the FY 2009 TIP adopted by the MPO in October 2008. The Subcommittee recommended that the FY 2010 BJCTA projects for the same scope of work be substituted for the FY 2009 projects.

Greenlight teams have been established to monitor project development. A copy of the organization and individuals assigned for each project was included in the meeting packet.

The Subcommittee discussed the process for “backfilling” the TIP to replace the Recovery Act projects. In theory this would be \$22.9 million, but project cost refinements for other TIP projects currently indicates a balance of \$18.9 in the federal aid spreadsheets for the Surface Transportation Program (STP Birmingham Attributable) and the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ).

The federal funding rescissions were discussed per the report that Mr. Dave Harris, Federal Highway Administration, provided to the MPO at the April 8, 2009 meeting. SAFETEA-LU rescissions set for September 2009 will amount to \$170 million for the State of Alabama which could significantly impact the unobligated carryover funds for the Birmingham Area estimated at \$45 million for the Surface Transportation Program and \$8 million for the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program. In addition, the FY 2009 Congressional Omnibus Bill will require an additional \$50-\$60 million in rescissions for the State of Alabama.

In consideration of project cost modifications and the likely rescission of TIP funding carryover, the Subcommittee recommended that modifications beyond immediate programming requirements be done later in the fiscal year that would coincide with adoption of the updated Regional Transportation Plan (long-range 2035).

The process for consideration of new TIP projects recommended by local governments will include a resolution of support that expresses:

- (1) Desire to seek federal funds.
- (2) Desired funding amount.
- (3) Understanding that federal funds may not be encumbered until preliminary engineering and final design have been approved by the Alabama Department of Transportation.
- (4) Understanding of the MPO’s Reasonable Progress Policy.
- (5) Commitment to provide match for the funded project phases throughout the life of the TIP.
- (6) Agreement to fund any costs above the finalized project estimate.

The TIP Subcommittee made the following recommendations:

- (1) Modify the Recovery Act projects as follows:
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital, \$ 709,929; substitute project 100050646 for 100050645.
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles, \$1,057,841, substitute project 100052169 for 100052168.
- (2) Add a project to the FY 2010 TIP, Table 13, Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program, for the Birmingham Regional Paratransit Consortium (ClasTran) activities, Birmingham-Jefferson

County Transit Authority as grantee, in the amount of \$3,080,000 federal (\$2,800,000 for operations and \$280,000 for administration at 10%) (\$3,850,000 total cost).

The recommendations have been included as part of the TIP modification chart presented to the MPO for consideration.

Mr. Darrell Howard then presented a list of TIP request modifications, included below:

ALDOT Request- Interstate Maintenance / National Highway System

<u>IM</u>	100053693	I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252)	6/10/09	PE	5/1/2009	2009	\$1,500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053694	I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252)	6/10/09	CN	1/15/2010	2010	\$30,000,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053699	I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass	6/10/09	PE	5/01/2009	2009	\$500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053701	I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass	6/10/09	CN	3/26/2010	2010	\$9,500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>NHF</u>	100053741	Corridor Study for the Elevated Expressway on SR-38 (US-280) from west of I-459 to east of CR-355 (Eagle Point Parkway)	6/10/09	PE	6/01/2009	2009	\$1,000,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3

These requests are for preliminary engineering and construction budgets for reconstruction work and corridor studies and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

ALDOT Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

<u>STMPTOC 5311</u>	100053453	Section 5311 Shelby / Jefferson County Stimulus Class Transit Capital Bus Rolling Stock – ClasTran	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$774,875	Exempt	Surface Transportation STP/ST	1
<u>STMFTA9C 5307</u>	100053617	Section 5307 / 5340 Birmingham Transit Stimulus Support Facilities and Equipment- BJCTA	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$8,694,931	Exempt	Surface Transportation STP/ST	1

These requests are for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

TIP Subcommittee Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

<u>STMBH</u>	100050646	BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$709,929	Exempt	Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham	1
<u>STMBH</u>	100052169	BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$1,057,841	Exempt	Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham	1

These requests are substituting project numbers 100050646 for 100050645 and 100052169 for 100052168 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Mr. Lance Taylor noted that the reconstruction projects included removing of CRCP concrete and replacing with a higher quality concrete.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to modify the TIP to include the projects as requested. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE – RECOVERY ACT FUNDING

Mr. Darrell Howard reviewed a copy of the Federal Register dated May 18, 2009 that included a notice of funding availability for supplemental discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) totaling \$1.5 billion. This is a national notice with potential for 100% eligible funding for projects with a minimum cost of \$20 million. Applications are due by September 15, 2009 with selection by early January 2010. Projects will then need to be completed within a three-year time period. The RPC will be submitting a request for around \$60 million for the In-Town Transit Project. More information will be provided to the MPO as it is made available.

RIDESHARE PROGRAM

Mr. Sean Saffle gave a presentation on the CommuteSmart Rideshare 2008 Annual Report. Information presented included:

- History of the CommuteSmart Program
- Ridematching database with over 9,400 commuters
- 7,310,492 Vehicle miles reduced
- Incentives programs- Get Green and Commuter Club
- Emergency Ride Home Program
- Vanpool program statistics with 38 vanpools at the end of 2008
- In the News publicity with 119 media placements with an advertising equivalency value of \$1.2 million
- CommuteSmart Partnerships with 77 companies and organizations

Mr. Saffle asked attendees to contact him if they knew of companies that might be interested in the CommuteSmart program.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a status report on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Information presented included:

- Project Prioritization
- Financial Assumptions
- MPO Recommendations and Actions
- Next Steps

Project prioritization included goals based planning and needs identification. The three goals are Transportation System Sustainability, Transportation system Integration and Connectivity, and Community Driven. Needs Identification included congested conditions, high crash locations and freight volumes.

Financial Assumptions included information on federal funds assumed for future use. The overall funding split of money will be 51% capacity/capital projects and 49% operations and maintenance activities. The funding assumptions, developed by the Federal Highway Administration and the ALDOT, are based on historic authorizations and how the money has been spent in the past

Mr. Howard noted that there are three challenges to face in the financial assumptions. Challenge #1 is balancing the RTP. The overall RTP budget is over programmed by \$1.2 billion. Challenge #2 is balancing the capacity program. The RTP capacity program budget is over programmed by \$2.1 billion. Challenge #3 is increasing the operations and maintenance program which is under programmed by \$980 million. This could change due to new EPA non-attainment designations. CMAQ dollars could be divided between five areas in Alabama.

Recommendations and / or proposed actions for the capacity program (Surface Transportation Program - Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Change Project Scopes
- Increase Local Match Requirement
- State Funded Projects
- Move Projects from Fiscally Constrained to Visionary
- Remove Projects

Recommendations and/or proposed actions for the Operations and Maintenance Program (Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Place more emphasis on Operations Strategies
 - o Regional Signal Timing Project
 - o Incident Management Activities
 - o Traveler Information
 - o ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan Update

Additional actions include establishing generalized funding pots for the following:

- Non-Motorized Travel
- Smart Corridors
- Bottleneck Relief
- Travel Demand Management
- Transportation System Maintenance

Next steps include identifying and securing long-term funding. Regional Transportation Funding Source ideas include:

- Identify new revenue sources
- Exercise existing revenue sources
- Promote activities that encourage changes in behavior.

Questions were raised about the programming of the Finley Boulevard Extension in the Plan. Mr. Howard explained that Phase I of the project is included in the financially constrained element of the Plan while Phases II and III are included in the visionary element of the Plan. This is due to the increased costs of the project (\$80 million total) and the limited amount of Surface Transportation Program funds attributable to the Birmingham Area for new highway capacity projects (\$155 million). Projects in the visionary element can still obtain funding with earmarks, additional MPO allocations, or local funds. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker reiterated the need for the Finley project and that the citizens of the area deserved for this project to be funded. Mr. Howard referred the Finley project to the TIP Subcommittee for further review and funding consideration.

OTHER

Ms. Francesca Gross of the CAWACO Five-Mile Creek Greenway Partnership introduced three interns that will be working in the MPO area on environmental and water quality issues. Mr. Darrell Howard noted that the RPC has employed an intern for the summer as well who will be working on transportation, bicycle/pedestrian, and other tasks related to the RTP.

A flyer was included in the meeting packet requesting everyone interested in receiving air quality alert notice to sign up at <http://birmingham.enviroflash.info>.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

TH:cb
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APPROVED:

Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary

Date