



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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July 08, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Honorable Tom Henderson, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
July 08, 2009

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, July 08, 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. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, 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
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Martha Espy
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Ray Hamilton
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Victor Blackledge
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Honorable Doug Brewer
Honorable Carol Duncan, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Harhonda Pinkney
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Chief William Hewitt
Mr. Chris Lewis, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Evan Williams
Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Andy Williams
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Jim Byram
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Represented by Mr. Harry Still

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Honorable Carol Smitherman, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Jim Lowery, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
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 Hyche, 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

Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
VACANT, District 1, City of Birmingham

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Ray Morris, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Tom Maxwell, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Carmen Mays, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. David Hunke, Shelby County
Ms. Christy Cahalan, BKI
Mr. Doug Hale, City of Birmingham
Ms. Carol Lewis, League of Women Voters
Mr. Bob Norcross, URS Corporation
Mr. Al Folcher, TTC
MS. Becky White, Sain Associates
Mr. Matt Lacke, Jefferson County Department of Health
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA
Ms. Alison Putman, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Pascal Caputo, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Kevin Owens, City of Birmingham

MPO Chairman Randy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to approve the June 10, 2009 meeting minutes. Mayor Doug Brewer seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Cole introduced Mr. Mike Kaczorowski to the committee. Mr. Kaczorowski is the newest planner with the RPC, replacing Mary Grace Lewandowski, who left moved to St. Louis several months back. Mr. Kaczorowski is an Engineer with a planning background and comes to the RPC from the Utah Department of Transportation.

IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Darrell Howard gave a brief history of the In-Town Transit Partnership project before presenting a five-minute simulation video for the In-Town Transit Partnership Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT) that will be included as part of a discretionary grant request for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. The simulation was officially unveiled at the Operation New Birmingham meeting held June 25, 2009.

Information was also presented on the grant application process for the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program (Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Public transportation projects are eligible. The In-Town Transit Partnership project will be submitted for consideration, with a total project cost of \$65 million being requested. The costs include the BRT system, 12 BRT vehicles, street improvements, maintenance facility and 20 connector buses.

Mr. Al Folcher discussed the potential projects that were highlighted in the video and noted that some projects are strictly visionary at this time, but others are doable and will be done provided the project is approved for funding. Mr. Folcher noted that the connector routes were recommended by citizens groups and others in each of the communities selected. Resolutions of support for the grant application are being sought.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a revised schedule for review and adoption of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

The preliminary adoption schedule was reviewed. It is subject to change dependent upon completion of the air quality conformity report and review and concurrence by the Interagency Air Group.

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- July 8, 2009 - Interagency Consultation (IAC) Call
IAC group to review both RTP conformity documentation and financial plan and approve MPO to conduct public involvement
- August 19, 2009 - TCC meeting
Distribution of information to be presented at the public involvement meeting
- August 26, 2009 - TTC meeting
Distribution of information to be presented at the public involvement meeting
- August 27, 2009 - MPO Subcommittee
Distribution of information to be presented at the public involvement meeting and call for public involvement meeting
- September 16, 2009 - TTC meeting
RTP Public Involvement Meeting @ Citizen's Committee meeting
- October 6, 2009 - End of 21 day comment period
- October 21, 2009 - TCC meeting
Public Involvement documentation presented

- October 28, 2009 - TTC meeting
Public Involvement documentation presented
- October 29, 2009 - MPO Subcommittee
Accept Public Involvement documentation and send PI, RTP (2035), and Functional Plan Documents to MPO for adoption
- November 10, 2009 - MPO meeting
Formal adoption of PI, RTP (2035), and Functional Plan Documents

At the request of Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, a documentary video titled "Trained In" was shown to the Committee. The video discusses the Collegeville neighborhood and the hardships of being surrounded by railroad tracks on all sides. The Finley Boulevard Extension project is designed to bridge over the tracks and give residents and others a way in and out of the neighborhood.

Mr. Howard announced an Alabama DOT public involvement meeting to be held for the Finley Boulevard Extension. This meeting will be held on July 23rd at 4:00 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church.

OTHER

Information was included in the packet on the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009 from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This information is dated June 18, 2009 and addresses the need for fundamental reform and increased investment, the crisis in the highway trust fund, transformational reforms in the Surface Transportation Authorization Act, and future transportation investment needs.

Mr. Foisy discussed the federal funding rescissions related to the Transportation Improvement Program that are expected. Rescissions have already been made to the CMAQ funding and rescissions to the STPBH funds are expected before September 30, 2009. The TIP Subcommittee will be working to rebalance the TIP in light of the rescissions already made.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

TH:cb
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APPROVED:

Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary

Date