



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

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
**FROM:** Honorable Tom Henderson, Secretary /s/  
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2009**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover  
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

## **MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County  
Represented by David Hunke  
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Mr. Ken Boozer

Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Andy Mayo, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Carol Smitherman, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Lamford Johnson  
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis  
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Mr. Evan Williams  
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mr. Jim Byram  
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative  
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor  
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Mr. Chris Cook  
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie  
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Iris Kimbrough  
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster  
Represented by Mr. Harry Still  
Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Ms. Millie Diliberto  
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Sedrick Rutledge  
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham  
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne  
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Victor Blackledge

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Honorable Jim Lowery, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Carol Duncan, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Jim Carns, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County  
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member  
Honorable Steve French, Remaining Voting Representative  
Honorable Mike Hill, Remaining Voting Representative  
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
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  
VACANT, District 1, City of Birmingham  
VACANT, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Yvonne Murray, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Robert Smith, City of Montgomery, Montgomery MPO  
Mr. Kevin Owens, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Doris Powell, Transportation Citizens Committee  
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover  
Mr. Camilo Fuller, City of Bessemer  
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates  
Mr. Preston Huddleston, CDG

MPO Chairman Randy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

### **INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Mr. Rod Long made a motion to approve the October 14, 2009 meeting minutes. Mayor Doug Brewer seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Sub-Committee met on October 14, 2009 to review the list of Recovery Act (Stimulus) projects and solicit updates from the project sponsors. The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the bids from five of the higher cost projects. The bids proved to be an average of about 20% less than the project cost estimates. ALDOT must de-obligate these additional funds and the funds must be obligated again before March 2, 2010 or the Birmingham MPO will lose the stimulus funding.

The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the list of existing projects in the TIP and discussed those projects that could be ready for authorization before the March 2010 deadline. As a result of this discussion, the Sub-Committee, with recommendations from the Transportation Technical and Citizens Committees, recommended that the following two projects be added to the list of stimulus projects as alternates:

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Cost Estimate</b>
Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham CL to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.&Const.	\$4,637,905
Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000

These projects would potentially utilize any de-obligated stimulus funds available. All projects on the original stimulus list would be funded in their entirety before any funds would be allocated to these two alternate projects. The available stimulus funds may not cover 100% of the total project cost for these alternates. All costs that are not covered by stimulus funds would be funded at 80/20% under their original funding category. A full list of stimulus projects, including the two proposed alternates, was included in the meeting packet and is included as Attachment 1.

Mr. David Hunke noted that the Transportation Technical Committee unanimously approved the request, with clarification on the bid process in which the utilities and construction elements for the Jefferson Avenue project would be combined. Ms. Doris Powell noted that the Transportation Citizens Committee approved the request as well.

Mr. Rod Long made a motion to approve the TIP modification. Mayor Doug Brewer seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION**

Mr. Robert Smith of the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery MPO presented a report on a request from the Montgomery MPO to approve a resolution of support for an inter-city rail line from Mobile to Birmingham. ADECA has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Mobile to Birmingham corridor. Previous north-south service existed in Alabama until 1995. Inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities.

Mr. Smith included historical information on Amtrak and its service in his presentation including the following facts:

- Amtrak runs over 21, 000 miles of track
- There are 28.7 million riders annually
- Six years of steady increase in ridership

- No passenger service without public support
- 71% of tracks used by Amtrak are owned by other freight companies

The TCC and TTC supported the resolution. Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Tom Magee seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

The resolution is included as Attachment 2.

### **IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Mr. Charles Ball presented information on the In-Town Transit Partnership Bus Rapid Transit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that is currently being advertised. The purpose of the RFQ is to solicit proposals from a professional consultant with extensive knowledge and experience in project management, design and construction of a Bus Rapid Transit solution for urban mobility. A question and answer forum was held on November 4, 2009 at the RPC to answer any questions. Proposals are due November 23, 2009. The goal is to be ready for a request for proposal upon grant award notification.

### **MPO NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mayor Doug Brewer presented a report from the MPO Nominating Committee. Members of the Committee in attendance included:

Mayor Doug Brewer, Committee Chairman, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Randy Cole MPO Chairman, (ex-officio), Shelby County  
Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Mayor Melanie Bouyer, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County

Recommendations for MPO Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary for 2010-2011 are as follows:

Chairman	Mayor Doug Brewer
Vice Chairman	Mayor Tom Henderson
Secretary	Mr. Wayne Sullivan

A vote will be taken at the next MPO meeting.

### **OTHER**

Chairman Randy Cole reviewed a list of meetings of interest to the MPO.

- Citizens Committee meeting for Tuesday November 17, 2009, 12 p.m., RPC
- Technical Committee Wednesday November 18, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. or 12 p.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting, November 19, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday), 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

TH:cb  
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**APPROVED:**

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Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Secretary

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Date

Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) Project Status Summary  
Birmingham MPO - Transportation Improvement Program  
FY 2009/2010

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	FY 2009 Project Recovery Act at 100%	Final Bid Amount + 15%	Recovery Act Funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreement Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of November 9th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (new lanes)	\$339,737			Yes			Jan	Air Quality Hot Spot analysis is done - Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - FHWA Environmental approval is pending - Waiting for utility clearances - Plan to bid in January
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from 50th St. to 40th St. (Phase D)	\$2,971,198	\$2,624,716	\$346,462	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion has been cleared by FHWA - Bid on September 29th
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	\$2,900,627	\$805,538	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Utility relocations will need to be completed - Environmental Assessment is clear with a Finding of No Significant Impact - Bid on September 29th
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement at ALDOT-Div 3 and is pending - Cost increased to \$726,426 as per Birmingham's request - Environmental is clear with a Programmatic C&E - Plan to bid in December
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital	\$709,929			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Plan the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th - ALDOT submitted fund transfer to FHWA on Nov. 9th
100052169	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,057,841			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Plan the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th - ALDOT submitted fund transfer to FHWA on Nov. 9th
100053532	RPC/Clastran	Vehicle Acquisition (16 vehicles)	\$784,030	\$784,030	\$0	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Agreement signed on August 12th - RPC has submitted orders for new vehicles to ALDOT - funds authorized September 22nd
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topic Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signal/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053			Yes	Yes		Jan	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Plan to bid in January
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topic Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	\$1,878,318	\$420,573	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bids come in 20% lower than estimate
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,375,027			Yes			Dec	Funding Agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Utilities have started relocation - ROW is clear - Plan to bid in December
100042381	Leeds/Jefferson Co.	Rax Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	\$5,497,449	\$1,594,010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - ROW is recorded - Utility agreements signed - Bid on September 29th
<b>Total Programmed</b>			\$21,983,937	\$13,685,139	\$3,166,603	<b>Total Authorized:</b>		\$16,851,742		
<b>Total Available</b>			\$22,996,589					73%		

Alternate Stimulus Projects

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate	Final Bid Amount + 15%	Recovery Act funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreement Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 18th)
100040855	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II)	\$4,637,905			Yes	Yes		Jan	
100039930	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000			Yes	Yes		Jan	
<b>Total of Alternate Projects:</b>			\$6,672,905							
<b>Stimulus funds available:</b>			\$3,179,256							
<b>Amount of Alternate project costs currently not funded by Stimulus:</b>			\$3,493,649							

\*\* Includes the de-obligated funds (\$3,196,603) plus the \$12,652 that has not been programmed as a result of previous tranche (\$22,996,589 minus \$22,983,937)

Note: These alternate projects would be funded with the de-obligated funds available from the original stimulus projects listed above

**RESOLUTION**  
**BIRMINGHAM AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**  
**SUPPORTING RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIRMINGHAM MPO AREA AND THE**  
**STATE OF ALABAMA**

**WHEREAS**, the current federal transportation funding bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), was signed into law on August 10, 2005 governing urban transportation planning under the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, and

**WHEREAS**, the SAFETEA-LU transportation funding bill expired on September 30, 2009 with extensions expected, and a next generation of transportation funding bill will be authored that will promote, encourage and require multi-modal transportation options, advocate for passenger rail transit, and provide for transportation choices for commuters and travelers, and

**WHEREAS**, the Birmingham MPO is designated by the Governor and the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a continuous, cooperative comprehensive transportation planning process for the Birmingham Area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the Birmingham MPO desires to improve and expand multi-modal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the MPO Area and the State of Alabama, and

**WHEREAS**, inter-city passenger rail service on a north-south corridor in Alabama connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama, generally along I-65, existed until 1995, and

**WHEREAS**, the I-65 corridor includes the two counties, Baldwin and Shelby, with the largest percentage increase in population in Alabama between 2000 and 2008, and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Birmingham to Mobile corridor, and

**WHEREAS**, inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby support efforts to develop corridor transportation plans for inter-city passenger rail service in the State of Alabama on a north-south corridor connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization at a meeting held on November 10, 2009.

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Kenneth R. "Randy" Cole, Chairman

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Date