



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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January 13, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Secretary /s/
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m., in the RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Doug Brewer, MPO Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Vice Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
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 Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable Bobby Humphryes, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
 Represented by Ms. Harriett Williams
Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
 Represented by David Hunke
Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
 Mr. Andy Mayo, City of Birmingham
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
 Represented by Mr. Evan Williams
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
 Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
 Represented by Mr. George Henry
Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
 Represented by Ms. Millie Diliberto
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
 Represented by Honorable Bob Saunders
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Griffin Lassiter
Mr. Guin Robinson, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative
 Represented by Ms. Doris Powell
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
 Represented by Mr. Randy Cole

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Johnathan Austin, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable LaShunda Scales, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jim Carns, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Barbara Hyche, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena
Honorable Steve French, Remaining Voting Representative

Honorable Mike Hill, Remaining Voting Representative
Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member
VACANT, District 1, City of Birmingham

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Yvonne Murray, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC
Mr. Marshall Farmer, RPC
Mr. Kevin Owens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates
Mr. Preston Huddleston, CDG
Mr. Doug Hale, City of Birmingham
Mr. Forrest Davis, City of Bessemer
Mr. David Ricker, City of Birmingham
Mr. Victor Blackledge, City of Birmingham
Chief William Hewitt, City of Tarrant
Mr. Frank Mays, City of Center Point
Mr. John Baker, Norfolk Southern
Honorable Butch Zaragoza, City of Vestavia Hills
Mr. Matthew Burgess, CDG
Mr. Lee Cochran, Norfolk Southern
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Zak Robertson, EDT
Ms. Rhonda Siserir, BJCTA
Mr. Bob Portera, Neel Schaffer
Mr. Al Folcher, Vestavia Hills
Ms. Ginny MacDonald, Birmingham News
Ms. Chandra Abesingha, CEA Associates
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA
Ms. Janice Anderson, City of Midfield
Mr. Kevin Fouts, City of Leeds

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

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to approve the November 10, 2009 meeting minutes. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

MPO Vice Chairman Doug Brewer presented the recommendations from the Nominating Committee for MPO officers for 2010-2011. The Nominating Committee included:

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

The committee made the following recommendations for officers:

Mayor Doug Brewer	MPO Chairman
Mayor Thomas Henderson	MPO Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne Sullivan	MPO Secretary

With no additional recommendations for officers from the floor, Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Bobby Humphryes seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote. Mayor Melton then made a motion to approve the recommendation for officers for 2010-2011. Commissioner Bobby Humphryes seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

FY 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Alabama Department of Transportation issued a directive noting that any capital expenditures above \$5,000 must be included in the Work Program as a line item. Thus, the RPC requested the MPO to modify Task 1.0 Subtask F for the FY 2010 UPWP PL (Planning) tasks to include the following line item:

1. ESRI GIS Software Products - \$8,500

The cost includes software updates and licensing fees and is included in the overall budget cost for the year.

The MPO Subcommittee, upon recommendations from the Transportation Citizens and Technical Committees, recommended approval. Commissioner Bettye Fine Collins made a motion to approve the UPWP modification. Mayor Doug Brewer seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee which met on December 14, 2009.

Recovery Act Projects

The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the list of Recovery Act (Stimulus) projects and solicited updates from the project sponsors. To date, \$19,345,938 (85%) of the \$22,996,589 stimulus funds have been obligated. The remaining projects are planned to be obligated by January 15, 2010. However, as discussed in previous meetings, due to low bids (averaging about 20% less than the project cost estimates), over \$3 million will be de-obligated by the ALDOT. These de-obligated funds must be obligated again before March 2, 2010 or the Birmingham MPO will lose the stimulus funding.

On October 14, 2009, the MPO approved the use of the de-obligated funds for the following two projects:

Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate
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

The TIP Sub-Committee discussed the appropriate distribution of de-obligated stimulus funds (estimated at \$3,166,603). As a result of this discussion, the utility portions of both the Jefferson Avenue-Phase II project and the Chapel Lane Extension project will be obligated in their entirety.

In addition, the construction portion of the Jefferson Avenue-Phase II project will receive all de-obligated stimulus funds after bids are received on the remaining projects, as well as all funds from the stimulus projects that fail to be obligated before the March 2nd deadline. A full list of the Recovery Act projects and a status summary of each project is included as Attachment 1.

Rebalance FY2008-2011 TIP – Rescission

In a December 2, 2009 letter, ALDOT announced an FY2009 rescission for the following amounts:

- Surface Transportation Program-Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) -\$8,099,986.
- CMAQ -\$99,395.

The rescission results in a negative balance in STPBH funds in the amount of -\$4,257,829. The RPC

solicited recommendations from the TIP Sub-Committee on how to rebalance the STPBH funds. The TIP Sub-Committee recommended that the rebalancing be conducted at the next TIP Sub-Committee meeting (mid-January) and that the following information be provided:

- The annual STPBH apportionment be confirmed given Congressional appropriations.
- Additional information be gathered on the status of STPBH projects.

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

ALDOT Requests

<u>STMAA-TE09(974)</u>	10005427 2	Sidewalks along Ballpark Rd. from Bearden Rd. to US-31 in the City of Pelham.	1/13/2010	CN	12/15/2009	2010	\$214,607.25	Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2
<u>STMAA-STPAA 72730</u>	10005472 2	Resurface CR-2133 (Deerfoot Parkway) from SR-7 (US-11) to I-59	1/13/2010	CN	3/26/2010	2010	\$265,000	Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2

These requests are for a sidewalk and a resurfacing project and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

<u>STMAA-STPAA 71120</u>	100054742	Widen and resurface CR-17 from approximately 85 feet north of CR-270 to 125 feet south of Lacey Ave. – includes bridge replacement at Beaverdam Creek	1/13/2010	UT	12/1/2009	2010	\$265,000.00	Non-Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2
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This request is for utilities for a widening project (2 to 5 lanes) and is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. The project is within the limits of project, 100000074 on page A-13 of the 2030 LRTP and modeled in air quality conformity analysis year 2025.

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

CRESCENT CORRIDOR INTERMODAL FREIGHT PROJECT

Mr. John Baker of Norfolk Southern presented a request to the MPO for support of the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project. Included in the meeting packet was the following information:

1. Request letter from Mr. John Baker, Norfolk Southern Corporation.
2. Report entitled “The Crescent Corridor: A Broad Perspective.
3. Support letters from other agencies and governments in the corridor.
4. PowerPoint slides for the presentation by Norfolk Southern representatives.
5. Proposed resolution of support from the MPO, written by the RPC staff.

Mr. Lee Cochran from Norfolk Southern presented information on the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project, including the following:

Goals of the Presentation

- To describe the Crescent Corridor
- To listen and answer questions
- To request support from the BRPC for the five state Crescent Corridor TIGER application

What is Intermodal?

Two or more modes of transportation for the continuous movement of freight from origin shipper to destination receiver, usually in a container.

What moves intermodally?

- Automotive – 8%
- Building Materials – 7%
- Finished Goods – 7%
- Food – 23%
- Household Goods – 14%
- Paper – 5%
- Retail – 36%

Crescent Corridor Program

- 2,500 mile network linking the South and the Northeast to provide truckers with high-quality rail intermodal service.
- A group of stand alone individual terminal and route projects that collectively can divert over one million truckloads from our interstate highways.
- The Crescent Corridor Program will reduce highway congestion and bring economic benefits and jobs to the communities it serves.
- Proposed as a public-private partnership, this program has support from the Governors of Alabama, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Mississippi.

The Crescent Corridor will serve as an engine of economic growth:

- 3,600 direct construction-related full time equivalent jobs.
- 23,000 construction-related full time equivalent jobs from at risk and potentially benefited industrial expansions.
- 56% of Crescent TIGER funding will occur within economically distressed areas.
- 73,000 jobs created or benefited by 2030.
- \$40 billion in cumulative economic impact from 2009 – 2030.

Crescent at full development will annually deliver:

- \$1 billion in Logistics Savings.
- \$146 million in Safety Savings.
- 1.9 million tons of CO2 eliminated.
- \$90 million in Highway Maintenance Savings.
- \$575 million in Congestion Savings.
- 170 million gallons in Fuel Savings.
- \$2 billion in Total Monetized Public Benefits.

Mr. Cochran reviewed the highway capacity consumption of truck traffic. Mr. Cochran also reviewed the benefits of the Virginia Inland Port Front Royal, Virginia Intermodal Facility, including:

- Intermodal Facility opened in 1989.
- ¼ size of proposed McCalla Facility.
- Companies locating near VIP since opening.
 - Investment over \$600 million
 - Over 6 million square feet of buildings
 - Employing over 7,000

Mr. Cochran reviewed the Intermodal Project Employment Impact Analysis including the number of permanent jobs projected by 2020, construction “job-year” equivalent positions, and cumulative impacts, both economic and revenue.

Mr. Cochran reviewed information pertaining to the McCalla site, including:

- Next to the Norfolk Southern mainline.
- Sufficient site size and configuration.
- Favorable topography.
- Close to the customer base.
- Close to I-20/59.
- Sufficient distance from grade crossings.
- Avoids or minimizes wetland and stream impacts.

Mr. Cochran reviewed the traffic impact study conducted by Skipper Consulting noting the anticipated minimal impact. It was noted that ALDOT is also conducting a traffic study for which funds were approved by the MPO in October.

Mr. Cochran reviewed the draft air quality analysis for the McCalla project. Information included the following:

- Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility will neither cause or contribute to a violation of any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).
- NAAQS are established by EPA to protect the public health, including children, asthmatics, sensitive groups and the elderly.
- Based on EPA-developed models.
- Assumed maximum continuous facility operation.
- Used 5-years of meteorological data (43,800 hrs).
- Maximum predicted impact: Facility Impact + Ambient Background < NAAQS.
- Details will be available in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment, as required by NEPA.

Committee members representing Jefferson County, the Birmingham City Council, and Alabaster provided comments and questions for Norfolk Southern Representatives, Mayor Ed May, City of Bessemer, noted his support of the project, but was concerned about grade crossings delays in Bessemer proper given additional train traffic due to the intermodal facility. Norfolk Southern representatives noted that grade crossings will not be affected as only two additional trains will be

added to the line and that any existing delays at existing grade crossings could be addressed through operations and dispatching adjustments. Mr. Baker offered to meet with Mayor May to review this issue.

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer reviewed the proposed resolution of support that includes three conditions for approval that must be met, including:

- (1) That the Interagency Air Group, composed of representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, the Jefferson County Department of Health, and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, determine, through the results of a Technical Memorandum concerning the PM2.5 Air Quality Impact Analysis for the proposed Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility, that emissions from the proposed Birmingham project do not cause or contribute to any new localized violations or increase the frequency or severity of air quality nonattainment.
- (2) That the Traffic Study accessing the proposed Norfolk Southern Railroad yard, for which funds were approved by the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization on October 14, 2009, adequately assesses the traffic impacts of the proposed intermodal facility and provides recommendations to mitigate impacts.
- (3) That the Environmental Document for the proposed project, which includes assessments of air, traffic and other environmental impacts, and is being coordinated by the Alabama Department of Transportation in an announced letter dated July 17, 2009, be approved by the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Chairman Brewer noted that the resolution was recommended by the Transportation Citizens and Technical Committees, and the MPO Subcommittee. Commissioner Bettye Fine Collins made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Delor Bauman seconded the motion. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker asked if the resolution takes into consideration the grade crossing delay raised by the City of Bessemer. Staff responded no, unless the environmental document determined that grade crossing delays in Bessemer proper would be affected by the intermodal terminal. The motion passed on a voice vote. The resolution is included as attachment 2.

OTHER

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

- Transportation Citizens Committee, January 20, 2010, 12 p.m. noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee, Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC. Meeting day changed due to RPC Annual Meeting.
- 2010 RPC Annual Conference, January 27, 2010, The Club.
- MPO Subcommittee, January 28, 2010, RPC.

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer and Mr. Bill Foisy presented an honorarium to Mr. Randy Cole for his service to the MPO as Chairman for 2008-2009.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

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APPROVED:

Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

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 Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of December 14th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (turn lanes)	\$339,737			Yes			Jan.?	Funding agreement is signed - Waiting for utility clearances - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - FHWA Environmental approval is pending
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from 50th St. to 40th St. (Phase I)	\$2,971,198	\$2,624,716	\$346,482	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bid on September 25th
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	\$2,900,627	\$805,538	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bid on September 25th
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426	\$761,742	\$0	Yes	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 CatEx - bid on December 4th
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital	\$709,929	\$709,929	\$0	n/a	Yes	Yes	n/a	RPC request to Flex funds sent to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th - ALDOT submitted fund transfer to FHWA on Nov. 6th - FHWA transferred funds to FTA on Nov. 23rd - ALDOT confirmed funds are obligated
100052169	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,057,841	\$1,057,841	\$0	n/a	Yes	Yes	n/a	RPC request to Flex funds sent to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th - ALDOT submitted fund transfer to FHWA on Nov. 6th - FHWA transferred funds to FTA on Nov. 23rd - ALDOT confirmed funds are obligated
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 Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signals/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Plan to bid in January
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	\$1,878,318	\$420,573	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bid in August, 2009
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering are in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Plan to bid in January
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering are in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Plan to bid in January
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,375,027			Yes			Jan.	issues with Utility relocation - ROW is clear - Plan to bid in January
100042381	Leeds/Jefferson	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	\$5,497,449	\$1,594,010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bid on September 25th - under construction
Total Programmed			\$22,983,937	\$16,214,651	\$3,166,603			Total Authorized: \$19,345,938		
Total Available			\$22,996,589					84%		

Alternate Stimulus Projects

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate	Final Bid Amount + 15%	Recovery Act funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of December 14th)
100040855	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) Util. & Const.	\$4,637,905			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100039930	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
Total of Alternate Projects:			\$6,672,905							
Stimulus funds available:			\$3,179,256							
Amount of Alternate project costs currently not funded by Stimulus:			\$3,493,649							

=> includes the de-obligated funds (\$3,166,603) plus the \$12,652 that has not been programmed as a result of previous transfers (\$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 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**SUPPORTING NORFOLK SOUTHERN CRESCENT CORRIDOR INTERMODAL FREIGHT
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Program centers on the continued development of a faster more efficient rail intermodal route for a distance of 2,500 miles from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic including terminal host cities of Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta, Charlotte, Knoxville, Roanoke, Greencastle, Harrisburg, Bethlehem, Philadelphia and Northern New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, Cambridge Systematics has made a corridor-wide assessment for long-term outcomes concerning economic benefits and job creation, sustainability including vehicle miles traveled eliminated from highways and public environmental benefits, and safety, and

WHEREAS, \$15 million is proposed to be spent statewide in Alabama on capital projects that would increase speed and upgrade tracks, and

WHEREAS, intermodal facilities are proposed to be expanded or developed in Memphis, Birmingham, Franklin County, Harrisburg and Philadelphia, and

WHEREAS, a \$112 million, 165 acre intermodal facility is proposed to be constructed in Birmingham consisting of pad and support tracks, trailer and container parking areas, lead tracks, and related ancillary buildings and features to perform a projected 165,000 annual lifts, and

WHEREAS, the draft 2035 Regional Transportation Plan for the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area includes a Freight Transportation Element, and

WHEREAS, one of the leading issues cited in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan is the proliferation of large trucks using the major highway system, and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan and Regional Planning Organizations along the Crescent Corridor have provided letters of support, and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern Corporation, in a letter dated November 23, 2009, has requested that the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization provide a resolution of support for the Crescent Corridor Project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby support efforts to develop the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Program from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic, with the following conditions:

- (1) That the Interagency Air Group, composed of representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, the Jefferson County Department of Health, and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, determine, through the results of a Technical Memorandum concerning the PM2.5 Air Quality Impact Analysis for the proposed Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility, that emissions from the proposed Birmingham project do not cause or contribute to any new localized violations or increase the frequency or severity of air quality nonattainment.
- (2) That the Traffic Study accessing the proposed Norfolk Southern Railroad yard, for which funds were approved by the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization on October 14, 2009, adequately assesses the traffic impacts of the proposed intermodal facility and provides recommendations to mitigate impacts.
- (3) That the Environmental Document for the proposed project, which includes assessments of air, traffic and other environmental impacts, and is being coordinated by the Alabama Department of Transportation in an announced letter dated July 17, 2009, be approved by the appropriate state and federal agencies.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization at a meeting held on January 13, 2010.

Honorable Doug Brewer, Chairman

Date