



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

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
**FROM:** Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Secretary /s/  
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2010**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 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**

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. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham  
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County

Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

**MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County  
    Represented by Mr. David Hunke  
Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham  
    Represented by Mr. David Ricker  
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
    Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie  
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
    Represented by Mr. Jim Byram  
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities  
    Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis  
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  
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster  
    Represented by Mr. George Henry  
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  
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham  
    Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens  
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative  
    Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill  
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
    Represented by Ms. Donna Deloach  
Honorable Jim Carns, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
    Represented by Ms. Jeanette Brabston  
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member  
    Represented by Mr. Dave Harris

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Johnathan Austin, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover  
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable LaShunda Scales, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Robert Caliento, 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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Charles Ball, regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission  
Chief William Hewitt, City of Tarrant  
Mr. Preston Huddleston, CDG  
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA  
Ms. Jamie Cochran, RS&H  
Ms. Jacqueline Franklin, Caleb Marketing  
Mr. Steve Cote, RS&H  
Mr. David Willingham, BWSC  
Mr. Bob Wilkerson, BWSC  
Mr. Keith Strickland, GMC  
Ms. Renee Carter, CRT  
Mr. A.C. Alrey, Jefferson County  
Mr. Matt Lacke, Jefferson County Department of Health  
Mr. Jim Meads, Sain Associates  
Mr. Jonathan Webster, JIG  
Ms. Christy Calahan, AECOM  
Ms. Marcy Phillips, AECOM

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to approve the February 10, 2010 meeting minutes. Mayor Tom Henderson seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request from ALDOT to modify the FY 2008-2011 TIP to include the following projects:

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>STMFTA3</u> <u>C-53110</u>	100055017	Section 5311 ARRA Jefferson County Stimulus operating assistance	4/14/2010	TR	4/14/2010	2010	\$110,696.00	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
<u>STMFTA3</u> <u>C-53110</u>	100055041	Section 5311 ARRA Jefferson/Shelby Counties Stimulus Capital Bus Other Program Items (PM)	4/14/2010	TR	4/14/2010	2010	\$51,171.00	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
<u>SRTS-</u> <u>SR09 (915)</u>	100055092	Safe Routes to School FY2008 - construct sidewalks near Shades Cahaba Elementary (Devon & Windsor Drive) and Hall Kent Elementary (Hall Ave. & Oak Grove Rd.)	4/14/2010	CN	4/14/2010	2010	\$302,988	Exempt	Safety Program	11

**These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

Mayor Tom Henderson noted that the MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the amendment. Ms. Doris Powell and Mr. David Hunke noted that the TCC and TTC recommended approval as well.

Mayor Gene Melton made a motion modify the TIP. Mayor Tom Henderson seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe announced the public involvement meeting for the Regional Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity Report and Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to be held April 21, 2010 from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. Ms. Crowe reviewed the format for the meeting as well as noting the 21-day comment period to follow the meeting, meeting documentation and adoption of the reports at the June 9, 2010 MPO meeting.

Mr. Darrell Howard reviewed the component of the Regional Transportation Plan, including the following:

**Objective:**

To educate Birmingham MPO members about the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan development process, recommended policies and strategies, and plan implications.

### **RTP Development Activities**

- Updated regional goals
- Policy development
- Updated regional needs assessment
- Population and employment forecasts
- Regionally significant transportation system and Regional activity centers defined
- Project prioritization
- Funding forecasts and evaluation
- Stakeholder involvement

### **Plan Costs**

Federal Funds Assumed for Future Use

Funding Split = 51% Capacity/Capital Projects and 49% Operations and Maintenance Activities  
(Split differs by specific funding sources)

Exempt Projects = Operations & Maintenance, non-motorized, safety, and intelligent transportation system

### **The Birmingham 2035 RTP Focused on 3 Major Themes**

- Fix It First – Transportation System Maintenance Repair, Maintain, and Preserve Existing Infrastructure
- Concentrate on Addressing Needs Invest in Strategies to Manage Congestion and Move both People and Freight Efficiently e.g. develop multimodal transportation systems to include public transit, and the freight network
- Build on the Regional Vision - Expand Networks and Add Capacity e.g. Roads, Transit, Non-Motorized Travel Systems, and Freight

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Challenge: Preserving Active TIP Projects

Opportunities: Reevaluate TIP to assess project need & impacts  
Work with project sponsors to advance projects

Challenge: Transportation System Maintenance

Opportunities: Fix/Maintain Infrastructure that exceeds baseline  
Develop innovative financing strategies  
Develop innovative project delivery methods

Challenge: Congestion

Opportunities: Improve/expand commuter services programs  
Reshaping Urban Growth/Community Development Access Management

Challenge: Limited Mobility for Non-Drivers

Opportunities: Develop expanded/functional transit system  
Develop expanded/improved non-motorized transportation infrastructure

### **Policy Highlights**

- Policy 1 - Projects must be identified in an adopted and/or approved plan to gain entry to RTP
- Policy 3 - Requires Advance Planning Reports for TIP
- Policy 4 - Establishes minimum cost thresholds

- Policy 5 - Requires projects \$5 million or more to provide financial plan
- Policy 6 - Addresses financial responsibility for cost increases
- Policy 7 - Addresses how long a project can remain on the TIP and defines “reasonable progress”
- Policy 8 - Requires compliance with Congestion Management Plan
- Policy 9 - Requires new roadways and capacity expansion projects to include access management plan
- Policy 10 - Policy of Intent (re: Complete Streets)
- Policy 12 - Requires regular project status reports and continuous reassessment of project viability
- Policy 14 - Requires public involvement for TIP projects
- Policies 2, 11, 13, 15, and 16 are all existing policies

### **Process Highlights**

- Early and Continuous Communication
- Advanced Planning
- Commit to Funding/Implementation
- Manage Project Finances
- Monitoring

### **Investment Strategy**

- System Maintenance - Fix, Maintain, and Preserve the Existing Transportation System
- Public Transportation - Improve Public Transportation
- Active Transportation - Adjust/Modify Built Environment, Improve Connectivity, Expand Non-Motorized Transportation Network
- System Management and Operations - Maximize the Efficiency of Existing Facilities
- Roadway Expansion - Build New and/or Expand the Capacity of Existing Roadways only when needed and when it is financially feasible

### **Plan Emphasis Areas**

- System Maintenance. Fix, Maintain, and Preserve the Existing System
- Transportation Safety and Security. Make the System More Secure and Safer to Travel
- System Efficiency - Address Roadway Congestion, Improve Public Transportation, Develop Active Transportation Systems, Maximize Existing Freight Infrastructure
- Information Development and Sharing - Collect More/Better Information, Use Technological Innovations to Inform Travelers

### **Implementation**

#### **Financing**

##### Challenges

- Decreasing federal funds
- Inability to raise local match for current federal funding
- Short-falls in State funding
- The need to fund infrastructure maintenance and development needs is growing

Ideas

- Develop innovative financing strategy
- Identify local funding opportunities
- Develop alternative project delivery methods/strategies

**Project Delivery**

Challenges

- Institutional barriers
- Infrastructure development vs. ownership/maintenance
- Champions/Taking Ownership

Ideas

- Rethink/redefine “interagency cooperation”
- Rethink project development and delivery
- Devise alternative infrastructure maintenance strategy

**The Future**

We Must Change in order to Remain Relevant

- Failure to Change is Certain Failure
- Multimodal Systems vs. Single Travel Modes
- Sustainable Communities = Economic Vitality
- Changing Travel Behavior is important
- Self Reliance is the Key
- Not every project is good idea. Identify the project that best address major challenges

A question was raised about the Grants Mill Road project. The project is included in the Visionary section of the Regional Transportation Plan, but more information will be needed concerning project sponsorship and costs before advancing to the Transportation Improvement Program level. Another question was asked about Rex Lake Road. This project was funded under the Recovery Act program.

**U.S. 280 CORRIDOR TRANSIT STUDY**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski gave an overview of the US 280 project, including the history, a review of the project fact sheet and progress of meetings being held with local officials along the corridor. Mr. Kaczorowski then introduced Ms. Jamie Cochran of RS& H, who gave a presentation on the transit study being conducted. Information presented included the following:

**Team Introduction**

Reynolds, Smith & Hills- Atlanta  
PBS&J- Birmingham  
Jordan, Jones, & Goulding- Atlanta  
Dynamic Civil Solutions- Birmingham

CE Associates- Birmingham  
CALEB Marketing Solutions- Birmingham  
Advanced Planning Technology- Atlanta

**Stakeholder and Public Engagement**

ALDOT

City of Westover

Jefferson County  
Shelby County  
City of Birmingham  
City of Homewood  
City of Vestavia Hills  
City of Mountain Brook

City of Hoover  
City of Chelsea  
City of Harpersville  
Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
Birmingham MPO

**Project Stakeholder Committee**

- Public Workshops
- Presentations to Local Governments
- Project Website and On-Line Surveys
- Project Fact Sheets
- “Quick Facts” – Educational Element

**Project Overview, Schedule, and Deliverables Next Steps**

- Serves Regional and Local Needs
- Critical Connector to Downtown and Other Major Centers/Corridors
- Extreme Congestion in Commute Periods
- Narrow Right-of-Way in Some Places
- Rapid Suburbanization
- Need for Travel Options

**Additional areas discussed in the presentation included:**

- Potential Transportation Options
- Potential Candidate Transit Technology Options
- Potential Land Use Alternatives
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Detailed Land Use Analysis
- Comparison of Transportation Alternatives
- Environmental Coordination

**OTHER**

Chairman Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings. Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe announced that all documents to be presented at the public involvement meeting are available online at [www.bhammpo.org](http://www.bhammpo.org).

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

WS:cb



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**APPROVED:**

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Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

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Date