



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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August 11, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Secretary /s/
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2010**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, August 11, 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. 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 Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Iris Kimbrough

Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Doug Brewer
Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Andy Mayo
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Evan Williams
Mr. Guin Robinson, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Ms. Donna Deloach
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Elvin Horton
Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Lou Willie
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Robert Caliento, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jim Carns, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Johnathan Austin, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable LaShunda Scales, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Chris Cook, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
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

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
 Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
 Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission
 Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
 Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
 Mr. T. Ray Mauldin, VPSI
 Ms. Allison Nichols, Regional Planning Commission
 Mr. Preston Huddleston, CDG
 Ms. Renee Carter, CRT
 Mr. Jeremy Grey, Birmingham News
 Ms. Anna Brown, Birmingham
 Mr. Matt Lacke, Jefferson County Department of Health
 Mr. Keith Strickland, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
 Mr. Greg Cobb, City of Homewood
 Ms. Rhonda Siserir, BJCTA
 Mr. Peter Behrman, BJCTA
 Mr. AC Alrey, Jefferson County

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mayor Tom Henderson made a motion to approve the June 9, 2010 meeting minutes. Mayor Steve Parsons seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

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

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

<u>IM-I065()</u>	100055414	Concrete pavement rehab, underseal, grinding, paverlaid surface treatment, underdrain, shoulder pavement, guardrail on I-65 from I-459 to Raleigh Ave. Overpass	8/11/2010	PE	10/1/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-I065()</u>	100055415	Concrete pavement rehab, underseal, grinding, paverlaid surface treatment, underdrain, shoulder pavement, guardrail on I-65 from I-459 to Raleigh Ave. Overpass	8/11/2010	CN	5/27/2011	2011	\$7,520,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>HSIP-00030</u>	100055331	Resurface (2 foot safety widening) SR-3 (US-31) from 52 nd Avenue to 0.4 miles north of Black Creek, Phase 1.	8/11/2010	CN	8/15/2010	2010	\$125,000	Exempt	Safety Projects	11

These are preliminary engineering studies for widening projects that are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of a larger project which was included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Map ID 162 on page 5C-17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

<u>BR-1065()</u>	100055324	Bridge widening on I-65, South of SR-3 (US-31) in Alabaster over L&N RR, and over CR-26, and over CR-87	8/11/2010	PE	5/1/2011	2011	\$1,170,907	Non-Exempt	Bridge Projects	6
<u>BR-1065()</u>	100055332	Bridge widening on I-65 over L&N RR – 0.8 miles North of SR-3 (US-31) in Calera	8/11/2010	PE	11/1/2012	2011	\$360,144	Non-Exempt	Bridge Projects	6

This project is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. This project is part of the Northern Beltline which was included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Map ID 172 on page 5C-17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

<u>DEMO-A016()</u>	100055406	Demolition and structure removal at 2 locations along the Northern Beltline (SR-959)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$13,500	Non-Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark	14
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These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

<u>IM-1459()</u>	100055279	Pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface, PATB, binder, wearing layer, underdrain, shoulder treatment and guardrail on I-459 from just north of SR-150 to the South end of SR-3 (US-31) overpass	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100055280	Pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface, PATB, binder, wearing layer, underdrain, shoulder treatment and guardrail on I-459 from just north of SR-150 to the South end of SR-3 (US-31) overpass	8/11/2010	CN	12/3/2010	2011	\$4,300,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054988	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.)	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054990	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$12,390,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054989	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.) to SR-7 (US-11)	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054991	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.) to SR-7 (US-11)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$6,750,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5

Mayor Gene Melton asked if the I-459 project included full repavement of I-459. Mr. Lance Taylor noted that it did not, only pavement rehabilitation and repair.

It was noted that the TCC, TTC and MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the TIP modification. Mr. Rod Long made a motion to modify the TIP to add the requested projects. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Peter Behrman, BJCTA Executive Director, presented a request to modify the 2010 Unified Planning Work Program to incur PL expenses of approximately \$13,600 federal for strategic planning activities in support of the development of the Transit Development Program (TDP).

The adopted FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program includes the following task:

- Task 6.3, Public Transit Planning, Including Transit Development Program
Task A., Short-Range Transit Planning – Transit Authority Planning Assistance;
Conduct continuing planning assistance to the BJCTA concerning the TDP update, program maintenance, and program implementation.

Task A would be modified to read as follows:

Update Transit Development Plan. Update the existing Transit Development Plan and Operations Analysis to refine maps, evaluate transit routes, and identify both passenger and system-wide needs. The plan update will consist of multiple phases to be accomplished over the course of two fiscal years. The plan update will also standardize the plan horizon to more closely match with the metropolitan transportation plan horizon as well as adjustments to better coordinate TDP recommendations with regional transportation plan recommendations. Phase 1 activities will occur in FY 2010 and are described below:

Vision and Goal Setting – Transit Board of Directors

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's Board of Directors will be engaged in a strategic planning session in order to develop an updated vision for the transit system's future given the existing and expected financial constraints, as well as the desired condition of the Authority. This will be followed by the establishment of specific goals and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agree-Upon, Realistic, and Time-Bound) objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Strategic Plan and Action Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

Vision and Goal Setting – Key Stakeholders (Funding Partners)

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's funding partners (i.e. participating municipalities and contract agencies) will be engaged through stakeholder interviews and/or focus groups in order to obtain information about their perspective of the transit authority's existing

operations, their vision/desires for public transit services as it relates to the region, and their desires for transit system funding. Stakeholder inputs will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Stakeholder Interview Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

Vision and Goal Setting – Partnering Agencies/Committees

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's partnering agencies and committees (i.e. the BJCTA Transit Advisory Committee, BJCTA VIP Advisory Committee, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham/Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization, Jefferson County Department of Public Health, Birmingham Business Alliance, Blue Ribbon Transit Committee, etc.) will be engaged through one on one stakeholder interviews in order to obtain perspectives about the transit authority's existing operations, and to gather their vision/desires for public transit services as it relates to the region. Stakeholder inputs will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Partnering Agency/Committees Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

Vision and Goal Setting – Riders

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's riders will be engaged through public outreach activities in order to obtain input to the development of the BJCTA's vision for the provision of public transit services. Rider input also will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the vision.

Deliverable: Rider Input Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

Staffing for Task A will include the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and a contract employee.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski noted that verbal approval has been given by ALDOT, on behalf of FHWA and FTA for this project. It was also noted that the TCC, TTC and MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the UPWP modification.

Mayor Tom Henderson made a motion to modify the 2010 UPWP to incur PL expenses of approximately \$13,600 federal for strategic planning activities in support of the development of the Transit Development Program. Mr. Lou Willie seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

COMMUTESMART RIDESHARE ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Allison Nichols presented the Annual Report for the CommuteSmart Rideshare Program. The CommuteSmart Program reduces vehicle miles of travel by about ten million miles per year. The program has a ridematch database with around 10,000 names currently listed which is a 20% increase from the previous year. The Get Green and Commuter Club incentives program has been productive with around 2,000 participants.

Additional highlights noted in the CommuteSmart Annual Report included:

- 343 Employer meetings.
- 198 Commuter events.
- 78 Participating companies.
- 2,008 Phone calls received.
- 53,791 Website visitors.
- Most cost-effective program (emissions reduction).

Ms. Nichols reviewed the list of business partners currently participating in the CommuteSmart Program. She also announced the launching of the new CommuteSmart website at www.commutessmarter.org.

U.S. 280 TRANSIT STUDY

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski gave a status update on the U.S. 280 Transit Study. Mr. Kaczorowski reviewed the timeline of the study, including the following:

- Confirm existing Corridor Conditions and Needs Analysis: Ongoing to October 2010
- Definition and Evaluation of Land Use and Transportation Alternatives (including public workshop): August 2010 – January 2011
- Identification and Phasing of Proposed Projects: January – March 2011
- Financial Plan: February – March 2011
- Integrated Transportation and Land Use Plan and Final Report (including public workshop): June 2011

The consultant team is currently in data collection mode. The team has met with community leaders along the corridor. Mr. Kaczorowski reviewed the key questions and themes from those meetings. Key questions included:

- How important is having a Quality Community?
- Does your Community have a stated vision for its future?
- Does your Community support transit in the U.S. 280 Corridor?
- Is your Community open to the land use changes needed to make transit work?
- Is your Community seeking to redevelop some areas in the future?

Other Perspectives on Transit

- Transit service is not reliable today because of lack of funding – Can we fix that?
- Traffic congestion is a serious problem and transit needs to be part of the solution.
- We are all working under very difficult fiscal constraints.
- ALDOT's elevated lanes project should be designed to accommodate and provide funding for transit.
- While today's transportation issues are important, we also need to figure out how we accommodate growth in the future, while protecting the quality of our communities.

- Any new transit system and its associated land use concepts must be customized to meet clearly demonstrated needs.
- U.S. 280 Corridor communities are open to examining a range of mobility solutions which includes transit.

Data Collection and Current Corridor Conditions

Study Area by Segment

- Segment 1: I-20/I-59 to E. B. Stephens Highway
- Segment 2: E. B. Stephens Highway to I-459
- Segment 3: I-459 to S.R. 119
- Segment 4: S.R. 119 to Shelby/Talladega County Line

Corridor Data and Analysis

- Past and Current Plans and Studies
- Historic Demographic and Economic Trends
- Environmental, Cultural, and Historic Assets
- Transportation System and Conditions
- Land Use and Development
- Assessment of Transit-Supportive Land Use and Zoning Provisions in Local Ordinances
- Final Product – U.S. 280 Corridor Needs Analysis

Past and Current Transportation Studies

- Homewood Transportation Plan
- Access Management Plan
- RPCGB TIP
- Access Mgt Plan Segment 1 & 2
- Elevated Roadway Feasibility Study
- Birmingham Regional Transportation Alternatives Analysis
- Rethink 280
- 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Current Corridor Conditions

- Households with No Vehicles
- Average Commute Time to Work
- Rivers, Wetlands, and Streams
- Growth in Traffic – Western / Easter Segment
- Number of Travel Lanes
- Current Transit Routes
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Network
- Vehicle Occupancy by Trip Purpose

Summary of Corridor Conditions

- Very Auto-Dependent Corridor
- Large Percentage of Single Occupant trips

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- Few Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Options
- No Continuous Alternative Route for Motorists
- Greatest Increase in Traffic from 2000 – 2008 Occurred Between East of I-459 and Chelsea
- Growing Senior Population in the Corridor
- Most Households Have Access to Vehicle
- Long to Very Long Commute Times Exist for People Living East of SR 119

Next Steps

- Corridor Needs Analysis
- Development of Transportation and Land Use Scenarios
- Alternatives Evaluation Process

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that the information presented is available on the MPO website.

OTHER

Chairman Brewer announced the award presented for the video “*Who is the RPCGB?*” and produced by Red Fox Media in Birmingham. The video won Bronze at the 2010 Telly Awards. The informational video focuses on the overall mission of the RPCGB and can be viewed at www.rpcgb.org.

Chairman Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting, June 16, 2010, 12:00 noon, RPC.
- Railroad Grade Crossing Meeting, August 12, 2010, 1:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting, August 18, 2010, 12:00 noon, RPC.
- National Transit Institute, Wheelchair Securement Workshop, August 19-20, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, August 25, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee meeting August 26, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, September 8, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

WS:cb

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APPROVED:

Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

Date