



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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September 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Secretary /s/
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2010**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 1:30 p.m., in the RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, 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
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Doug Brewer, MPO Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Melanie Bouyer
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Vice Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Loxcil Tuck

Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Wayne Sullivan
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Represented by Mr. George Henry
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie
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
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Sedrick Rutledge
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams
Honorable Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Robert Caliento, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
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. 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
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Preston Huddleston, CDG
Chief William Hewitt, City of Tarrant
Ms. Becky White, Sain Associates
Mr. Corey Masuca, JCDH
Mr. Clint Andrews, FHWA
Mr. Victor Blackledge, City of Birmingham
Ms. Renee Carter, CRT
Mr. AC Alrey, Jefferson County
Ms. Sadie Swyne, Conservation Alabama
Mr. Fed Hawkins, EDT

MPO Secretary Wayne Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Councilor Maxine Herring Parker made a motion to approve the August 11, 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Rod Long 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 project:

ALDOT Requests

BR-1065()	100055322	Bridge widening on I-65 over CSX RR & Buxahatchee Creek, South of Exit 228 (Calera Exit)	9/8/2010	PE	6/1/2011	2011	\$674,172	Exempt	Bridge Projects	6
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This project will not add capacity and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

It was noted that the Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC), Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the TIP modification. Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to modify the TIP to add the requested project. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Foisy presented the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program for review and adoption. A detailed list of program areas and projects to be conducted in FY 2011 by the RPC and the ALDOT, including third-party contractors was included in the packet.

Mr. Foisy reviewed the seven task areas consistent with the RPC Work Program goals, including:

1. Administration.
2. Data Collection and Analysis.
3. Unified Planning Work Program.
4. Public Involvement.
5. Environmental Mitigation and Streamlining.
6. Transportation Systems.
7. Special Projects and Corridor Management Planning.

The federal funding source for each task area and project was also identified. Total federal funds available for each source are as follows:

1. FHWA PL = \$1,075,273 (Formula Funds)
2. FHWA STP = \$1,593,267 (Rideshare, Congestion Management, Building Communities)
3. FTA 5309 = \$2,332,751 (I-65, U.S. 280, U.S. 11)
4. FTA 5310, 5316/5317 = \$145,000 (JARC, New Freedom, Clastran)
5. FHWA CMAQ = \$1,325,000 (APCA)

The MPO is responsible for adoption of the proposed work program including funding sources. The Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee is responsible for programming staff and match dollars in its annual budget for the five funding sources in order to complete the planning projects.

The TCC, TTC and MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the 2011 UPWP.

Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to approve the 2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Mr. Philip Amthor and Mr. Richard Amore presented information on the completed and on-going Building Communities Program projects. The purpose of the Building Communities program is to

promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns and address the relationship between transportation and land use, recognizing that land use decisions have impacts on the transportation system and vice-versa. The Building Communities program provides grants to local communities within the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area to support land use integration, economic vitality, safety and security, accessibility and mobility, environmental/air quality improvement, and system preservation.

Projects that have been completed or are ongoing include:

Graysville – Form-Based Code

1. Corridor X, Cherry Avenue widening and intersection realignment.
2. Preserve and enhance the Main Street and historical downtown area of Graysville.
3. A tool to guide future development that is consistent with the charm of the existing main street.

Birmingham - City Center One Way Street Conversion Study

1. Project came out of City-Center Master Plan – investigate the feasibility and effects of conversion of one-way to two-way streets.
2. Priorities of City, businesses and downtown residents included easier downtown navigation, bicycle lanes, pedestrian friendly environment, improved street lighting and sidewalks, and on-street parking as well as increase of diagonal parking.
3. Engineering study conclusions noted no adverse impacts on traffic circulation are expected due to a potential street conversion, the proposed two-way street design along with optimized signal timings is expected to improve traffic operations in the Birmingham downtown network, no intersection is at risk for deterioration of service, proposed design adds on-street parking and accommodates bike needs, and reduction in stops and miles traveled shows a positive effect on air quality.

Birmingham – Fountain Heights 16th Street Corridor Plan

1. Responds to future north bound interchange at Interstate 65 and 16th Street North.
2. Examined the 16th Street North Corridor and offered a context sensitive design solution.
3. The plan results in physical changes along the corridor, including the type and location of safe pedestrian crossings, improvements to slow traffic, type and location of new street trees, ways to improve transit access, and ways to make the street look better through landscaping, street furniture, signage, and public art.

Birmingham – Collegeville Plan and Access Study

At a Finley Boulevard Extension public involvement meeting, the community made clear that access into and out of the Collegeville Neighborhood for residents and emergency vehicles would still be an issue even with the proposed roadway extension project. The RPC partnered with the Auburn Urban Design Studio to develop a Neighborhood plan for revitalization to capitalize on historic Bethel Baptist Church for historic recognition and tourism, connect to the Civil Rights Trail running through the City of Birmingham, to connect to the Village Creek Greenway, and to form brownfield remediation strategies.

Birmingham – Highland Park Neighborhood Assessment and Zoning Code Review

The neighborhood sought a plan and regulation to address the redevelopment pressure on the existing neighborhood infrastructure. The plan presented a vision and land development regulation that will preserve the unique neighborhood character and build upon the diverse housing stock, its beautiful parks, and strong retail opportunities within the neighborhood, while providing safe pedestrian, transit and vehicular transportation accommodations.

Birmingham – Concept Feasibility for I-20/59 Lowering

This analysis was conducted in response to the Birmingham City Center Master Plan in 2004 that recommended the lowering of the portion of the interstate currently on elevated structure. The community benefits cited in the plan include connectivity benefits between the expanding Civic Center District and downtown Birmingham, safety and capacity improvements, and air, noise and vibration impact reductions. Proposed interchange improvements could allow 20 plus acres of land to be reclaimed in an area with expanding development opportunities.

Calera – Comprehensive Plan Update

Calera needed to address its land use and transportation planning needs that have occurred over the past decade of rapid growth. This project included three inter-related components: The Comprehensive Plan update, the Downtown Plan update, and Development Regulations that are intended to strengthen the City's ability to address ongoing growth in the context of currently planned and desired transportation improvements.

Chelsea – Major Street Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulation Update; Smart Code Overlay

A vision was created and outlined for Chelsea in their Comprehensive Plan. The Building Communities Program helps develop the tools to implement the vision. The Chelsea Plan Elements include a map of all proposed connections and access management corridors and a graphic depiction of all recommended typical sections. Update of the ordinance provisions to reflect the various components of land use are recognized in the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan also calibrates a form-based code for downtown Chelsea.

Fairfield – Comprehensive Plan

Major Plan Elements include Miles College expansion, Aronov Drive redevelopment, downtown redevelopment, and a neighborhood redevelopment model.

Bessemer – Transportation/Transit Plan, Smart Code, Master Plan Update, Form-Based Code Overlay

1. Transit access from existing neighborhoods to new retail.
2. Greyfield redevelopment strategy for vacant or partially vacant highway retail sites.
3. Abandoned houses, neighborhood redevelopment.
4. Incorporation of US11 Transit Alternatives Analysis – transit service from downtown Birmingham to Academy Drive exit on I-20/59.
5. Downtown redevelopment – new merchants' association, gateways and complete streets.

Leeds – Master Plan Update and Major Street Plan

The purpose of the project is to address the future growth and development in the City. The master plan is currently underway and staff is in the process of establishing a vision and goals for the future that meet the needs of Leeds' current and future residents while preserving and enhancing the unique qualities of their community.

Vestavia Hills - Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulation Update

The city sought to improve their post WWII suburban development pattern by encouraging future land use and land development patterns that encourage non-motorized travel and that are compatible with mass transit use. This project helps the City to update its zoning and subdivision regulations to implement the transportation-related development strategies of the City's recently prepared Comprehensive Plan.

Vestavia Hills - Cahaba Heights Neighborhood Plan

The City of Vestavia Hills sought to develop a Neighborhood Plan for Cahaba Heights, as recommended by the City's Comprehensive Plan. The project's three primary goals are to evaluate opportunities for reinvestment, infill and redevelopment in the community's business area, to address the impacts of recent and proposed transportation changes affecting the area, and to establish priorities for public investment that are desired to improve safety, accessibility, and mobility.

Five Mile Creek – Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Trail Location Study

1. Detailed mapping of potential routes and assets.
2. Will become a "reference book" on how to implement regional trail plans in Alabama.
3. Develop advocacy, enforcement and marketing programs.

Irondale – U.S. 78 Corridor Study

Purpose and goals include analysis of demographic trends in the area by RPC and the Business Analysis Lab at UAB's School of Business and to ascertain the area's strengths and weaknesses in order to identify appropriate economic development options. Methodology included census research and focus group surveys of developers and area residents.

Recommendations:

1. Consider creating an access point to Ruffner Mountain and market the area to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts.
2. Improvements in lighting, street signs and landscaping to make the community more visually appealing would be well received by potential developers and residents alike.
3. Recruit grocery store along US 78 as well as create a destination shopping area at Garden Ridge centered around home construction and décor.

Mr. Bill Foisy then discussed the process for development of Building Communities Program projects with local entities.

Project Identification and Development

- RPC public outreach
- Negotiated with local jurisdiction

- Support SAFETEA-LU planning factors (transportation and land use integration)
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Corridor Transportation Plan
- Sub-Area Plans (Neighborhood)
- Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
- Administration and Regulatory Tools (subdivision regulations/zoning ordinance)

Program Implementation

- Capital projects identified in Plans
- Line item to be developed by MPO in FY 2012-2015 TIP
- Eligible projects consistent with Surface Transportation Program/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program guidance.
- Application process
- Technical Committee guidance on development policies in 2035 RTP

OTHER

Secretary Sullivan reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting, September 15, 2010, 12:00 noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, September 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting September 23, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Annual Building Communities Conference, October 7-8, 2010, McWane Center / RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, October 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

Mr. Steve Ostaseski announced the 2010 Building Communities Conference and noted that the conference has been approved for UNA CAPZO Re-certification. Information on the Conference was included in the meeting packet.

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