



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

MEMORANDUM

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, October 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
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 Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Ken Boozer
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Martha Espy

Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Jerry Brasseale
Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke
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 Edward May, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Represented by Mr. Tim Westhoven

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Honorable Bobby Humphries, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Betty Fine Collins, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
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. Preston Huddleston, CDG
Ms. Sadie Swyne, Conservation Alabama
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Danny Patterson, WRATT Foundation
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates
Mr. Brant Beene, Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jefferson County Department of Health
Mr. Matt Lacke, Jefferson County Department of Health
Mr. Richard Caudle, Skipper Consulting
Mr. Greg Reed, Jasper
Mr. Randy Hays, District 5
Mr. Christopher Brady, City of Vestavia Hills
Ms. Rhonda Siserir, BJCTA

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 September 8, 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 2008-2011 TIP to include the following project:

ALDOT Request

<u>NH-00050</u>	100055424	Resurface and seal, SR-5 (US-78) from I-59 to CR-105 (Cherry Ave.)	10/13/2010	FM	11/5/2010	2011	\$2,861,568	Exempt	National Highway System	3
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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 MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the TIP modification after review of recommendations from the Transportation Citizens and Technical Committees. Mayor Tom

Henderson 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.

RESURFACING PROGRAM

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski gave a presentation on resurfacing, including the following information:

Why Resurface?

- “Maintenance First” (used in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan)
- “Keep a Good Road Good”
- “Fix it First”
- “Good Roads Cost Less”
- “Fix Them Now or Pay for It Later”

The American Association of State Highway and Transit Officials (AASHTO) noted that “Every \$1 spent in keeping a good road good precludes spending \$6-\$14 to rebuild one that has deteriorated” and “Resurfacing projects extend the life of highways, and can be implemented very quickly...”

Resurfacing Analogies

- Like a Tooth Cavity – “A pothole is like a tooth cavity. Left untreated it gets more decayed, more painful, takes more time and money to care for, and sometimes you end up having to urgently call in a specialist. But like cavities, potholes can be prevented.” (AASHTO – Rough Roads Ahead)
- Like a Backyard Deck – Resurfacing a roadway is like staining a deck. The time and cost to stain a deck might be \$100 to \$200 versus the cost to rebuild a deck which could be \$1,000 to \$2,000. The stain seals the cracks in the wood much like a resurfaced road keeps water and ice from seeping into the sub-base of a roadway.

Rough roads increase vehicle maintenance cost. In addition to the increased costs to reconstruct a degraded road, there are increased costs to vehicle maintenance such as damage and wear to the tires and wheels as well as the suspension system

Resurfacing vs. Rehabilitation, Restoration or Reconstruction

- Resurfacing simply replaces the top layer of asphalt, seals and protects the road.
- Rehabilitation or Restoration projects involve more construction than resurfacing and could include drainage and safety improvements
- Reconstructing a road is very much like building a new road and includes completely removing the existing road and sometimes removing and replacing the road base as well.
- Resurfacing projects require less review and oversight by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as well as ALDOT Montgomery. ALDOT 3rd Division would oversee projects.
- There are a multitude of additional state and federal requirements that have to be met when rehabilitating or reconstructing a road including safety improvements such as guardrail and shoulders (also mailboxes and other road hazards).
- The one significant FHWA requirement for resurfacing projects is the installation or improvement of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramps.

There is no federal requirement to repair sidewalks mid-block in resurfacing projects, but it is recommended and you could avoid potential litigation.

There are four tasks in resurfacing a roadway including milling, laying, compacting and striping.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski then presented information on the proposed Resurfacing Program that was recommended by the TIP Subcommittee. The 2035 Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the MPO proposes that the Birmingham MPO set aside resources to assist with transportation system maintenance. In addition to the reasons stated in the RTP, the ALDOT has repeatedly pointed out the significant carryover balance in the STPBH program and they have encouraged the Birmingham MPO to find ways to authorize these funds on a timelier basis and reduce the carryover balance. Resurfacing projects funded by this program would require much less preliminary engineering work than a typical roadway project, and virtually no right-of-way or utility work. As was stated in the June 10th TIP Subcommittee report to the MPO Sub-Committee, Jefferson County has recently relinquished maintenance on several major roadways and a Resurfacing Program could provide much needed assistance to the maintenance needs in the region.

The Resurfacing Program would utilize funds from the Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funding category in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Program requirements would include the following:

- The amount of funding for the Program will be approved by the MPO with the understanding that the MPO may choose not to provide funds for the program in any given year.
- The amount of funding approved for the Program must not result in a negative balance in STPBH funds for any year within the adopted TIP.
- Projects funded by the program must be on federal aid routes. All roadways that are functionally classified are federal aid routes.
- Funds will be distributed to the following jurisdictions based on the percentages of lane miles of functionally classified Minor Arterials and Collectors (excludes Interstates, Expressways, and Principal Arterials):

	Lane Miles of Functionally Classified - Minor Arterials and Collectors*	%
Jefferson County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	1,684	47.1%
Shelby County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	855	23.9%
Birmingham	847	23.7%
Hoover	189	5.3%
Total:	3,576	100%

Sources: Based on the Highway Functional Classification and Federal Aid Map, June 2010, produced by the ALDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning in conjunction with the MPO. City and County boundaries are from the Census Bureau. And number of lanes from the RPCGB's Year 2009 Regional Travel Demand Model

* Note the number of lane miles and the resulting percentages will be reviewed and refined by the Cities and Counties based on maintenance boundaries

- The Transportation Technical Committee suggested that the funds be distributed to Jefferson County, Shelby County, Birmingham, and Hoover based on size, their experience with federally funded projects, and their knowledge of federal requirements. This suggestion is also based on the fact that these four jurisdictions would be doing the majority of the work for projects funded by the program including those projects located within other cities.
- The jurisdictions will determine which federal aid routes within the cities and unincorporated regions of their area receive funds.
- These funds are intended to be used on non-State roadways. However, it is understood that there may be special circumstances in which the jurisdictions could use some of the funds on the State system.
- Projects funded through this program must follow FHWA requirements for resurfacing projects (for example – if sidewalks exist on the roadway then the sidewalk ramps at intersections must meet ADA requirements).
- ALDOT will review plans and bid projects funded by the Program. The preliminary engineering and plan review process will be reviewed and refined for this Program.

The current dollar amount to be programmed would be \$10 million for FY 2011. Municipalities would need to request money directly from the county (except Birmingham and Hoover) and provide a 20% match. Money allocated would go directly to the city or county to which it was allocated.

Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to modify the FY 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to include \$10 million of Surface Transportation Program funds for the Resurfacing Program. Mayor Othell Phillips seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

ALABAMA PARTNERS FOR CLEAN AIR UPDATE

Mr. Danny Patterson, Mr. Matt Lacke and Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer presented updates on Alabama Partners for Clean Air programs for 2010. Mr. Patterson presented information on the Car care Program, including:

Car Care Program 2010 Restrictions and Limitations on Qualification of Repairs

- Program will pay 80% of the cost of emissions repair up to a limit of \$500. The car owner pays the remaining 20% and any amount exceeding \$500.
- Cars must have fewer than 150,000 miles as indicated by the odometer and be 10 years old or less.

- Repair must be directly related to diminished control of vehicle emissions indicated by exhaust gas analysis and OBD-II code reading performed by Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer (WRATT) staff.
- Car must be registered in Shelby or Jefferson County, Alabama.
- Qualified repairs must be done within 60 days of qualifying date, and all repairs must be made by Express Oil Change, Texaco Xpress Lube or Carl's Car Clinic.
- Cars under manufacturer's or extended warranties are not eligible nor are fleet or company-owned vehicles.
- Only one repair qualification is allowed per vehicle.

Car Care Program 2010 Emission Test Sites Locations

Express Oil Change Bessemer	Express Oil Change Tarrant	Express Oil Change Eastwood
Express Oil Change Alabaster	Express Oil Change Gardendale	Express Oil Change Pinson
Express Oil Change Vestavia	Express Oil Change Homewood	Express Oil Change Eastlake
Express Oil Change Centerpoint	Express Oil Change West Valley	Express Oil Change Riverchase
Express Oil Change Hoover	Express Oil Change Rocky Ridge	Express Oil Change Huffman
Express Oil Change Hollywood	Express Oil Change 3 rd Avenue West	Express Oil Change Brook Highland
Express Oil Change Cahaba Heights	Express Oil Change Hueytown/Dolomite	Express Oil Change Highway 150
Express Oil Change Inverness	Express Oil Change Oak Mountain	Express Oil Change Pelham
Express Oil Change Trussville #1	Express Oil Change Trussville #2	Express Oil Change Valleydale
Express Oil Change Leeds	Express Oil Change Helena	Express Oil Change Chelsea
Express Oil Change Fairfield	Express Oil Change Downtown #2	Express Oil Change Trussville #3
Express Oil Change McCalla	Texaco Xpress Lube Alabaster	Texaco Xpress Lube Moody
Texaco Xpress Lube Eastwood	Texaco Xpress Lube Greystone	Texaco Xpress Lube Wildwood
Texaco Xpress Lube Gardendale	Texaco Xpress Lube Hueytown	Metro Church of God
Vulcan Park Earth Day		

Car Care Program 2010 Qualified Repairs (through August 2010)

- Repair/Replace Oxygen Sensor (121)
- Repair/Replace Catalytic Converter (78)
- Repair Exhaust Gas Re-Circulation System (EGR) (31)
- Replace Mass Air Flow Sensor (MAF) (8)
- Replace Throttle Position Sensor (1)
- Repair Evaporative Emissions Control System (EVAP) (4)
- Replace Ignition Coil Pack(s) (5)

Car Care Program October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010

- Total Number of Events 157
- (Express Oil Change, Texaco Xpress Lube, Vulcan Park (Earth Day),
 Metropolitan Church of God (Back To School)
- Number of Cars Tested 3,260
- Average Cars Tested per Event 21
- Number of Cars Qualified for Repairs 349
- Number of Repairs (through August 2010) 248

Car Care Program October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010 Upcoming Events

- 18 Free Emission Testing events at Express Oil Changes and Texaco Xpress Lubes during October
- Free Emissions Testing, Lawson State Community College, Bessemer – October 15th
- Free Emissions Testing, Samford University – October 20th

Mr. Matt Lacke presented information on the proposed new ozone standard. Information included:

Ground level Ozone – What is it?

- Ground level ozone - not stratospheric ozone.
- Colorless gas formed on dry, sunny, hot, stagnant days April - October
- Primarily a problem in and near metropolitan areas
- Not directly emitted
- Pollutants which form ozone come from many sources

Revised Ozone NAAQS

On January 6, 2010, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. EPA is proposing to tighten the 8-hour “primary” ozone standard, designed to protect public health, to a level within the range of 60 - 70 ppb.

Counties over an 8-hour Ozone NAAQS of 70 ppb 2007-2009

Madison, Jefferson, Shelby, Montgomery, Mobile, Baldwin

Counties over an 8-hour Ozone NAAQS of 65 ppb 2007-2009

Madison, Morgan, Colbert, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Elmore, Montgomery, Russell, Mobile, Baldwin

Counties over an 8-hour Ozone NAAQS of 60 ppb 2007-2009

Madison, Morgan, Colbert, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Sumter, Elmore, Montgomery, Russell, Houston, Mobile, Baldwin

Nonattainment: Formal designation by EPA that an area does not meet a standard or that it contributes to an area not meeting the standard.

By State and Federal law, EPA has total authority over the standards and for setting boundaries of non-attainment areas.

Consequences of Nonattainment

- Considered to have unhealthy air.
- Transportation planning must consider air quality impacts.
- Obstacles to growth of large new industries.

Determining Nonattainment Area Boundaries

- EPA’s presumptive ozone nonattainment area boundaries can include:
- All counties in a consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA) with a violating ozone monitor.

- All counties in a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) with a violating ozone monitor.

Revised Ozone NAAQS

Most areas will rely on nationally mandated control measures to achieve the revised ozone NAAQS.

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer gave a presentation on projects conducted by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC), including:

In 2009 the ACFC Became a Designated Clean Cities Coalition. Clean Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy voluntary program to increase U.S. energy security by lessening dependence on foreign oil. There are approximately 90 Clean Cities Organizations nationwide which are a great source of answers for most alternative fuel questions.

The 1992 Energy Policy Act recognized five fuels including E85 Ethanol, Biodiesel, Electricity, Propane and Natural Gas (CNG & LNG). The benefits of alternative fuels include energy security by lessening dependence on foreign oil, economic development through new jobs and economic activity in Alabama, and environmental through improved air quality.

There are three types of ACFC alternative fuel projects conducted, including idle reduction projects, alternative fuel infrastructure projects and diesel retrofit projects.

As part of the Idle Reduction Project, a Truck stop Electrification Project was started. In 2009, the project included 54 Bays with a total of 2,845 hours per year usage for a total of 171,531 gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) reduction and 1,833.5 tons of greenhouse gases reduced.

Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Projects include:

- City of Hoover E85 & B20
- City of Birmingham E85 & B20
- BJCTA CNG Refueling Station
- Propane Mowers & Police Cars
- Clean Corridor Projects E85 & B20

The City of Hoover currently has 88% of all Hoover vehicles using alternative fuels. The fleet includes 198 Fleet Pickups, Sedans and SUV's with greater than 15.9 million miles traveled using E-85 ethanol. The fleet used greater than 1.2 Million gallons of E-85 allowing for more than 953,364 fewer gallons of foreign oil being used. In 2009, 228,162 gallons of E85 were used with 319.0 tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduced. For Hoover's diesel fleet, biodiesel fuels are being used for 161 vehicles using commercially purchased B-20 Biodiesel. 40+ vehicles were fueled with B100. 30,000 gallons of B-100 were produced from vegetable oil donated by local residents and businesses and made in Hoover by City employees at a loaded cost of less than \$1 per gallon.

The City of Hoover's E85 and Biodiesel Emissions Reductions include 303,217 gallons of fuel used, 159,122 GGE's reduced and 607.7 tons of greenhouse gases were reduced.

On May 9, 2007 Birmingham announced a move to biodiesel in the city's 820 diesel vehicles. In 2009 the City used 850,000 Gallons of B20 Biodiesel. In 2009, 179,094 GGE's were reduced and 1,586.2 tons of Greenhouse Gas emissions were reduced.

The ACFC has provided a grant to City of Birmingham to add E85 refueling locations. Birmingham currently has 130 Flex Fuel Vehicles, with their fleet expected to grow to over 400 flex-fueled vehicles. Birmingham will also supply Universities and other State/Federal fleets.

The Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority has 53 Clean Energy compressed natural gas (CNG) Buses. In 2010, BJCTA will be adding 12 New CNG buses and 30 CNG paratransit vehicles. In 2009 the BJCTA pumped 767,597 GGE's of CNG, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,371.9 tons.

New CNG Initiatives

Alagasco added Honda GX CNG vehicles & plans dispensing stations. Airport Express CNG Vans travel between Birmingham and Atlanta airports and Trussville is using CNG and installing public-private infrastructure.

Commercial Alternative Fuel Stations in Jefferson & Shelby Counties

- Shell stations in Vestavia and Warrior (E85 & B20) – Part of I-65 Clean Corridor Project
- Shelby County - Shell at Hwy 280 & Hwy 119 (E85)
- Pelham – Coosa Mart on Hwy 31 (B20)
- Pelham – Jet Pep on Hwy 31 (E85)
- Alabama Department of Transportation E85 at the third division
- City of Birmingham – Diesel Fleet – B20
- BJCTA – Both Private and Public Access – CNG
- Multiple Propane Public Access Availability

In 2006 ACFC and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs partnered with U.S. Department of Energy and the states of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee to create the nation's first clean biofuels corridor from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico – a total of 886 miles. The two service locations in Jefferson County include Vestavia Shell and Warrior Fuelz.

In 2008, ACFC and ADEM retrofitted 11 pieces of heavy industrial equipment through the diesel retrofit program.

OTHER

Chairman Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- PM 2.5 Public Involvement Meeting, October 20, 2010, 12:00 noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, October 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting October 28, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, November 10, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

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

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APPROVED:

Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

Date