



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203  
Phone (205) 251-8139 • Fax (205) 328-3304 • [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org) • [www.bhammpo.org](http://www.bhammpo.org)*

December 8, 2010

### **MEMORANDUM**

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, December 8, 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  
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Greg Dawkins, 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. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham  
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover

### **MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Vice Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie

Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Martha Espy  
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. Guin Robinson, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative  
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell  
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams  
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County  
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay  
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mr. Elvin Horton  
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster  
Represented by Mr. George Henry  
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member  
Represented by Mr. Dave Harris

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Dan Voketz, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
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 Scott Beason, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Johnathan Austin, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable LaShunda Scales, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member  
VACANT, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative  
VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative  
VACANT, Jefferson County Municipalities

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Laurel Land, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Marshall Farmer, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. T. Ray Mauldin, VPSI  
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Tom Maxwell, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Francesca Gross, CAWACO  
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates  
Mr. Matt Lacke, Jefferson County Department of Health  
Mr. Richard Caudle, Skipper Consulting  
Ms. Brenda Lovelady Spahn, Lovelady Center  
Mr. Tim Dean, Lovelady Center  
Mr. Darrell Skipper, Skipper Consulting  
Mr. Keith Strickland, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood  
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance  
Mr. Forrest Davis, City of Bessemer  
Mr. Ted VonCannon, Norfolk Southern  
Ms. Renee Carter, CRT  
Mr. Ralph Williams, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee  
Mr. Al Folcher, JCA Planning  
Ms. Sylvia Williams, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Lee Cochran, Norfolk Southern  
Mr. Darrell Wilson, Norfolk Southern

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

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Mayor Jerry Brasseale made a motion to approve the October 13, 2010 meeting minutes. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION**

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented the public involvement documentation for the air quality conformity determination for the 24-hour particulate matter standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and the Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

The meeting documentation included outreach procedures, information presented at the meeting, as well as a summary of comments and questions received. The report can be viewed on line at <http://www.bhammpo.org/upcomingevents.htm>.

Mr. Bill Foisy reviewed a resolution certifying the committee recommendations for the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee and MPO Subcommittee recommended this item for approval.

Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to adopt the resolution for the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Virginia Williams seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote. A copy of the resolution is included as an attachment.

### **JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) AND NEW FREEDOM GRANTS**

Ms. Laurel Land presented a report from the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Committee. The Committee met on October 26, 2010 to review seven proposals for projects to be funded with Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and/or New Freedom funding. The JARC Program supports the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. Funding under the New Freedom Program is for projects that overcome barriers and/or expand transportation mobility options available to individuals with disabilities.

The Committee recommended three projects for funding, including:

- Tender Care Transport - \$32,000 for one lift-equipped vehicle (New Freedom)
- Aletheia House - \$247,758 (\$182,958 for operation; \$64,800 for three 15-passenger vans) (JARC)
- Lovelady Center - \$64,000 for two 15-passenger vans, one lift-equipped

Ms. Brenda Lovelady Spahn gave a brief overview of the Lovelady Center, a transitional facility for women and children. The Center, located in the old East End Memorial Hospital in Eastlake, currently houses 367 women and 10 children. Residents of the Lovelady Center are required to seek employment and / or additional education. In 2009, the Lovelady Center clocked approximately 270,000 miles transporting residents to places of employment, medical visits, etc.

The Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee and MPO Subcommittee recommended funding of the three projects. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker made a motion to fund the three recommended projects. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee that met on November 3, 2010. Information discussed by the TIP Subcommittee included:

#### **Resurfacing Program**

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the distribution of funds for the Resurfacing Program and discussed the issue of who would pay for Preliminary Engineering (PE). Several of the Subcommittee members proposed that 5% of the total amount be programmed into a PE phase for each jurisdiction. The PE funds would be used for ALDOT's cost to review and let the projects, and could potentially be used for the design and engineering costs at the discretion of the project sponsors.

The TIP Subcommittee also reviewed and commented on a letter drafted by Subcommittee members and addressed to Don Vaughn, ALDOT's Chief Engineer and Deputy Director. The purpose of the letter is to consider several modifications to the design and review requirements for the resurfacing projects that will be developed from this program in order to expedite project implementation. The letter was approved by the Subcommittee and has been signed by engineers from all four jurisdictions receiving funds from the program.

#### **Homewood Broadway Street Sidewalk Project**

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed a request from the City of Homewood to increase federal funding for a sidewalk project on Broadway Street. The project is programmed for \$172,992 of Surface Transportation Program Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funds. The low bid for the project was higher than the programmed amount. ALDOT has instructed Homewood to obtain MPO approval for an additional \$109,000 of STPBH funds. The TIP Subcommittee discussed the merits of the project and approval was recommended for the funding request.

#### **Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility**

The Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility proposed in McCalla has received a TIGER grant in the amount of \$52.5 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The ALDOT has requested in writing that the project be added to the FY 2008-2011 TIP for the TIGER grant portion of the project.

In addition to the \$52.5 million from the TIGER grant, the ALDOT has also requested, on behalf of Norfolk Southern, \$8.0 million in Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funding for FY 2011 for supportive automated gate and lift equipment. The RPC noted that a revised dollar amount and timeline for these activities are \$3.35 million in FY 2012 and \$3.22 million in FY 2013.

The TIP Subcommittee agreed to recommend the TIGER grant portion of the project for the current FY 2008-2011 TIP, and to consider the request for supportive automated gate and lift equipment in the

development of the FY 2012-2015 TIP, scheduled for the spring of 2011.

**Balance of CMAQ Funds**

A rescission of nearly \$2.7 million of CMAQ funds in September 2010 has resulted in a negative balance of about \$2 million for the program. The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the current list of CMAQ projects and agreed to move four projects to fiscal year 2012 based on project readiness.

**TIP Modifications**

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

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>FTA3C-5309()</u>	100055845	Section 5309, American Village, Transit, Capital, Construction Project	12/8/2010	TR	1/14/2011	2011	\$417,039	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
<u>DE-A194()</u>	100055720	Revitalization along SR-75 in the City of Center Point; scope includes: pedestrian lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping at various locations along SR-75	12/8/2010	PE	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,500	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects	12

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

<u>APD-0471(534)</u>	100055382	Demolition and structure removal at three locations on SR-4 (Corridor X) from 1.5 miles west of I-65 to SR-3 (US-31)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,200	Non-Exempt	Appalachian Highway System Projects	4
<u>HPP-AL16(900)</u>	100055393	Demolition and structure removal at 13 locations along the Northern Beltline (SR-959) in Pinson from west of SR-79 to east of SR-75	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$69,680	Non-Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
<u>NH-0005(536)</u>	100055397	Demolition and structure removal at 10 locations along SR-5 (US-78) for widening of SR-5 from I-59 to Finley Blvd.(Phase 1)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$73,840	Non-Exempt	National Highway System	3

**These projects are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of larger projects which were included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See pages 5C-16 & 17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

<u>CTGR-CMAQ-FAUP-CN11()</u>	100055911	Norfolk Southern Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility, McCalla	12/8/2010	CN	12/15/10	2011	\$52,500,000	Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
------------------------------	-----------	---	-----------	----	----------	------	--------------	--------	--	----

**This project is exempt from regional emission analysis since it does not add highway capacity and therefore is not subject to transportation conformity.**

**Cost Increase on Existing Project**

<u>STPBH-CN07(907)</u>	100048386	Sidewalks along Broadway Street in Homewood, from Green Springs Hwy to south of Forest Drive	12/8/2010	CN	12/9/2010	2010	\$352,758	Exempt	Surface Transportation Attributable	1
------------------------	-----------	--	-----------	----	-----------	------	-----------	--------	-------------------------------------	---

**This project is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

December 8, 2010

Mr. Darrell Wilson of Norfolk Southern gave a presentation on the following:

- Crescent Corridor Before/After TIGER Grant
- Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility (BRIMF) Overview
- Skipper Consulting McAshan Drive Traffic Operations Study
- CMAQ Funding Opportunities to include Automated Gate System (AGS) and Tier IV Lift Equipment
- Norfolk Southern's Commitment to the Environment

The Crescent Corridor is an existing 2,500 mile intermodal rail network from New Jersey to Louisiana parallel to multiple interstate highways. It is the nation's most direct intermodal rail route between the Northeast and South.

The Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility will consist of 165 acres on a 312 acre site with three loading tracks and three support tracks. There will be 1,440 parking spaces and an approximate capacity for 165,000 annual lifts. Capital investment equals \$97.5 million and is expected to open in late 2012.

Benefits to Alabama include 579,000 trucks diverted to rail, 16.6 million gallons of fuel saved, 185,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, \$47.3 million congestion savings and \$14.4 million accident costs avoided.

Mr. Wilson noted that the BRIMF will neither cause nor contribute to a violation of any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This information is based on EPA developed models and assumed maximum continuous facility operation, using five years of meteorological data. Details are available in the Environmental Assessment that is available for public review and comment at [www.mccallacan.com](http://www.mccallacan.com).

Ms. Ouida Fritschi noted the Transportation Citizens Committee recommended adoption with the following concerns:

- Resurfacing of McAshan Drive travelling east from I-59/20.
- Need for interchange improvements at I-59/20 and McAshan Drive.
- Site specific pollution concerns over the amount of daily incoming truck traffic (400-500), though regionally and statewide the amount of truck traffic should be reduced due to transfer of freight to rail.
- Safety (police traffic enforcement for accidents).

The Transportation Technical Committee and MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the TIP amendments with the same concerns. Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to approve the TIP modifications as requested. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**OTHER**

Chairman Brewer asked everyone to take note of the CommuteSmart newsletter that was included in the meeting packet. Chairman Brewer then reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee, December 14, 2010, 12:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, December 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- RPC Annual Meeting, January 26, 2010, The Club.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

WS:cb

K:\TRA\Production\01-Clt-Adm\Adm-MPO\10342 min-Dec 10.doc

**APPROVED:**

---

Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

---

Date