



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203  
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February 9, 2011

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
**FROM:** Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Secretary /s/  
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2011**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m., in the RPCGB 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 Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
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  
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Tom Henderson, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Jay Roberson, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Walter Jackson, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham

Ms. Virginia Williams, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Harvey Henley, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County  
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 McCondicchie  
Honorable Sandra Little Brown, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Mr. Walter Mitchell  
Honorable Joe Knight, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Mr. Marcus Huskey  
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams  
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster  
Represented by Mr. George Henry  
Honorable Ken Gulley, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis  
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Sedrick Rutledge  
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham  
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne  
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 Ms. Cindy Hill  
Mr. Peter Sellers, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative  
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell  
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member  
Represented by Mr. Dave Harris

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

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 Alberto Zaragoza, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member  
Honorable George Bowman, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative  
VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. T. Ray Mauldin, VPSI  
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Riley Smith, Jefferson County Department of Health  
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance  
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee  
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover  
Chief William Hewitt, City of Tarrant  
Mr. Peter Behrman, BJCTA  
Mr. Jeff Zissette, City of Midfield  
Mr. Jeremy Gray, Birmingham News  
Mr. Preston Huddleston  
Mr. Keith Strickland, GMC  
Mr. Les Kearley, GMC  
Chief Jerry McIntosh, City of Irondale

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

### **INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Mayor Gene Melton made a motion to approve the December 8, 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Randy Cole seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>UMTAC-53100</u>	100055976	Section 5310 Transit, City of Alabaster, Capital Vehicle	2/9/2010	TR	2/10/2011	2011	\$55,356	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
<u>IM-10200</u>	100055915	I-20/I-59 Interstate Median Crossover Protection from I-459 Interchange to CR-56 (Valley Road) Interchange	2/9/2010	PE	2/10/2011	2011	\$100,000	Exempt	Interstate System	5
<u>IM-10200</u>	100055916	I-20/I-59 Interstate Median Crossover Protection from I-459 Interchange to CR-56 (Valley Road) Interchange	2/9/2010	CN	6/24/2011	2011	\$1,800,000	Exempt	Interstate System	5
<u>IAR-037-000-004</u>	100056047	CR 2303 (Lakeshore Parkway) improvements including acceleration and deceleration lanes, traffic signal and an approximately 700 foot long industrial access road 0.5 miles north of SR-150 in the City of Bessemer	2/9/2010	CN	3/15/2011	2011	\$1,365,000	Exempt	State Funded Projects	7
<u>IAR-037-000-005</u>	100056048	Interchange improvements, traffic signal and striping on Tallapoosa Street (40th Street) from north of I-59/I-20 Interchange to approximately 1,200 feet south of I-59/I-20 Interchange for City of Birmingham	2/9/2010	CN	3/15/2011	2011	\$1,276,800	Exempt	State Funded Projects	7

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

<u>STPAA-7112(605)</u>	100055394	Demolition and structure removal at 10 locations along SR-261 for widening project from Bearden Road to US-31	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$126,403	Non-Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2
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**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 Appendix 5C of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

MPO Vice Chairman Mayor Thomas Henderson noted that the MPO Subcommittee recommended approval of the TIP amendment.

Councilor Maxine Herring Parker made a motion to approve the TIP modification. Ms. Virginia Williams seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski announced the call for projects for the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The deadline for submittal is February 28, 2011. The funding is level with previous years until a new transportation bill is authorized. All projects received will be prioritized along with the projects in the current TIP.

Ms. Virginia Williams reminded everyone that a part of the requirements is to demonstrate that matching funds are available when submitting a project for inclusion.

**COMMUTESMART PROGRAM**

Ms. Lindsey Gray presented the CommuteSmart Annual report. As of October 2009 the RPCGB has managed the CommuteSmart program internally. VPSI is the current vanpool provider. The program

added 1,488 new applicants to the ridematching database for an increase of 13.37% in participation for the year. More than 8.6 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT) were reduced for the year.

Program Tracking Data for October 2009 – September 2010 included:

- Ridematch Applications 1,488
- Emergency Ride Home 19 at a total cost of \$895
- Total VMT Reduced 8,614,646

The Get Green Program is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. 862 commuters registered for the program, reducing 580,000 vehicle miles travelled. The program cost for the year was \$40,800. The Commuter Club Program registered 440 new commuters and eliminated 3.2 million vehicle miles travelled at a cost of \$48,000. Participants receive quarterly \$25 gift cards.

VPSI maintained an average of 30 vanpools each month, reducing emissions nearly 2000 tons and more than 4.7 million vehicle miles travelled. Annually, each vanpooler saved \$700 - \$1,000. The total number vanpool riders were 3,379 for a total of 6,758 passenger trips per day. The total number of cars removed from the highway was 66,352 and a total of 100,789 trips eliminated. The total number of VMT reduced was 4,758,416.

As part of the CommuteSmart team outreach efforts, the 67 company partners were validated and the team cultivated existing partnerships. 126 company meetings were held along with 90 commuter events. Currently there are 12 Community Partners, 34 Bronze Partners, 13 Silver Partners and 8 Gold Partners.

The PR campaign consisted of promotion items, information brochures, Speaker's Bureau and Outreach Events. As part of the growing social media network, CommuteSmart now has 449 Facebook "friends" with 43 messages and 244 Twitter followers with 347 tweets. The Online Advertising campaign ran from October 2009 to December 2009 with 600,000 impressions per month at a cost of \$4,000 per month.

Mr. Darrell Howard noted that the detailed annual report was included in the meeting packet. Similar programs are located in Huntsville, Montgomery and Mobile. RPC staff is currently working with ALDOT to create a statewide program.

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

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski gave an update on the status of the U.S. 280 Corridor Transit Study. Information presented included the study process and timeline, transit supportive land use assessment, overview of the alternatives screening process and next steps. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that this study is being conducted outside of ALDOT's study, which includes in-depth analysis of the highway whereas this study's primary focus is transit alternatives.

The purpose of this land use analysis includes the development of two land use scenarios for modeling (“business-as-usual” vs. compact transit-supportive development) and comparison of transit center nodes using the INDEX model to show the benefits of compact, transit-oriented development.

The three case study areas, Homewood, Hwy 119 and the Chelsea Town Center, were recommended for additional analysis using INDEX because they represent a range of conditions (urban, suburban and dense) along the corridor.

The purpose of the Alternatives Screening Process is to provide a systematic method for identifying all transit alternatives to meet specific US 280 Corridor needs, eliminating transit alternatives with “Fatal Flaws”, evaluating the best-performing alternatives and reaching consensus on the “Locally Preferred Alternative” or LPA.

Mr. Kaczorowski presented examples of transit alternatives including:

- Transportation System Management Alternative: Premium Bus in General Use Lanes
- Premium Bus in General Use Lanes with Queue Jumps
- Premium Bus with Four At-Grade Toll Lanes
- Premium Bus with Two At-Grade Managed Lanes
- Premium Bus with Two Elevated Managed Lanes
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Dedicated Guideway Located At-Grade in the Median
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Dedicated Guideway That is Grade-Separated in the Median
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Dedicated Guideway Outside the Roadway Shoulder
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Dedicated Guideway on New Backage Roadway

Fatal Flaw Screening Criteria will be applied to the 40 initial transit alternatives in order to eliminate options that are clearly not feasible. Criteria include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Connectivity to Major Activity Centers       | • Service to Residents                  |
| • Service to Transit-Dependent Groups          | • Addresses Corridor Mobility Needs     |
| • Potential to Reduce Travel Times             | • Expected System Capacity              |
| • Degree of Community/Political Support        | • Consistency with Local/Regional Plans |
| • Encourages Future Development/ Redevelopment | • Potential Right-of-Way Footprint      |
| • Impact to Air Quality                        | • Relative Capital Cost                 |
| • Relative Operating/Maintenance Cost          | • Integration with Other Systems        |
| • Suitability of Mode in Corridor              | • Proven in Revenue Service             |

The next steps include completing the Fatal Flaw Analysis (February 2011), define transit and land use alternatives for each corridor segment (March-April 2011), evaluate alternatives and receive stakeholder and public input (April 2011), develop a funding plan (July 2011), and complete an Integrated Transit-Land Use Plan (Sept. 2011).

**TRANSPORTATION CITIZENS / TECHNICAL COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP  
CONCURRENCE**

Ms. Cynthia Barton presented information on the membership concurrence of the Transportation Citizens Committee and the Transportation Technical Committee. The MPO is charged annually to review and concur with the geographic composition of the Transportation Technical and Citizens' Advisory Committees, independent standing committees established under written agreement between the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and other major groups involved in transportation planning.

The TCC membership consists of 50 members and is geographically representative of the urban area based upon the amount of population. Representation is apportioned by district according to the population of the decennial Census. The following are the designated districts according to the 2000 Census:

City of Birmingham	15 members
South / Southeast Jefferson County	8 members
West / Southwest Jefferson County	8 members
East / Northeast Jefferson County	6 members
North / Northwest Jefferson County	4 members
Shelby County	9 members

The TTC is organization-based and currently consists of 45 membership positions, including:

- A. Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority Representative
- B. City of Birmingham
  - Chief Planner
  - Birmingham Traffic Engineer
- C. Jefferson County
  - Department of Roads and Transportation County Representative
- D. Alabama Department of Transportation
  - Multimodal Transportation Engineer, Montgomery
  - Preconstruction Engineer, Birmingham
  - Environmental Coordinator, Montgomery
  - Maintenance Representative, Birmingham
- E. Shelby County
  - Shelby County Highway Department Representative
  - Shelby County Development Services Representative
- F. Jefferson County Department of Health Representative
- G. Railroad Representative
- H. Trucking Representative
- I. Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
- J. City of Homewood Representative
- K. City of Hoover Representative
- L. City of Vestavia Hills Representative

- M. University of Alabama at Birmingham
  - Executive Director of Campus Planning
  - Parking and Transportation Services Director – Auxiliary Services
- N. CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
- O. Traffic Safety Representative
- P. Operation New Birmingham Representative

The TTC membership also includes a maximum of twenty (20) At-Large members and four (4) Non-Voting Member Organizations, including:

- A. Federal Highway Administration Representative
- B. Federal Transit Administration Representative
- C. Alabama Department of Environmental Management Air Division Chief
- D. Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce Representative

A question was raised about adding organizations, particularly Shelby County, to the TTC membership. Mr. David Hunke explained that organizations can be added based on solicitation. People interested in serving on the TTC can also be considered for membership as an At-Large member upon meeting attendance requirements and expressing an interest in serving on the committee.

Mr. Darrell Howard noted that the TCC and TTC are working committees of the MPO and they are charged with certain tasks related to the development of specific program solutions to areawide needs as identified through community research and public meetings.

Mr. Walter Jackson made a motion to concur with the geographic composition of the Transportation Technical and Citizens Committees. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

## **OTHER**

Chairman Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee, February 16, 2011, 12:00 p.m., RPCGB
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, February 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting February 24, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, March 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB

Chairman Brewer announced the retirement of Mr. Bill Foisy after 37 years with the RPCGB. A proclamation from the RPCGB and the MPO was read in honor of Mr. Foisy.

Chairman Brewer noted that he has been in contact with new ALDOT Director John Cooper and has invited him to attend the next MPO meeting.



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Mr. Charles Ball announced that Mr. Scott Tillman has been named as the replacement for Mr. Bill Foisy.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

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**APPROVED:**

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Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary

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Date