



*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)*

January 29, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

**FROM:** Mayor Doug Brewer, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes  
January 29, 2009**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, January 29, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Honorable Carol Duncan, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County - Pelham  
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT  
Mr. Chris Lewis, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities (Non-Voting Member)

## **MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Honorable Bobby Humphries, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Represented by Commissioner Bobby Humphries  
Mr. Robert Jilla, Alabama Department of Transportation (Non-Voting Member)  
Represented by Mr. Victor Jordan  
Honorable Larry Langford, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens  
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County  
Represented by Mr. David Hunke

Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County  
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County  
Honorable Gene Melton, City of Trussville  
Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
VACANT, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Mark Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration (Non-Voting Member)  
Honorable Stan Batemon, ex-officio, St. Clair County Commission  
Honorable Bruce Hamrick, ex-officio, Walker County Commission  
Honorable Tim Mims, ex-officio, Chilton County Commission  
Honorable David Standridge, ex-officio, Blount County Commission

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Cissy Edwards-Crowe, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Mary Grace Lewandowski, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission  
Ms. Doris Powell, Transportation Citizens Committee  
Ms. Christie Pannell, Shelby County

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT BILL OF 2009**

Mr. Bill Foisy presented information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. Included in the meeting packet was an updated list of ready to go projects identified by local governments in the Birmingham Area in response to an e-mail from the RPC to the MPO transportation committees on December 19, 2008 concerning a call for infrastructure projects from the National Association of Regional Councils.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the national voice for regionalism providing services to councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations, is collecting examples of regionally “ready to go” infrastructure projects that can be “shovel ready” within six months of receipt of federal funds. The following six criteria were requested to be provided for each project. On-line submittals have been made by the RPC to NARC to the extent of completeness of the information.

1. Project Name.
2. Project Type (resurfacing, transit, capacity, grade separation, bridge, sewer lines replacement, green infrastructure, water, etc.).
3. Cost Estimate (the intention is for a 100 percent federal funding source for projects. Local matches do not appear to be necessary at this point in the discussion).
4. Anticipated Start Date (in categories of immediately, 3 months, 6 months).
5. One Narrative that will accompany the projects you submit. Please include information describing a project and, as you are able, information addressing estimated economic input and estimated jobs created.
6. One direct quote from a local elected official or organization Executive Director describing the need and urgency for infrastructure investment in your region.

Projects received included the following:

<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation	The Performance Network theatre	community development	\$5,000,000
Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority	100 new 30' buses	transit	\$33,000,000
	30 new paratransit vehicles	transit	\$2,250,000
	scheduling software & equipment for paratransit vehicles	transit	\$300,000
	maintenance facility	transit	\$550,000
Center Point (City of)	Polly Reed Road drainage, sidewalk project	safety	\$\$2,500,000
ClasTran	Buses with wheelchair lifts	transit	\$664,305
Clay (City of)	Old Springville Road widening	highway capacity	\$2,900,000
	Cosby Lake Park	open space preservation / water quality	\$400,000
	Sanmore Drainage project	drainage	\$300,000
	Clay Community Center Complex	capacity and safety	\$400,000
	Clay Library	Education / historical preservation	\$250,000
Columbiana (City of)	Sewer System Rehabilitation	sewer	\$400,000
	Sidewalk Construction, Phase I	pedestrian	\$300,000

<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Homewood (City of)	Construction of Fire Station #1	fire	\$3,000,000
	Shades Creek Greenway Trail Phase II	pedestrian	\$4,000,000
	Soccer Fields, Parking Lot & Restroom Facilities	community development	\$1,620,000
	Griffin Creek, Floodway Improvements-Bank Stabilization	drainage	\$100,000
	Enclose Open Ditch @ 29th Court South	drainage	\$200,000
	Grade and Pave Alley South of 29th Court South	highway infrastructure	\$35,000
	Upgrade Intersection of 18th Street Roxbury Road / Signalization and Turn lanes	highway infrastructure	\$50,000
	Construct Sidewalks @ Overton Park	pedestrian	\$42,500
	Construct New Turn Lanes @ Brookwood Blvd and AL 149	highway infrastructure	\$1,300,000
Hoover (City of)	municipal fine arts center	community development	\$55,000,000
	alternative fuel production facility	alternative fuel/energy	\$45,000,000
	multi-purpose indoor sports facility	community development	\$30,000,000
	I-459 at Alabama 150 interchange improvements	highway infrastructure	\$8,000,000
	Old Montgomery Highway Road widening & bridge replacement	highway infrastructure	\$7,500,000
	Riverchase wastewater system inflow/infiltration reduction project	sanitary sewer line rehabilitation	\$5,000,000
	South Shades Crest Road improvements	highway infrastructure	\$1,100,000
	GPS traffic signal emergency preemption installation	highway infrastructure	\$1,000,000
	U.S. 280 at Alabama 119 intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$850,000
	U.S. 280 at Hugh Daniel Drive intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$500,000
	Stadium Trace at Learning Lane intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$500,000
	Preserve Parkway sidewalk	pedestrian	\$450,000
	Alford Avenue at Shady Brook Roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$400,000
	Blue Ridge Drive sidewalk	pedestrian	\$300,000
	Chester Street sidewalk	pedestrian	\$150,000
Columbiana Drive sidewalk	pedestrian	\$150,000	
Jemison (City of)	sanitary sewer and effluent force main upgrade for the wastewater treatment plant	sewer extension and upgrade	\$650,000
Kid One Transport	ADA accessible vehicles	transit	\$200,000

<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Leeds (City of)	Bethel Street storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$111,995
	Friar Lane storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$53,900
	Zeigler Road roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$215,300
	Vivian Street roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$136,700
	President Street roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$196,400
	Russell Heights water line improvements	water	\$605,790
	Fire Station at Ziegler Road and AL 119	fire	\$600,000
	Leeds Norfolk Southern Underpass	highway infrastructure	\$1,600,000
	Memorial Park trailhead restrooms	recreation	\$161,000
	Marketta Spur/River Run Road water lines	water	\$1,500,000
	Isabell Town area water lines	water	\$425,000
	Pine Crest Apartments water lines	water	\$145,000
	O'Barr Road area water lines	water	\$205,000
Tidwell Hill Area water lines	water	\$70,000	
Operation New Birmingham / Changed Lives Christian Center	building rehabilitation for homelessness	community infrastructure	\$3,250,000
MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Coalburg Road, Corridor X to Daniel Payne Drive, additional lanes, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$14,058,459
	Tarrant Huffman Road, Phase I, Treadwell Road to Briarmon Drive, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$7,892,801
	Tarrant Huffman Road, Phase 2, East Briarmon Drive to Roebuck Drive, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$4,343,484
	Chapel Lane Extension, City of Hoover	highway infrastructure	\$5,049,200
Pelham (City of)	Highway 119 sidewalk project	pedestrian	\$100,000
	Oaklyn Hills Road rehabilitation	resurfacing and repairs	\$1,250,000
	Aaron Road storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$1,317,582
	Cottage Circle drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$700,000
	McCain Parkway culvert replacement	bridge replacement	\$700,000
	Pelham western sidewalk projects	pedestrian	\$6,722,967
	Chandalar bridge replacement	bridge replacement	\$2,000,000
	Highway 35 - 12" water line extension	water line	\$1,523,000
Thorsby (City of)	community center	community enhancement	\$1,300,000
	landscaping	green infrastructure	\$50,000
	paving	resurfacing	\$100,000
	pedestrian walkways	resurfacing	\$200,000
United Way of Central Alabama	WHEELS Mobility Management Project	mobility management	\$1,400,000

<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
University of Alabama at Birmingham	women's athletic fast pitch softball complex	infrastructure athletic field	\$2,000,000
		construction and Title 9 compliance	
	two story vertical additional to 9th Avenue parking deck	transportation infrastructure	\$7,900,000
	20th Street parking lot	transportation infrastructure	\$700,000
	renovation of the Wallace Tumor Institute	building renovation	\$30,000,000
	Mervyn H Sterne Library partial renovation for computer Commons	building renovation	\$9,000,000
	renovation for vision research core facility, Volker Hall research Tower	building renovation	\$6,000,000
	UAB district steam system	utility infrastructure	\$90,000,000
	underground industrial water supply for UAB campus	utility infrastructure	\$6,000,000
Vestavia Hills (City of)	Library in the Forest Construction Project	green infrastructure	\$13,000,000
	Athletic Fields at Patchwork Farms	construction/recreational facility	\$8,000,000
	Cahaba Heights and Shades Crest	storm drainage	\$450,000
	Critical drainage improvements project		
	US31 Pedestrian Crossover Project	transportation access	\$400,000
City of Warrior	Warrior regional library renovation	regional library	\$2,000,000

Additional information in the meeting packet included the H.R.1 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 as introduced to the House, The National Association of Regional Councils highlights of the Senate Plan as introduced January 23, 2009, The NARC Frequently Asked Questions handout as of January 22, 2009, the Committee on Appropriations Summary: American Recovery and Reinvestment news release dated January 15, 2009, and the USDOT and FHWA Questions and Answers on Economic Recovery Issues Raised by State DOTs dated January 23, 2009.

Included in the House Bill is \$30 billion for transportation infrastructure. \$9 billion will be set aside for transit that will be disbursed based on a set formula. Money set aside for transportation will be allocated through the Surface Transportation Program, including Birmingham Attributable, and projects funded will be required to be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program and must be ready to go within 120 days. The Birmingham area could possibly receive up to \$10 million dollars for transit.

Councilor Carol Duncan requested a coordinated list of area projects submitted to Washington from all cities, counties and other agencies in the MPO area.

## **LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)**

Mr. Harry He and Mr. Darrell Howard presented information on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Birmingham On-Course, the Regional Transportation Plan (formerly the long range transportation plan) for the Birmingham area has been under development for well over a year. Much of the work that has been done to develop the plan has been to prepare critical plan components such as the newly completed Congestion Management Process (CMP – formerly Congestion Management System), population and demographic forecasts, and the regional travel demand model. With much of this work either being finalized or completed, several of the RTP's internal elements have been reviewed in order to bring them into compliance with federal regulations as well as into alignment with the Birmingham MPO's business practices.

Some of the RTP's internal elements that have been reviewed and modified as part of the Birmingham On-Course plan development process are:

- Changes to the RTP's vision for the development of the transportation system
- Changes to the RTP's goals for the development of the transportation system
- Realignment, deletion, and/or addition of objectives for the RTP's goals, and
- Completely rewriting the RTP's project prioritization methodology

On-Course Birmingham contains three (3) distinctive goals for the development of the transportation system. These include:

**Goal 1:** Transportation System Sustainability

**Goal 2:** Transportation System Integration and Connectivity

**Goal 3:** Community Driven Regional Transportation Plan

Each of the three goals was developed through many conversations with members of a working committee of technical experts. These goals were presented to and confirmed by the Birmingham MPO's advisory and governing committees. All of the goals reflect changes in the MPO's view of how the Birmingham metropolitan planning area's transportation system should be developed. They place importance on the maintenance of the existing system. The goals express the desire that the transportation system be integrated and connected, not only with other transportation facilities, but with complementary and supportive land uses and services. The goals also stress the importance of including the public in its development, placing emphasis on the desire that projects and programs emerge out of a rational planning process.

Based on these goals, a set of objectives was identified for each and brought before the full Birmingham MPO on January 14, 2009 for review and discussion. The review of objectives for each of the RTP goals was conducted through an interactive exercise in which Birmingham MPO members were assigned to one of three groups (one group for each goal). They were asked to discuss objectives in relationship to the overall goal, and prioritize them in order of importance. Each group returned a poster sized board with their goal's objectives arranged in priority order. Some objectives were recommended to be combined with other objectives. Some objectives

were recommended for deletion. Some objectives were recommended to be moved to other goals. Still, there were some goals that added new objectives.

Mr. Howard then reviewed the next steps of incorporating the MPO priorities into the plan and updating the activity center maps.

### **MPO MEETING AGENDA (FEBRUARY 11, 2009)**

With no action items to present to the MPO, Councilor Carol Duncan made a motion to cancel the February 2009 MPO meeting. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

Mayor Doug Brewer discussed the success of the RPC Annual Conference and thanked the RPC staff for a job well done.

Mr. Bill Foisy and Mr. Chris Lewis reviewed the upcoming Transit Means Growth Summit to be held February 2, 2009 at Balch & Bingham. The purpose of the summit is to discuss the economic development potential of a fully-funded, fully functional statewide transit system. The event is hosted by the BJCTA; transit authorities from Decatur, Dothan, Opelika, Muscle Shoals, Tuscaloosa, Gadsden, Mobile, Huntsville and Anniston; the RPC and the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce. Sessions will be held on the (1) need for a functioning public transit system, (2) importance of local matching funds for transit, (3) state constitution and its impact on transit funding, and (4) need for a commission on public transportation.

Upcoming meetings of importance to the MPO, include:

- Congestion Management Process meeting, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m., RPC.
- Transit Means Growth Summit 2009, February 2, 2009, 10am-3pm, Balch & Bingham
- Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m., RPC.
- ALDOT Public Involvement Meeting, Valleydale Road widening, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., Hoover Public Safety Center.
- Mobility Matters (I-65) Steering Committee, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Citizens Committee, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 Noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Subcommittee Meeting, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.



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**APPROVED:**

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Honorable Doug Brewer  
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

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Date