



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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March 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Doug Brewer, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
March 26, 2009**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, March 26, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County - Pelham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor

Mr. Chris Lewis, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Represented by Mr. Chris Leffert

Honorable Larry Langford, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens

Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Randy Cole

Honorable Carol Duncan, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Harhonda Pinkney

Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Bobby Humphryes, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Gene Melton, City of Trussville
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Robert Jilla, Alabama Department of Transportation (Non-Voting Member)
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. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Mr. Al Folcher, Vestavia Hills
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, City of Birmingham
Honorable R. Eric Patterson, City of Leeds
Mr. Scott Rumble, PBS&J
Honorable Tommy Joe Alexander, City of Irondale
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover
Mr. William Parker

MPO Subcommittee Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

I-65 MOBILITY MATTERS PROJECT

Mr. Scott Rumble presented an update on the I-65 Mobility Matters project. The consultant has been analyzing the I-65 and US 31 corridors from Valleydale Road to the City Center / UAB area to identify potential alternatives, including High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

Last year, a series of informational meetings to introduce the I-65/US 31 Mobility Matters project to the public were held. A survey was conducted to gather public opinion on key issues and potential solutions. The response was overwhelming and additional attempts to get citizen input were formulated. An interactive version of the survey was placed on the project website and announced through multiple outreach procedures.

The number one alternative suggested was the addition of HOV lanes, followed closely by adding more general purpose lanes and the initiation of a Bus Rapid Transit System.

In order to narrow down the 14 proposed alternatives, a two-tier evaluation process has been used. The Tier 1 Evaluation focused on identifying the best conceptual options for each of the alternatives being considered.

For the I-65 Alignment, five alternatives will move forward to the Tier 2 Evaluation stage. These alternatives are as follows:

- No Build
- Transportation System Management
- General Purpose Lanes Only
- HOV Lanes and Premium Transit
- Managed Lanes and Premium Transit

For the Arterial Alignment, four alternatives will move forward to the Tier 2 Evaluation stage. These alternatives are as follows:

- No Build
- Transportation System Management
- Premium Transit on US 31/Columbiana/Green Springs
- Premium Transit on US 31

Nine alternatives will advance to the Tier 2 Evaluation. The Tier 2 Evaluation will compare the performance of the optimal configurations and alignments for each of the modes and form the basis for selecting a locally preferred option.

In order to receive input on major trip destinations in the I-65 / US 31 corridor and preferences for new transit and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) service in the corridor, Mr. Rumble announced a series of public involvement meetings to be held March 31, 2009. The location and time of the meetings is as follows:

7:00a.m. – 9:00 a.m. BJCTA Central Station - 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35203

11:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Riverchase Galleria Mall (near the food court) -3000 Riverchase Galleria Hoover, AL 35244

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Birmingham-Homewood Holiday Inn Conference Room - 492 Wildwood Circle North, Homewood, AL 35209

The \$100 million authorization under SAFETEA-LU for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the I-65 corridor could expire after September 30, 2009 with the passage by Congress of a new transportation reauthorization bill. This funding, while only an authorization and not an appropriation, can only be used for a justified BRT project and cannot be used for HOV or

general purpose lanes. Further authorizations for bus capital for express type services would be appropriate.

JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (5316) AND NEW FREEDOM (5317) PROJECTS

Mr. Scott Tillman presented a report and recommendations on the Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom projects. A summary of each of the six proposals received on November 12, 2008 from the call for projects was included in the meeting packet.

Staff reviewed each of the project requests and recommendations were presented to the MPO Human Service Transportation Committee on March 12, 2009. The committee includes members from the Transportation Citizens Committee and Transportation Technical Committee.

Committee members reviewed and discussed a summary of each proposal. Each summary included staff recommendations for the project as well as recommendations on improving the proposals that were not recommended for funding.

The committee voted to recommend the following projects for funding:

1. Cooper Green-Mercy Hospital for \$20,000 under New Freedom Funding
2. Travelers Aid Society for \$50,000 under New Freedom Funding
3. Glenwood, Inc for \$178,746 under New Freedom Funding

The proposals that were not recommended for funding can be resubmitted by June 30, 2009. The Human Service Transportation Committee will meet on April 27, 2009 to discuss re-scoping the proposals with each of the project sponsors so that they can be accepted by the committee.

The current balance after funding the three recommended proposals will be \$524,574 for JARC funds and \$176,052 for New Freedom funds. The funds will be rolled into FY 2010 if not used in FY 2009.

All six proposals are posted at www.bhammpo.org/publicinvolvement/doingbusiness.htm for review.

Mr. David Hunke noted that the TTC recommended approval of the three projects as recommended by the Human Service Transportation Committee and RPC staff. Mr. Bill Foisy noted that the TCC recommended approval as well, with a request for a follow-up meeting with United Way to discuss the cost and tasks of their project.

Mr. David Hunke made a motion to forward the request to the MPO for a vote. Mr. Chris Leffert seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee on projects to be funded with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A letter from ALDOT Director D.J.

McInnes that included information on eligibility (Surface Transportation Program), certification process by the State, reporting requirements, and obligation date deadline of March 2, 2010.

**Prioritization for
 Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) Projects
 Birmingham Transportation Improvement Program
 FY 2009**

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Total Cost	Existing Funding Program	FY 2009 Project	
					Recovery Act at 100%	Existing Funding at 80/20
100048249	ALDOT	ITS Fiber Audit of Regional ITS System	\$416,000	CMAQ	\$391,166	
100033062	Birmingham	Coalburg Road (additional lanes)	\$13,966,649	STPBH		X
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (turn lanes)	\$361,306	STPBH	\$339,737	
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,159,829	CMAQ	\$2,971,198	
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,941,456	STPBH	\$3,706,164	
100007611	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 2 (additional lanes)	\$7,892,801	STPBH		X
100007566	Birmingham	14th Street Corridor Streetscape Improvements	\$1,406,080	CMAQ		X
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$370,000	CMAQ	\$347,912	
100050645	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital FY 2009	\$755,000	CMAQ	\$709,929	
100052168	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,125,000	CMAQ	\$1,057,841	
100053532	ClasTran	Vehicle Acquisition (18 vehicles)	\$833,805	STPBH	\$784,030	
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signals/intersection improvements)	\$1,378,335	CMAQ	\$1,296,053	
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,444,840	CMAQ	\$2,298,891	
100039931	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension	\$4,183,920	STPBH		X
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$171,280	STPBH	\$161,055	
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$495,718	STPBH	\$466,125	
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,462,323	STPBH	\$1,375,027	

100042381	Leeds / Jefferson County	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,541,671	STPBH	\$7,091,459	
100050385	Jefferson County	High Line Rail Trail (right-of-way)	\$1,135,680	CMAQ		X
100050643	RPCGB	Rideshare Program for FY 2009	\$1,081,600	STPBH		X
100047124	RPCGB	Building Communities Implementation	\$1,644,032	STPBH		X
Total Programmed					\$22,996,589	
FY 09 construction projects from TIP Subcommittee "hit list" of projects to obligate						
Recovery Act projects computed at .9403034 of total cost to balance to total available			Total Available		\$22,996,589	

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to send the TIP Subcommittee recommendations for funding to the MPO for a vote. Mr. Chris Leffert seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (APRIL 8, 2009)

Mayor Tom Henderson made a motion to include Agenda item #1 (I-65/US31 Mobility Matters report), Agenda item #2 (Recommendations for Job Access and Reverse Commute (5316) and New Freedom (5317) projects) and Agenda item #3 (Recommendations on Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) projects) to the April 8, 2009 MPO meeting agenda. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER MEETINGS

Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe announced the NCI Charrette System Training, to be held April 14-16, 2009 at the RPC. The cost is \$450. AICP and AIA attendees will receive credits for attending. Anyone interested in attending was asked to contact Ms. Crowe at cedwards@rpcgb.org or register online at www.rpcgb.org.

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Doug Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings of importance to the MPO, including:

- Regional Transportation Plan Strategies Group, April 7th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Citizens Committee, April 15th 12:00 Noon, BJCTA.
- Transportation Technical Committee, April 22nd, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Subcommittee Meeting, April 23rd, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

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

DB:cyb

APPROVED:

Honorable Doug Brewer
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date