



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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May 28, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Doug Brewer, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
May 28, 2009**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, May 28, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Honorable Carol Duncan, City of Birmingham
Honorable Bobby Humphryes, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

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

Mr. Chris Lewis, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell

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

Mr. Robert Jilla, Alabama Department of Transportation (Non-Voting Member)
Represented by Mr. Victor Jordan

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County
Honorable Gene Melton, City of Trussville
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson County
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
VACANT, City of Birmingham

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Sean Saffle, CommuteSmart Rideshare
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, regional Planning Commission
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Mr. Kevin Owens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Chris Leffert, BJCTA
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County
Mr. Pascal Caputo, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Allison Howell, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Melissa Hipp, City of Vestavia Hills
Mr. George Munchus, UAB
Mr. William Parker, Birmingham Council Office
Mr. Mike Parker, Birmingham

MPO Subcommittee Chairman 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.

Subcommittee Chairman Doug brewer announced that he, along with MPO Chairman Randy Cole, has received a request from Irondale Mayor Tommy Alexander regarding funding for a project on Grants Mill Road. MPO staff is currently working on a response to this request as part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. Councilor Carol Duncan noted that a 75 foot buffer would be would be necessary due to the environmental impacts on the watershed.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Subcommittee met April 27, 2009 to discuss the process to be used to insure that the 14 projects approved by the MPO for 100% Recovery Act funding are obligated by the March 2, 2010 deadline. A list of the projects was included in the meeting packet. Agreements from ALDOT were discussed at the TIP Subcommittee meeting. Some project sponsors have received agreements, some have not, and some agreements require modification.

Mr. Foisy noted that ALDOT had informed him that the two BJCTA projects approved by the MPO for Recovery Act funding have already been flexed to the Federal Transit Administration and would not be eligible for 100% funding. The projects were flexed in March as they were included in the FY 2009 TIP adopted by the MPO in October 2008. The Subcommittee recommended that the FY 2010 BJCTA projects for the same scope of work be substituted for the FY 2009 projects.

Greenlight teams have been established to monitor project development. A copy of the organization and individuals assigned for each project was included in the meeting packet.

The Subcommittee discussed the process for “backfilling” the TIP to replace the Recovery Act projects. In theory this would be \$22.9 million, but project cost refinements for other TIP projects already indicates a balance of \$18.9 in the federal aid spreadsheet.

The federal funding rescissions were discussed per the report that Mr. Dave Harris, Federal Highway Administration, provided to the MPO at the April 8, 2009 meeting. SAFETEA-LU rescissions set for September 2009 will amount to \$170 million for the State of Alabama which could significantly impact the unobligated carryover funds for the Birmingham Area estimated at \$45 million for the Surface Transportation Program and \$8 million for the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program. In addition, the FY 2009 Congressional Omnibus Bill will require an additional \$50-\$60 million in rescissions for the State of Alabama.

In consideration of project cost modifications and the likely rescission of TIP funding carryover, the Subcommittee recommended that modifications beyond immediate programming requirements be done later in the fiscal year that would coincide with adoption of the updated Regional Transportation Plan (long-range 2035).

The process for consideration of new TIP projects recommended by local governments will include a resolution of support that expresses:

- (1) Desire to seek federal funds.
- (2) Desired funding amount.
- (3) Understanding that federal funds may not be encumbered until preliminary engineering and final design have been approved by the Alabama Department of Transportation.
- (4) Understanding of the MPO’s Reasonable Progress Policy.
- (5) Commitment to provide match for the funded project phases throughout the life of the TIP.
- (6) Agreement to fund any costs above the finalized project estimate.

The TIP Subcommittee made the following recommendations:

- (1) Modify the Recovery Act projects as follows:
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital, \$ 709,929; substitute project 100050646 for 100050645.
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles, \$1,057,841, substitute project 100052169 for 100052168.

- (2) Add a project to the FY 2010 TIP, Table 13, Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program, for the Birmingham Regional Paratransit Consortium (ClasTran) activities, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority as grantee, in the amount of \$3,080,000 federal (\$2,800,000 for operations and \$280,000 for administration at 10%) (\$3,850,000 total cost).

The recommendations have been included as part of the TIP modification chart presented to the MPO Subcommittee for consideration.

Mr. Bill Foisy then presented a list of TIP request modifications, included below:

ALDOT Request- Interstate Maintenance / National Highway System

<u>IM</u>	100053693	I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252)	6/10/09	PE	5/1/2009	2009	\$1,500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053694	I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252)	6/10/09	CN	1/15/2010	2010	\$30,000,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053699	I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass	6/10/09	PE	5/01/2009	2009	\$500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>IM</u>	100053701	I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass	6/10/09	CN	3/26/2010	2010	\$9,500,000	Exempt	Interstate Maintenance	5
<u>NHF</u>	100053741	Corridor Study for the Elevated Expressway on SR-38 (Us-280) from west of I-459 to east of CR-355 (Eagle Point Parkway)	6/10/09	PE	6/01/2009	2009	\$1,000,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3

These requests are for preliminary engineering and construction budgets for reconstruction work and corridor studies and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

ALDOT Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

<u>STMFRPTOC</u> <u>5311</u>	100053453	Section 5311 Shelby / Jefferson County Stimulus Class Transit Capital Bus Rolling Stock – ClasTran	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$774,875	Exempt	Surface Transportation STP/ST	1
<u>STMFTA9C</u> <u>5307</u>	100053617	Section 5307 / 5340 Birmingham Transit Stimulus Support Facilities and Equipment- BJCTA	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$8,694,931	Exempt	Surface Transportation STP/ST	1

These requests are for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

TIP Subcommittee Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

<u>STMBH</u>	100050646	BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$709,929	Exempt	Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham	1
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<u>STMBH</u>	100052169	BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	6/10/09	TR	5/01/2009	2009	\$1,057,841	Exempt	Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham	1
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These requests are substituting project numbers 100050646 for 100050645 and 100052169 for 100052168 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Mr. Lance Taylor noted that the reconstruction projects included removing of CRCT concrete and replacing with a higher quality concrete. Mr. Tim Westhoven asked about the extent of the US 280 Corridor Study. Mr. Taylor stated that the ALDOT is currently waiting on FHWA instructions regarding all elements of the study, but an environmental document will be done as part of the corridor study.

Ms. Doris Powell noted that the Transportation Citizens Committee recommended approval of the TIP modifications. Mr. David Hunke noted that the Transportation Technical Committee recommended approving the TIP modification as requested, but did ask that additional consideration of specific design elements be addressed in the project, including the poor condition of ramps, elevated structures, etc. on the reconstruction projects on I-65.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE – RECOVERY ACT FUNDING

Mr. Bill Foisy reviewed a copy of the Federal Register dated May 18, 2009 that included a notice of funding availability for supplemental discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) totaling \$1.5 billion. This is a national notice with potential for 100% eligible funding for projects with a minimum cost of \$20 million. ALDOT has submitted a request for \$250 million for the completion of Corridor X. RPC will be submitting a request for around \$32 million for the In-Town Transit Project. Jefferson County is part of a larger group requesting funding for a statewide bridge program.

RIDESHARE PROGRAM

Mr. Sean Saffle gave a presentation on the CommuteSmart Rideshare 2008 Annual Report. Information presented included:

- History of the CommuteSmart Program
- Ridematching database with over 9,400 commuters
- 7,310,492 Vehicle miles reduced
- Incentives programs- Get Green and Commuter Club
- Emergency Ride Home Program
- Vanpool program statistics with 38 vanpools at the end of 2008
- In the News publicity with 119 media placements with an advertising equivalency value of \$1.2 million
- CommuteSmart Partnerships with 77 companies and organizations

Mr. Saffle asked attendees to contact him if they knew of companies that might be interested in the CommuteSmart program.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a status report on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Information presented included:

- Project Prioritization
- Financial Assumptions
- MPO Recommendations and Actions
- Next Steps

Project prioritization included goals based planning and needs identification. The three goals are Transportation System Sustainability, Transportation system Integration and Connectivity, and Community Driven. Needs Identification included congested conditions, high crash locations and freight volumes.

Financial Assumptions included information on federal funds assumed for future use. The overall funding split of money will be 51% capacity/capital projects and 49% operations and maintenance activities. The funding assumptions, developed by the Federal Highway Administration and the ALDOT, are based on historic authorizations and how the money has been spent in the past

Mr. Howard noted that there are three challenges to face in the financial assumptions. Challenge #1 is balancing the RTP. The overall RTP budget is over programmed by \$1.2 billion. Challenge #2 is balancing the capacity program. The RTP capacity program budget is over programmed by \$2.1 billion. Challenge #3 is increasing the operations and maintenance program which is under programmed by \$980 million. This could change due to new EPA non-attainment designations. CMAQ dollars could be divided between five areas in Alabama.

Recommendations and / or proposed actions for the capacity program (Surface Transportation Program - Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Change Project Scopes
- Increase Local Match Requirement
- State Funded Projects
- Move Projects from Fiscally Constrained to Visionary
- Remove Projects

Recommendations and/or proposed actions for the Operations and Maintenance Program (Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Place more emphasis on Operations Strategies
 - o Regional Signal Timing Project
 - o Incident Management Activities

- Traveler Information
- ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan Update

Additional actions include establishing generalized funding pots for the following:

- Non-Motorized Travel
- Smart Corridors
- Bottleneck Relief
- Travel Demand Management
- Transportation System Maintenance

Next steps include identifying and securing long-term funding. Regional Transportation Funding Source ideas include:

- Identify new revenue sources
- Exercise existing revenue sources
- Promote activities that encourage changes in behavior.

Councilor Carol Duncan requested information on including the Lake Purdy Bridge replacement in the Transportation Improvement Program. It was noted that the project used to be in the TIP, but has subsequently been removed. Councilor Duncan was referred to Mr. Andre Bittas in the City of Birmingham Planning and Engineering Department for more information.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (JUNE 10, 2009)

Councilor Carol Duncan made a motion to include Agenda Item #1 (Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications), Agenda Item #2 (federal Register Notice), Agenda Item #3 (Rideshare annual report presentation) and Agenda Item #4 (Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update) on the June 10, 2009 MPO meeting agenda. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER MEETINGS

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Doug Brewer announced a series of upcoming meetings, including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee, June 15th, 12:00 Noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee, June 24th, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Subcommittee Meeting, June 25th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

A flyer was included in the meeting packet requesting everyone interested in receiving air quality alert notice to sign up at <http://birmingham.enviroflash.info>.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

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APPROVED:

Honorable Doug Brewer
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date