



*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 • www.bhammpo.org*

August 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Doug Brewer, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
August 27, 2009**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, August 27, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Tom Henderson

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

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Victor Blackledge

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

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

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill

Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Ms. Jennifer Brabston

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Bobby Humphryes, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County
Honorable Carol Duncan, City of Birmingham
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
Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Tom Maxwell, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Ginny MacDonald, Birmingham News
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Courtney Newton, United Way
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA
Mr. John Stewart, Gresham Smith and Partners
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance
Ms. Melissa Hipp, City of Vestavia Hills
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover
Mr. Keith Strickland

MPO Secretary Mayor Tom Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. The meeting preceded with the scheduled agenda items.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee meeting held July 30, 2009. Subcommittee members discussed the recent \$12 million rescission of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds that resulted in a negative balance. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) requested that the CMAQ program be rebalanced. RPC

produced a draft list of modifications to re-balance these funds. The draft list was included in the meeting packet.

The list of modifications developed by the TIP Sub-Committee to re-balance the CMAQ funds in the FY2008-2011 TIP were grouped into four categories:

Move from CMAQ to STPBH – about \$5.7 million of CMAQ projects will be transferred to the Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funds. All projects on the list are eligible for STPBH funds and the transfer will have no effect on the federal or state requirements for the projects.

Move CMAQ Projects to FY2012 – about \$2.6 million of CMAQ projects will be moved to FY2012. There are a variety of reasons these projects will be moved which are included on attachments included in the meeting packet. Funding for these projects would be available on October 1, 2011.

Move CMAQ Projects from FY2009 to FY2010 – in order to balance the FY2009 CMAQ funds, about \$3.6 million of the FY2009 projects would be moved to FY2010. Funding for these projects would be available on October 1, 2009, so this adjustment would not affect the schedule for any of these projects.

Other Modifications to Existing Projects – the other modifications include changing the description of one project and combining funds from another. Also included in this category is the programming of specific projects in the Building Communities Implementation Program. Each of the Building Communities project sponsors submitted official written requests for program funding and have had either corridor studies and/or preliminary engineering work completed. In order to fund each of the five projects, an increase of \$1,225,977 is required to bring the total funding for the Program to \$3,477,090. Included in the Building Communities Implementation Program is funding for the Reed Harvey Park Greenway Corridor project submitted by the City of Center Point. The TIP Sub-Committee agreed that the RPC should meet with Center Point and discuss both design and funding alternatives. Since the July 30th TIP Sub-Committee meeting, the RPC met with the project engineer and the Center Point mayor. As a result of this meeting, the RPC is recommending that the pedestrian element of the project be funded through the Building Communities Implementation Program and that the City and RPC would have to seek other funding sources for the storm water infrastructure portion of the project.

The balance of the existing CMAQ funds (as of July 13th) is (-\$8,129,383). As a result of these modifications, the new balance of CMAQ funds will be \$181,220. The existing STPBH balance (as of July 13th) is \$12,711,832. As a result of these modifications, the new balance will be \$5,787,197. The existing and resulting lists of all CMAQ and STPBH projects are also attached. A formal adoption of a complete TIP including all 14 funding sources will be performed this fall in conjunction with ALDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Birmingham area 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski discussed the decision by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently that the only projects that can be bid by local governments are Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects. The RPC and the local agencies have been trying to get FHWA and ALDOT to allow local governments to bid projects such as sidewalks, trails, landscaping, and other projects similar to those in the TE program. This decision means that even though a project is identical to a TE project, if it is funded by other sources, such as CMAQ or STP, it would have to follow the same extensive process as all other major roadway construction projects. ALDOT is working on developing an alternative review and bid process for these types of projects.

An update was given on the status of MPO approved Recovery Act projects as follows:

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	FY 2009 Project Recovery Act at 100%	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Project Status (as of August 19th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (turn lanes)	\$339,737	Yes	No	Air Quality Hot Spot analysis is done - Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Environmental approval is pending
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$2,971,198	Yes	No	Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Environmental approval is pending
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	No	Yes	Funding agreement at City (as of July 14th) - planned to advertise on Sept. 25th - Utility relocations still need to be completed - Environmental Assessment is clear with a Finding of No Significant Impact
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426	No	Yes	Agreement at ALDOT-Div.3 and is pending - Cost increased to \$726,426 as per Birmingham's request - Environmental is clear with a Programmatic CatEx
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital FY 2009	\$709,929	n/a	Yes	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.

100052169	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,057,841	n/a	Yes	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100053532	RPC/ ClasTran	Vehicle Acquisition (18 vehicles)	\$784,030	Yes	Yes	Agreement signed on August 12th - RPC has submitted orders for new vehicles to ALDOT - funds should be authorized by November
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signals/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - waiting for materials buildup
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Gas & water relocation done - ROW is cleared
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055	No	Yes	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125	No	Yes	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31(additional lanes)	\$1,375,027	Yes	No	Funding Agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Utilities have started relocation
100042381	Leeds/ Jefferson Co.	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - ROW is recorded - Utility agreements signed
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 Programmed Total Available Balance	\$22,983,937	\$22,996,589	\$12,652

Note: Funding from ITS Fiber Audit of Regional ITS System project has been used to fund the additional costs for the Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1.

A note was made that some projects are coming in under budget by around 20%.

CRESCENT CORRIDOR INTERMODAL FREIGHT PROJECT

Mr. Charles Ball presented a request from Norfolk Southern for a letter of support from the MPO for U.S. DOT TIGER Discretionary Grant money for the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project. The request asked that the MPO submit a letter of support of the project within 10 days. The request letter stated that the Alabama DOT and the Governor would be submitting a joint application along with Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia Governors and state DOTs for this project.

After discussion, it was decided that the MPO Subcommittee would not take action pending a request from Governor Riley and/or the Alabama DOT.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (SEPTEMBER 2009)

With no action items to present, the MPO meeting for September was cancelled.

OTHER MEETINGS

Mayor Tom Henderson announced a series of upcoming meetings, including:

- Transportation Citizens Committee, September 16th, 12:00 Noon, RPC.
- Sustaining Alabama Forests Conference, September 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m., RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee, September 23rd, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Subcommittee Meeting, September 24th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

Honorable Doug Brewer
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date