



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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October 29, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Doug Brewer, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

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

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, September 24, 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. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill
Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Ray Hamilton
Honorable Bobby Humphries, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Wayne Sullivan

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Carole Smitherman, City of Birmingham
Mr. Chris Lewis, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Laurel Land, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Ginny MacDonald, Birmingham News
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, City of Birmingham
Mr. William Parker, Birmingham
Mr. George Munchus, UAB
Honorable LB Feemster, City of Clay
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Mr. Zak Robertson, EDT

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. The meeting preceded with the scheduled agenda items.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Sub-Committee met October 14, 2009 to review the list of Recovery Act (Stimulus) projects and solicit updates from the project sponsors. The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the bids from five of the higher cost projects. The bids proved to be an average of about 20% less than the project cost estimates. ALDOT must de-obligate these additional funds and the funds must be obligated again before March 2, 2010 or the Birmingham MPO will lose the stimulus funding.

The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the list of existing projects in the TIP and discussed those projects that could be ready for authorization before the March 2010 deadline. As a result of this discussion, the Sub-Committee recommended that the following two projects be added to the list of stimulus projects as alternates:

Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate
Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham CL to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.&Const.	\$4,637,905
Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000

These projects would potentially utilize any de-obligated stimulus funds available. All projects on the original stimulus list would be funded in their entirety before any funds would be allocated to these two alternate projects. The available stimulus funds may not cover 100% of the total project cost for these alternates. All costs that are not covered by stimulus funds would be funded at 80/20% under their original funding category. A full list of stimulus projects, including the two proposed alternates, was included in the meeting packet and is included as Attachment 1.

Mr. David Hunke noted that the Transportation Technical Committee unanimously approved the request, with clarification on the bid process for in which the utilities and construction elements for the Jefferson Avenue project would be combined. The Transportation Citizens Committee approved the request as well.

RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on a request from the Montgomery MPO to approve a resolution of support for an inter-city rail line from Mobile to Birmingham. ADECA has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Mobile to Birmingham corridor. Previous north-south service existed in Alabama until 1995. Inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities. The resolution is included as Attachment 2.

The Transportation Citizens Committee recommended concurrence with the resolution. Mr. David Hunke reported that the Transportation Technical Committee recommended modifications to the resolution that have subsequently been included in the resolution distributed to the MPO Subcommittee. Mr. Robert Smith of the Montgomery MPO will be invited to the November MPO meeting to address any questions.

IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Charles Ball presented information on the In-Town Transit Partnership Bus Rapid Transit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that is currently being advertised. The purpose of the RFQ is to solicit proposals from a professional consultant with extensive knowledge and experience in project management, design and construction of a Bus Rapid Transit solution for urban mobility. A question and answer forum will be held November 4, 2009 at the RPC to answer any questions. Proposals are due November 23, 2009. The goal is to be ready for a request for proposal upon grant award notification.

In addition, the BJCTA will be responsible for vehicle specifications and procurement, and determining routing and scheduling for the neighborhood connectors.

Mr. David Hunke noted that the Transportation Technical Committee believes a project manager is the way to proceed.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (NOVEMBER 10, 2009)

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to include Agenda Items #1 (TIP), #2 (Rail Service Development Resolution), #3 ITP Design and Build RFQ, and a report from the MPO Nominating Committee on the November 10, 2009 MPO meeting. Councilor Maxine Herring Parker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER MEETINGS

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

- MPO, **Tuesday** November 10th, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- 2009 Building Communities Conference, November 5th, McWane Science Center.
- Citizens Committee meeting for Tuesday November 17, 2009, 12 p.m., RPC
- Technical Committee Wednesday November 18, 2009 (3rd Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. or 12 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next MPO Subcommittee Meeting, November 19, 2009 (3rd Thursday), 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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APPROVED:

Honorable Doug Brewer
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date

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ATTACHMENT 1

Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) Project Status Summary
Birmingham MPO - Transportation Improvement Program
FY 2009/2010

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	FY 2009 Project Recovery Act at 100%	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act Funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (new lanes)	\$339,737			Yes			Nov. or Dec.	Air Quality Hot Spot analysis is done - Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - FHWA Environmental approval is pending - Plan to bid in November or December
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from 50th St. to 40th St. (Phase I)	\$2,971,198	\$2,624,716	\$346,482	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion has been cleared by FHWA - Bid on September 25th
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	\$2,900,627	\$805,538	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	with a Finding of No Significant Impact - Bid on September 25th
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement at ALDOT-Div 3 and is pending - Cost increased to \$726,426 as per to bid in December
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital	\$709,929			n/a	Yes		n/a	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		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100053532	RPC/ClasTran	Vehicle Acquisition (16 vehicles)	\$784,030	\$784,030	\$0	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Agreement signed on August 12th - RPC has submitted orders for new vehicles to ALDOT - funds authorized September 22nd
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signal/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Plan to bid in January
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	\$1,878,318	\$420,573	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bids came in 20% lower than estimate
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,375,027			Yes			Dec.	Funding Agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Utilities have started relocation - ROW is clear - Plan to bid in December
100042381	Leeds/Jefferson Co.	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	\$5,497,449	\$1,594,010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - ROW is recorded - Utility agreements signed - Bid on September 25th
Total Programmed			\$22,983,937	\$13,685,139	\$3,166,603	Total Authorized:		\$16,851,742		
Total Available			\$22,996,589					73%		

Alternate Stimulus Projects

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100040855	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.	\$1,985,711			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100029490	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Const.	\$2,652,194			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100039930	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
Total of Alternate Projects:			\$6,672,905							
Stimulus funds available:			\$3,179,256							
Amount of Alternate project costs currently not funded by Stimulus:			\$3,493,649							

Note: These alternate projects would be funded with the de-obligated funds available from the original stimulus projects listed above

RESOLUTION
BIRMINGHAM AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
SUPPORTING RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIRMINGHAM
MPO AREA AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

WHEREAS, the current federal transportation funding bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), was signed into law on August 10, 2005 governing urban transportation planning under the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, and

WHEREAS, the SAFETEA-LU transportation funding bill expired on September 30, 2009 with extensions expected, and a next generation of transportation funding bill will be authored that will promote, encourage and require multi-modal transportation options, advocate for passenger rail transit, and provide for transportation choices for commuters and travelers, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO is designated by the Governor and the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a continuous, cooperative comprehensive transportation planning process for the Birmingham Area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO desires to improve and expand multi-modal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the MPO Area and the State of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, inter-city passenger rail service on a north-south corridor in Alabama connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama, generally along I-65, existed until 1995, and

WHEREAS, the I-65 corridor includes the two counties, Baldwin and Shelby, with the largest percentage increase in population in Alabama between 2000 and 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Birmingham to Mobile corridor, and

WHEREAS, inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby support efforts to develop corridor transportation plans for inter-city passenger rail service in the State of Alabama on a north-south corridor connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization at a meeting held on November 10, 2009.

Kenneth R. "Randy" Cole, Chairman

Date