



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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April 29, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Tom Henderson, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
April 29, 2010**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, April 29, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Bobby Humphries, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

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

Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Ken Boozer

Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Represented by Mr. Eddy Jowers

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

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

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
 Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County
 Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens
Mr. Guin Robinson, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
 Represented by Ms. Doris Powell
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities
 Represented by Mr. Jim Byram

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Steve Ostaseski, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Mr. Zak Robertson, EDT
Mr. Lou Willie, City of Birmingham

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Tom Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. Commissioner Bobby Humphries made

a motion to approve the March 25, 2010 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Mr. Bill Foisy reviewed the proposed timeline for adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity Report and the Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 TIP, including:

April 21, 2010, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Public Involvement meeting held, beginning a 21 day comment period.

May 11, 2010 – End of 21 day comment period.

May 19, 2010 – Transportation Citizens Committee Meeting – Public Involvement meeting documentation presented.

May 26, 2010 – Transportation Technical Committee meeting – Public Involvement meeting documentation presented.

May 27, 2010 – MPO Subcommittee – present Public Involvement meeting documentation and determination made to send Public Involvement documentation, 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Rebalanced FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Report to MPO for adoption.

June 9, 2010 – MPO meeting to adopt Public Involvement documentation, 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Rebalanced FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Report.

Mr. Darrell Howard reviewed the components of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Information presented in the review included the following:

Planning Considerations

Fiscal Constraint:

- A demonstration of sufficient funds (Federal, State, local, and private) to implement proposed transportation system improvements, as well as to operate and maintain the entire system, through the comparison of revenues and costs.
- The Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan is required to demonstrate, and has demonstrated, fiscal constraint
 - Federal Funding Availability
 - Local Funding Capacity
- The Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan contains a total of \$4 billion (2010 dollars) in projects and programs

Visionary Transportation Plan:

- A “needs list” of sorts, the Visionary Transportation Plan is a listing of projects that have not been able to identify funding sources that are adequate to demonstrate fiscal constraint
- The Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan contains \$3.1 billion (2010 dollars) total in projects
- The Visionary Transportation Plan is comprised of:
 - Projects that address identified needs but there is insufficient funding to advance
 - Projects that were moved from the 2030 LRTP in order to meet fiscal constraint
 - New projects for which there is not enough information to justify their inclusion in the fiscally constrained plan

Financial Analysis

Fiscal Constraint Could Not Be Met

Forecast Revenues vs. Programmed Expenditures put the Capacity Program in the hole \$1.1 Billion

- Limitations of the Use of Funding
 - Appalachian Funding Can Only Be Applied to Corridor X and X1
 - Interstate Maintenance Funding Is Limited In Its Use
- Other Funding Sources Are Already Committed
- What Could We Do to Meet Fiscal Constraint?

Developing the Program

Assessing Regional Priority

- Goal 1: System Sustainability
- Goal 2: System Integration and Connectivity
- Goal 3: Community Driven

Other Considerations

- Local Priority
- Funding Availability
- Project Status

Balancing the RTP

Projects included in the Fiscally Constrained portion of the Plan meet the project evaluation and prioritization goals to include congestion relief (50% of total score), system sustainability, system integration and connectivity, and community driven. Other considerations include local priority, funding availability and project status. The following table summarizes projects programmed by funding source compared to the federal funding available.

Roadway Capacity and Transit Capital Projects

Funding Sources	Federal Funding Forecast	Programmed 2035 RTP Projects Federal Total	Balance
STP-BH	\$ 155,362,000	\$ 149,458,723	\$ 5,903,277
STP-OA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
STP-AA	\$ 14,580,000	\$ 11,083,169	\$ 3,496,831
NHS	\$ 221,723,000	\$ 211,485,125	\$ 10,237,875
Appalachian	\$ 1,593,348,000	\$ 1,490,526,690	\$102,821,310
Interstate Maintenance	\$ 34,310,000	\$ 26,282,880	\$ 8,027,120
Bridge	\$ 78,617,000	\$ 13,504,695	\$ 65,112,305
Safety (All)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equity Bonus	\$ 44,085,000	\$ 41,606,433	\$ 2,478,567
CMAQ	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Congressional	\$ 126,817,000	\$ 116,336,075	\$ 10,480,925
Transit	\$ 229,678,250	\$ 133,094,632	\$ 96,583,618
Total	\$2,498,520,250	\$ 2,193,378,421	\$ 305,141,829

Operations and Maintenance Projects

Funding Sources	Federal Funding Forecast	Programmed 2035 RTP Projects Federal Total	Balance
STP-BH	\$ 199,413,000	\$ 128,053,651	\$ 71,359,349
STP-OA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
STP-AA	\$11,929,000	\$ 11,752,762	\$ 176,238
NHS	\$ 147,815,000	\$ 4,239,291	\$143,575,709
Appalachian	\$ 372,279,167	\$ 17,639,867	\$354,639,300
Interstate Maintenance	\$ 308,794,000	\$121,767,497	\$ 187,026,503
Bridge	\$ 45,679,000	\$ 39,511,587	\$ 6,167,413
Safety (All)	\$ 37,517,000	\$ 3,028,791	\$ 34,488,209
Equity Bonus	\$ 29,390,000	\$ 19,562,759	\$ 9,827,241
CMAQ	\$ 248,800,000	\$ 189,937,382	\$ 58,862,618
Congressional	\$ 66,317,000	\$ 38,982,254	\$ 27,334,746
Transit	\$ 70,147,750	\$ -	\$ 70,147,750
Total	\$ 1,538,080,917	\$ 574,475,841	\$ 963,605,076

Mr. Howard reviewed some local projects of significance in the RTP, including the Northern Beltline, U.S. 280, Finley Avenue, and the UAB and U.S. 31 interchanges on I-65.

All segments of the Northern Beltline project are included in either the fiscally constrained plan or the visionary plan. Portions in the visionary plan can be moved to the fiscally constrained plan once Appalachian funds are appropriated. Commissioner Humphryes expressed concerns over the western portion being placed in the visionary plan. Mr. Lance Taylor noted that the ALDOT has, design wise, progressed the eastern segment further but is continuing with the full project as money and removal of obstacles allows.

The U.S. 280 ALDOT elevated roadway/toll project is included in the visionary portion of the plan and will be eligible to be included in the fiscally constrained plan upon finalization of a project financing plan.

A portion of the Finley Avenue project from 31st Street to Shuttlesworth Drive is included in the fiscally constrained plan and in the Transportation Improvement Program. The remaining portion of Finley Avenue to U.S. 79 near Tarrant is included in the visionary plan.

Copies of the Regional Transportation Plan and other related documents is at www.bhammpo.org.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (APRIL 14, 2010)

Commissioner Bobby Humphryes made a motion to add Agenda items #2 (RTP) to the May 12, 2010 MPO meeting agenda. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

Mr. Bill Foisy reviewed Senate Bill 121 that passed the Alabama legislature April 21, 2010. Senate Bill 121 proposes an amendment to the 1901 Alabama Constitution to provide a ten year road, bridge and other transportation related construction and improvement program to be funded with appropriations from the Alabama Trust Fund and to provide for a transfer to the County and Municipal Government Capital Improvement Fund. Money for the Birmingham MPO area includes \$1 million for the short-line railroad fund, \$5 million per congressional district, money for transit in the 6th and 7th congressional districts, \$2 million for the I-459 / U.S. 280 interchange, as well as money for municipalities and regions beginning in FY 2010 through FY 2020. The amendment will go for a vote of public in November.

Mr. Foisy then reviewed information on the \$600 million TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program. Upon publication in the Federal Register, there will be a two week comment period. After that, projects will be accepted until August, with selection in September. Projects selected

with a rural component will be funded at 100%. Other projects selected will be subject to a 20% match.

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Tom Henderson announced a series of upcoming meetings, including:

- Congestion Management Committee, March 31st, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- RTP/TIP/Air Quality Public Involvement Meeting, April 21, 2010, 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee meeting, April 28, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee meeting April 29, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

Mayor Henderson noted that all documents presented at the RTP Public Involvement meeting are available online at www.bhammpo.org.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Honorable Tom Henderson
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date