



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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September 23, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Tom Henderson, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
September 23, 2010**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, September 23, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Tom Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay
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 Ms. Virginia Williams
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Lou Willie

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

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Bobby Humphries, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Jim Carns, Unincorporated Jefferson County
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
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Tom Maxwell, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Tom Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. Mr. David Hunke made a motion to approve the August 26, 2010 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Mr. Andre Bittas seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request from ALDOT to modify the 2008-2011 TIP to include the following project:

ALDOT Request

NH-00050	100055424	Resurface and seal, SR-5 (US-78) from I-59 to CR-105 (Cherry Ave.)	10/13/2010	FM	11/5/2010	2011	\$2,861,568	Exempt	National Highway System	3
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This project will not add capacity and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Ms. Ouida Fritschi stated that the Transportation Citizens Committee recommended approval of the TIP modification. Mr. David Hunke noted that the Transportation Technical Committee also recommended approval of the TIP amendment.

Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

RESURFACING PROGRAM

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The City of Leeds presented a request to the TIP Subcommittee for additional stimulus money to cover project overruns on Rex Lake Road. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that stimulus funds had to be obligated by March 2, 2010, so no additional stimulus funds are available. Overruns would be funded using STPBH funds, requiring a 20% local match from the Project Sponsor.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski then presented information on the proposed Resurfacing Program that was recommended by the TIP Subcommittee. The 2035 Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the MPO proposes that the Birmingham MPO set aside resources to assist with transportation system maintenance. In addition to the reasons stated in the RTP, the ALDOT has repeatedly pointed out the significant carryover balance in the STPBH program and they have encouraged the Birmingham MPO to find ways to authorize these funds on a timelier basis and reduce the carryover balance. Resurfacing projects funded by this program would require much less preliminary engineering work than a typical roadway project, and virtually no right-of-way or utility work. As was stated in the June 10th TIP Sub-Committee report to the MPO Sub-Committee, Jefferson County has recently relinquished maintenance on several major roadways and a Resurfacing Program could provide much needed assistance to the maintenance needs in the region.

The Resurfacing Program would utilize funds from the Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funding category in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Program requirements would include the following:

- The amount of funding for the Program will be approved by the MPO with the understanding that the MPO may choose not to provide funds for the program in any given year.
- The amount of funding approved for the Program must not result in a negative balance in STPBH funds for any year within the adopted TIP.
- Projects funded by the program must be on federal aid routes. All roadways that are functionally classified are federal aid routes.
- Funds will be distributed to the following jurisdictions based on the percentages of lane miles of functionally classified Minor Arterials and Collectors (excludes Interstates, Expressways, and Principal Arterials):

	Lane Miles of Functionally Classified - Minor Arterials and Collectors*	%
Jefferson County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	1,684	47.1%
Shelby County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	855	23.9%
Birmingham	847	23.7%
Hoover	189	5.3%

Total: 3,576 100%

Sources: Based on the Highway Functional Classification and Federal Aid Map, June 2010, produced by the ALDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning in conjunction with the MPO. City and County boundaries are from the Census Bureau. And number of lanes from the RPCGB's Year 2009 Regional Travel Demand Model

* Note the number of lane miles and the resulting percentages will be reviewed and refined by the Cities and Counties based on maintenance boundaries

- The Transportation Technical Committee suggested that the funds be distributed to Jefferson County, Shelby County, Birmingham, and Hoover based on size, their experience with federally funded projects, and their knowledge of federal requirements. This suggestion is also based on the fact that these four jurisdictions would be doing the majority of the work for projects funded by the program including those projects located within other cities.
- The jurisdictions will determine which federal aid routes within the cities and unincorporated regions of their area receive funds.
- These funds are intended to be used on non-State roadways. However, it is understood that there may be special circumstances in which the jurisdictions could use some of the funds on the State system.

- Projects funded through this program must follow FHWA requirements for resurfacing projects (for example – if sidewalks exist on the roadway then the sidewalk ramps at intersections must meet ADA requirements).
- ALDOT will review plans and bid projects funded by the Program. The preliminary engineering and plan review process will be reviewed and refined for this Program.

The current dollar amount to be programmed would be \$10 million for FY 2011. Municipalities would need to request money directly from the county (except Birmingham and Hoover) and provide a 20% match. Money allocated would go directly to the city or county to which it was allocated.

Ms. Ouida Fritschi noted that the TCC recommended approval of the Resurfacing Program for FY 2011. Mr. David Hunke noted that the TTC also recommended approval, but did have some discussion about the provision of bicycle lanes in the resurfacing projects and the distribution of funds to local governments by the counties. Mr. Mike Kaczorowski noted that Federal Highway Administration requirements for resurfacing projects will be followed; for example, if sidewalks exist on the roadway then the sidewalk ramps at intersections must meet ADA requirements.

Mr. Andre Bittas expressed a desire for a streamlined process for approval to ensure funding doesn't expire prior to project review completion by ALDOT. Mr. Kaczorowski and Mr. Wayne Sullivan both noted that the review process for basic resurfacing is minimal and would allow for time to complete the project. Mr. Lance Taylor stated that preventative maintenance projects take less time to review.

Mr. Scott Holladay noted that Shelby County is preparing a letter for the TIP Subcommittee to submit to ALDOT requesting permission to utilize as much local level information like traffic counts as possible to move projects along faster.

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to approve the Resurfacing Program \$10 million for FY 2011. Ms. Virginia Williams seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

Mr. Bill Foisy presented the timeline for public involvement for the 24-hour particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) standard for the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and Rebalanced FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The meeting will also discuss air quality issues and local standards. The proposed date for the public involvement meeting is October 20, 2010 at the Regional Planning Commission. The MPO Subcommittee was asked to call for the public meeting.

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to call for a public involvement meeting. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (OCTOBER 13, 2010)

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to include Agenda Item #2 (TIP), Agenda Item #3 (Resurfacing Program), and an update from the Alabama Partners for Clean Air to the October 13, 2010 MPO agenda. Mr. Lou Willie seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Tom Henderson announced the 2010 Building Communities Conference being held by the Regional Planning Commission October 7-8, 2010. Mayor Henderson then reviewed the meetings listed on the agenda for October, including:

- MPO Meeting October 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- 2010 Building Communities Conference, October 7 - 8, 2010, McWane Center / RPC
- PM 2.5 Public Involvement Meeting, October 20, 2010, 12:00 noon, RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, October 27, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting October 28, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

APPROVED:

Honorable Tom Henderson
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date

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