



*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*

November 18, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Mayor Tom Henderson, Subcommittee Chairman/s/
SUBJECT: **MPO Subcommittee Minutes
November 18, 2010**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, November 18, 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 Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Randy Kemp
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Eric Womack
Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens
Mr. Guin Robinson, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Represented by Ms. Doris Powell

Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Larry Dillard, Shelby County
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randy Cole, 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. Cissy Crowe, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee
Ms. Jackie Davidson, City of Center Point

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Tom Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Ms. Cissy Crowe called roll. A quorum was declared. Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to approve the September 23, 2010 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented the public involvement documentation for the air quality conformity determination for the 24-hour particulate matter standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and the Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

The meeting documentation included outreach procedures, information presented at the meeting, as well as a summary of comments and questions received. The report can be viewed on line at <http://www.bhammpo.org/upcomingevents.htm>

Ms. Fritschi reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC). The TCC met on November 16, 2010 and concurred to move this forward to the MPO for adoption.

Mr. Foisy reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The TTC met on November 17, 2010 and made a motion to move this forward to the MPO for adoption.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to concur with the Transportation Citizens Committee and Transportation Technical Committee recommendations and forward this to the MPO for approval. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote. An accompanying resolution certifying the committee recommendations for the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 24-hour PM2.5 Standard for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Rebalanced FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program were included in the meeting packages.

JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) AND NEW FREEDOM GRANTS

Ms. Laurel Land presented a report from the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Committee. The Committee met on October 26, 2010 to review seven proposals for projects to be funded with Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and/or New Freedom funding. The JARC Program supports the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. Funding under the New Freedom Program is for projects that overcome barriers and/or expand transportation mobility options available to individuals with disabilities.

A request for proposals was issued October 4, 2010. The Committee recommended three projects for funding, including:

- Tender Care Transport - \$32,000 for one lift-equipped vehicle (New Freedom)
- Aletheia House - \$247,758 (\$182,958 for operation; \$64,800 for three 15-passenger vans) (JARC)
- Lovelady Center - \$64,000 for two 15-passenger vans, one lift-equipped

The estimated balance will be \$800,000 for JARC and \$65,000 for New Freedom after payment to the three agencies.

The Aletheia House grant would provide for replacement of three vehicles that are currently on a month-to-month lease to maintain the services that are being provided at this time.

Ms. Fritschi reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC). The TCC met on November 16, 2010 and concurred to move this forward to the MPO for adoption.

Mr. Foisy reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The TTC met on November 17, 2010 and made a motion to move this forward to the MPO for adoption.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to concur with the Transportation Citizens Committee and Transportation Technical Committee recommendations and forward these to the MPO for approval. Mr. Owens seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee that met on November 3, 2010. Information discussed by the TIP Subcommittee included:

Resurfacing Program

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the distribution of funds for the Resurfacing Program and discussed the issue of who would pay for Preliminary Engineering (PE). Several of the Subcommittee members proposed that 5% of the total amount be programmed into a PE phase for each jurisdiction. The PE funds would be used for ALDOT's cost to review and let the projects, and could potentially be used for the design and engineering costs at the discretion of the project sponsors.

The TIP Subcommittee also reviewed and commented on a letter drafted by Subcommittee members and addressed to Don Vaughn, ALDOT's Chief Engineer and Deputy Director. The purpose of the letter is to consider several modifications to the design and review requirements for the resurfacing projects that will be developed from this program in order to expedite project implementation. The letter was approved by the Subcommittee and will be signed by engineers from all four jurisdictions receiving funds from the program.

Homewood Broadway Street Sidewalk Project

The TIP Subcommittee reviewed a request from the City of Homewood to increase federal funding for a sidewalk project on Broadway Street. The project is programmed for \$172,992 of Surface Transportation Program Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funds. The low bid for the project was higher than the programmed amount. ALDOT has instructed Homewood to obtain MPO approval for an additional \$109,000 of STPBH funds. The TIP Subcommittee discussed the merits of the project and approval was recommended for the funding request.

Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility

The Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility proposed in McCalla has received a TIGER grant in

the amount of \$52.5 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The ALDOT has requested in writing that the project be added to the FY 2008-2011 TIP for the TIGER grant portion of the project.

In addition to the \$52.5 million from the TIGER grant, the ALDOT has also requested, on behalf of Norfolk Southern, \$8.0 million in Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funding for FY 2011 for supportive automated gate and lift equipment. The RPC noted that a revised dollar amount and timeline for these activities are \$3.35 million in FY 2012 and \$3.22 million in FY 2013.

The TIP Subcommittee agreed to recommend the TIGER grant portion of the project for the current FY 2008-2011 TIP, and to consider the request for supportive automated gate and lift equipment in the development of the FY 2012-2015 TIP, scheduled for the spring of 2011.

Balance of CMAQ Funds

A rescission of nearly \$2.7 million of CMAQ funds in September 2010 has resulted in a negative balance of about \$2 million for the program. The TIP Subcommittee reviewed the current list of CMAQ projects and agreed to move four projects to fiscal year 2012 based on project readiness.

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

FTA3C-5309()	100055845	Section 5309, American Village, Transit, Capital, Construction Project	12/8/2010	TR	1/14/2011	2011	\$417,039	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
DE-A194()	100055720	Revitalization along SR-75 in the City of Center Point; scope includes: pedestrian lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping at various locations along SR-75	12/8/2010	PE	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,500	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects	12

These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

APD-0471(534)	100055382	Demolition and structure removal at three locations on SR-4 (Corridor X) from 1.5 miles west of I-65 to SR-3 (US-31)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$18,200	Non-Exempt	Appalachian Highway System Projects	4
HPP-AL16(900)	100055393	Demolition and structure removal at 13 locations along the Northern Beltline (SR-959) in Pinson from west of SR-79 to east of SR-75	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$69,680	Non-Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
NH-0005(536)	100055397	Demolition and structure removal at 10 locations along SR-5 (US-78) for widening of SR-5 from I-59 to Finley Blvd.(Phase 1)	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$73,840	Non-Exempt	National Highway System	3

These projects are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of larger projects which were included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See pages 5C-16 & 17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

CTGR-CMAQ-FAUP-CN110	100055911	Norfolk Southern Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility, McCalla	12/8/2010	CN	12/15/10	2011	\$52,500,000	Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects	14
--------------------------------------	-----------	---	-----------	----	----------	------	--------------	--------	--	----

This project is exempt from regional emission analysis since it does not add highway capacity and therefore is not subject to transportation conformity.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that an environmental assessment for the Birmingham Regional Intermodal Facility has been circulated for public review and can be found at www.mccallacan.com.

The Committee discussed the inclusion of the Tiger Grant in the TIP amendments. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration and Norfolk Southern will be requested to attend the MPO meeting to clarify any comments or questions.

Ms. Fritschi reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC). The TCC met on November 16, 2010 and concurred to move this forward to the MPO for adoption with the following concerns:

- Resurfacing of McAshan Drive travelling east from I-59/20.
- Need for interchange improvements at I-59/20 and McAshan Drive.
- Site specific pollution concerns over the amount of daily incoming truck traffic (400-500), though regionally and statewide the amount of truck traffic should be reduced due to transfer of freight to rail.
- Safety (police traffic enforcement for accidents).

Mr. Foisy reviewed the recommendation from the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The TTC met on November 17, 2010 and made a motion to move this forward to the MPO for adoption.

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to move this forward to the MPO for approval. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (DECEMBER 8, 2010)

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to include Item #2 (Public Involvement Documentation Report for Air Quality Conformity Determination), Item #3 (JARC and New Freedom Grants), Item #4 (TIP) to the MPO agenda December 8, 2010. Ms. Doris Powell seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

Mayor Henderson then reviewed the meetings listed on the agenda for December, including:

- MPO Meeting December 8, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

Page 7

November 18, 2010

- Transportation Citizens Committee, December 14, 2010, 12:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Technical Committee Meeting, December 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m., RPC.
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting December 16, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2.20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Honorable Tom Henderson
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date

TH/cec

K:\TRA\Production\01-Clt-Adm\Adm-MPO\MPOsub Nov Minutes 10.doc