



*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*

January 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Represented by Ms. Pamela Jones

Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
Represented by Mr. Richard Caudle

Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill

Ms. Sylvia Kennedy Jenkins, BJCTA Representative
Represented by Ms. Wytangy Peak

Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
 Represented by Mr. John Tally
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
 Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
 Represented by Mr. Sedrick Rutledge

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Mr. Pascal Caputo, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Joe Bearrentine, At-Large
Mr. Al Folcher, City of Vestavia Hills Representative
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Ron Clement, Railroad Representative
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery
Mr. Ron Gore, ADEM (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Jeff Anoka, FTA (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Carletta Singleton, At-Large
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Engineer – Birmingham

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Bill Foisy, RPC
Mr. Harry He, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC
Mr. Greg Wingo, RPC
Mr. Matt Lacke, JCDH
Mr. Wallace McCord, Bhate Geoscience
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. The approval of minutes of the December 17, 2009 meeting was held to the February meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO met January 14, 2009. The committee reviewed information on the economic stimulus program before breaking into three work groups to discuss and rank in order of importance objective for three goals for the Regional Transportation Plan.

FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Foisy presented information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. Included in the meeting packet was a summary on American Recovery and Reinvestment from the Committee on Appropriations, dated January 15, 2009, as well as an updated list of ready to go projects identified by local governments in the Birmingham Area in response to an e-mail from the RPC to the MPO transportation committees on December 19, 2008 concerning a call for infrastructure projects from the National Association of Regional Councils.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), the national voice for regionalism providing services to councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations, is collecting examples of regionally “ready to go” infrastructure projects that can be “shovel ready” within six months of receipt of federal funds. The following six criteria were requested to be provided for each project. On-line submittals have been made by the RPC to NARC to the extent of completeness of the information.

1. Project Name.
2. Project Type (resurfacing, transit, capacity, grade separation, bridge, sewer lines replacement, green infrastructure, water, etc.).
3. Cost Estimate (the intention is for a 100 percent federal funding source for projects. Local matches do not appear to be necessary at this point in the discussion).
4. Anticipated Start Date (in categories of immediately, 3 months, 6 months).
5. One Narrative that will accompany the projects you submit. Please include information describing a project and, as you are able, information addressing estimated economic input and estimated jobs created.
6. One direct quote from a local elected official or organization Executive Director describing the need and urgency for infrastructure investment in your region.

Projects received included the following:

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Type	Cost Estimate
Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation	The Performance Network theatre	community development	\$5,000,000
Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority	100 new 30' buses	transit	\$33,000,000
	30 new paratransit vehicles	transit	\$2,250,000
	scheduling software & equipment for paratransit vehicles	transit	\$300,000
	maintenance facility	transit	\$550,000
Center Point (City of)	Polly Reed Road drainage, sidewalk project	safety	\$2,500,000
ClasTran	Buses with wheelchair lifts	transit	\$833,805
Clay (City of)	Old Springville Road widening	highway capacity	\$2,900,000
	Cosby Lake Park	open space preservation / water quality	\$400,000
	Sanmore Drainage project	drainage	\$300,000
	Clay Community Center Complex	capacity and safety	\$400,000
	Clay Library	Education / historical preservation	\$250,000
Columbiana (City of)	Sewer System Rehabilitation	sewer	\$400,000
	Sidewalk Construction, Phase I	pedestrian	\$300,000
Homewood (City of)	Construction of Fire Station #1	fire	\$3,000,000
	Shades Creek Greenway Trail Phase II	pedestrian	\$4,000,000
	Soccer Fields, Parking Lot & Restroom Facilities	community development	\$1,620,000
	Griffin Creek, Floodway Improvements-Bank Stabilization	drainage	\$100,000
	Enclose Open Ditch @ 29th Court South	drainage	\$200,000
	Grade and Pave Alley South of 29th Court South	highway infrastructure	\$35,000
	Upgrade Intersection of 18th Street Roxbury Road / Signalization and Turn lanes	highway infrastructure	\$50,000
	Construct Sidewalks @ Overton Park	pedestrian	\$42,500
	Construct New Turn Lanes @ Brookwood Blvd and AL 149	highway infrastructure	\$1,300,000

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Type	Cost Estimate
Hoover (City of)	municipal fine arts center	community Development	\$55,000,000
	alternative fuel production facility	alternative fuel/energy	\$45,000,000
	multi-purpose indoor sports facility	community development	\$30,000,000
	I-459 at Alabama 150 interchange improvements	highway infrastructure	\$8,000,000
	Old Montgomery Highway Road widening & bridge replacement	highway infrastructure	\$7,500,000
	Riverchase wastewater system inflow/infiltration reduction project	sanitary sewer line rehabilitation	\$5,000,000
	South Shades Crest Road improvements	highway infrastructure	\$1,100,000
	GPS traffic signal emergency preemption installation	highway infrastructure	\$1,000,000
	U.S. 280 at Alabama 119 intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$850,000
	U.S. 280 at Hugh Daniel Drive intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$500,000
	Stadium Trace at Learning Lane intersection improvements	highway infrastructure	\$500,000
	Preserve Parkway sidewalk	pedestrian	\$450,000
	Alford Avenue at Shady Brook Roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$400,000
	Blue Ridge Drive sidewalk	pedestrian	\$300,000
	Chester Street sidewalk	pedestrian	\$150,000
Columbiana Drive sidewalk	pedestrian	\$150,000	
Jemison (City of)	sanitary sewer and effluent force main upgrade for the wastewater treatment plant	sewer extension and upgrade	\$650,000
Kid One Transport	ADA accessible vehicles	transit	\$200,000
Leeds (City of)	Bethel Street storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$111,995
	Friar Lane storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$53,900
	Zeigler Road roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$215,300
	Vivian Street roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$136,700
	President Street roadway improvements	highway infrastructure	\$196,400
	Russell Heights water line improvements	water	\$605,790
	Fire Station at Ziegler Road and AL 119	fire	\$600,000
	Leeds Norfolk Southern Underpass	highway infrastructure	\$1,600,000
	Memorial Park trailhead restrooms	recreation	\$161,000
	Marketta Spur/River Run Road water lines	water	\$1,500,000
	Isabell Town area water lines	water	\$425,000
	Pine Crest Apartments water lines	water	\$145,000
O'Barr Road area water lines	water	\$205,000	
Tidwell Hill Area water lines	water	\$70,000	
Operation New Birmingham / Changed Lives Christian Center	building rehabilitation for homelessness	community infrastructure	\$3,250,000

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Type	Cost Estimate
MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Coalburg Road, Corridor X to Daniel Payne Drive, additional lanes, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$14,058,459
	Tarrant Huffman Road, Phase I, Treadwell Road to Briarmont Drive, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$7,892,801
	Tarrant Huffman Road, Phase 2, East Briarmont Drive to Roebuck Drive, City of Birmingham	highway infrastructure	\$4,343,484
	Chapel Lane Extension, City of Hoover	highway infrastructure	\$5,049,200
Pelham (City of)	Highway 119 sidewalk project	pedestrian	\$100,000
	Oaklyn Hills Road rehabilitation	resurfacing and repairs	\$1,250,000
	Aaron Road storm drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$1,317,582
	Cottage Circle drainage improvements	storm drainage	\$700,000
	McCain Parkway culvert replacement	bridge replacement	\$700,000
	Pelham western sidewalk projects	pedestrian	\$6,722,967
	Chandalar bridge replacement	bridge replacement	\$2,000,000
Highway 35 - 12" water line extension	water line	\$1,523,000	
Thorsby (City of)	community center	community enhancement	\$1,300,000
	landscaping	green infrastructure	\$50,000
	paving	resurfacing	\$100,000
	pedestrian walkways	resurfacing	\$200,000
United Way of Central Alabama	WHEELS Mobility Management Project	mobility management	\$1,400,000
University of Alabama at Birmingham	women's athletic fast pitch softball complex	infrastructure athletic field	\$2,000,000
		construction and Title 9 compliance	
	two story vertical additional to 9th Avenue parking deck	transportation infrastructure	\$7,900,000
	20th Street parking lot	transportation infrastructure	\$700,000
	renovation of the Wallace Tumor Institute	building renovation	\$30,000,000
	Mervyn H Sterne Library partial renovation for computer Commons	building renovation	\$9,000,000
	renovation for vision research core facility, Volker Hall research Tower	building renovation	\$6,000,000
	UAB district steam system	utility infrastructure	\$90,000,000
underground industrial water supply for UAB campus	utility infrastructure	\$6,000,000	

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Type	Cost Estimate
Vestavia Hills (City of)	Library in the Forest Construction Project	green infrastructure	\$13,000,000
	Athletic Fields at Patchwork Farms	construction/recreational facility	\$8,000,000
	Cahaba Heights and Shades Crest	storm drainage	\$450,000
	Critical drainage improvements Project		
	US31 Pedestrian Crossover Project	transportation access	\$400,000
City of Warrior	Warrior regional library renovation	regional library	\$2,000,000

Money set aside for transportation will be allocated through the Surface Transportation Program, including Birmingham Attributable, and projects funded will be required to be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program and must be ready to go within 120-180 days. Money set aside for transit will be disbursed based on a set formula in which Section 5307 funds will come to the BJCTA.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Harry He and Mr. Darrell Howard presented information on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Birmingham On-Course, the Regional Transportation Plan (formerly the Long Range Transportation Plan) for the Birmingham area has been under development for well over a year. Much of the work that has been done to develop the Plan has been to prepare critical plan components such as the newly completed Congestion Management Process (CMP – formerly Congestion Management System), population and demographic forecasts, and the regional travel demand model. With much of this work either being finalized or completed, several of the RTP’s internal elements have been reviewed in order to bring them into compliance with federal regulations as well as into alignment with the Birmingham MPO’s business practices.

Some of the RTP’s internal elements that have been reviewed and modified as part of the Birmingham On-Course plan development process are:

- Changes to the RTP’s vision for the development of the transportation system
- Changes to the RTP’s goals for the development of the transportation system
- Realignment, deletion, and/or addition of objectives for the RTP’s goals, and
- Completely rewriting the RTP’s project prioritization methodology

On-Course Birmingham contains three (3) distinctive goals for the development of the transportation system. These include:

- Goal 1:** Transportation System Sustainability
- Goal 2:** Transportation System Integration and Connectivity
- Goal 3:** Community Driven Regional Transportation Plan

Each of the three goals was developed through many conversations with members of a working committee of technical resources. These goals were then presented to and confirmed by the Birmingham MPO's advisory and governing committees. All of the goals reflect changes in the MPO's view of how the Birmingham metropolitan planning area's transportation system should be developed. They place importance on the maintenance of the existing system. The goals express the desire that the transportation system be integrated and connected, not only with other transportation facilities, but with complementary and supportive land uses and services. The goals also stress the importance of including the public in its development, placing emphasis on the desire that projects and programs emerge out of a rational planning process.

Based on these goals, a set of objectives was identified for each and brought before the full Birmingham MPO on January 14, 2009 for review and discussion. The review of objectives for each of the RTP goals was conducted through an interactive exercise in which Birmingham MPO members were assigned to one of three groups (one group for each goal). They were asked to discuss objectives in relationship to the overall goal, and prioritize them in order of importance. Each group returned a poster sized board with their goal's objectives arranged in priority order. Some objectives were recommended to be combined with other objectives. Some objectives were recommended for deletion. Some objectives were recommended to be moved to other goals. Still, there were some goals that added new objectives.

The MPO stressed the need for financial accountability, increased connectivity and emphasis placed on locally driven projects.

Questions were raised about the location of activity centers. Activity centers are defined based on population and employment density. The goal is to focus investment in identified areas of regional significance. Regionally significant projects will outweigh locally significant projects in the new regional plan. Additional areas will be reviewed to be included as activity centers.

Richard Caudle noted that the goals and priorities identified by the MPO are different from the initial goals weighting in the project evaluation criteria.

OTHER

Chairman Hunke reviewed a list of upcoming meetings of importance to the Committee, including:

- National Transit Institute Course: Introduction to Metropolitan Planning Workshop, March 3-5, 2009, RPC.
- NCI Charrette System training, April 14-16, 2009, RPC
- One-Way Street Conversion Public Involvement Meeting, January 27th, 5:00 p.m., RPC.
- RPC Annual Conference and Training Session, January 28th, 9:00, The Club.

- MPO Subcommittee, January 29th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- ALDOT Public Involvement Meeting, Valleydale Road widening, February 10th, 4:00 p.m., Hoover Public Safety Center.
- MPO TIP Subcommittee Meeting, February 5, 2009, RPC
- MPO, February 11th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for February 25th, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

DH:cb

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APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date