



*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](http://www.rpcgb.org) • [www.bhammipo.org](http://www.bhammipo.org)*

March 25, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Technical Committee

**FROM:** Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman, At-Large  
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative  
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative  
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large  
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large  
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham  
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative  
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager  
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services  
Mr. Al Folcher, City of Vestavia Hills Representative  
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large  
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer  
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham  
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner  
Represented by Ms. Pamela Jones  
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative  
Represented by Mr. Michael Ward  
Ms. Sylvia Kennedy Jenkins, BJCTA Representative  
Represented by Ms. Wytangy Peak  
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming  
Represented by Ms. Kim Fort

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large  
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer  
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large  
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division  
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative  
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery  
Mr. Pascal Caputo, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce (Non-Voting Member)  
Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative  
Ms. Carletta Singleton, At-Large  
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Engineer – Birmingham  
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. Joe Bearrentine, At-Large  
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large  
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)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, RPC  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC  
Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC  
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC  
Mr. James brown, GSA  
Mr. Bob Portera, Neel-Schaffer  
Mr. Scott Rumble, PBS&J  
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

### **INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Attendees introduced themselves. With no corrections or additions, the meeting minutes for February 25, 2009 were approved as written.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO approved the TIP modifications recommended by the Technical Committee in February. The MPO received a preliminary report on the Federal Economic Recovery Act, as well as a preliminary list of the proposed FY 2009 TIP projects to be funded with stimulus dollars, and an update on the Regional Transportation Plan.

### **FEDERAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT**

Mr. Bill Foisy presented an update of information on the stimulus funding for the MPO area. ALDOT projects are available online for review at [www.dot.state.al.us](http://www.dot.state.al.us).

The majority of ALDOT projects are resurfacing projects due to time constraints in obligation of funding. The BJCTA will also receive \$8.7 million issued by formula to be used for capital improvements. This funding is at 100% with no local match needed.

The MPO will receive \$22.9 million. The proposed projects that were presented at the February meeting will need to be assessed further for project readiness and those most ready selected for Recovery Act funding. All projects will need to be obligated by March 2010.

Competitive grants will be available through the Alabama Department of Economic Development (ADECA) and other state departments. ADECA will be posting more information in the next few weeks on their website. For more information on the stimulus money for Alabama, visit [www.stimulus.alabama.gov](http://www.stimulus.alabama.gov).

A question was asked regarding the appropriations bill signed by the President on February. Mr. Foisy announced that a copy of the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill is available online at [www.rpcgb.org](http://www.rpcgb.org).

### **I-65 MOBILITY MATTERS PROJECT**

Mr. Scott Rumble presented an update on the I-65 Mobility Matters project. The consultant has been analyzing the I-65 and US 31 corridors from Valleydale Road to the City Center / UAB area to identify potential alternatives, including High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

Last year, a series of informational meetings to introduce the I-65/US 31 Mobility Matters project to the public were held. A survey was conducted to gather public opinion on key issues and potential solutions. The response was overwhelming and additional attempts to get citizen input were formulated. An interactive version of the survey was placed on the project website and announced through multiple outreach procedures.

The number one alternative suggested was the addition of HOV lanes, followed closely by adding more general purpose lanes and the initiation of a Bus Rapid Transit System.

In order to narrow down the 14 proposed alternatives, a two-tier evaluation process has been used. The Tier 1 Evaluation focused on identifying the best conceptual options for each of the alternatives being considered.

For the I-65 Alignment, five alternatives will move forward to the Tier 2 Evaluation stage. These alternatives are as follows:

- No Build
- Transportation System Management
- General Purpose Lanes Only
- HOV Lanes and Premium Transit
- Managed Lanes and Premium Transit

For the Arterial Alignment, four alternatives will move forward to the Tier 2 Evaluation stage. These alternatives are as follows:

- No Build
- Transportation System Management
- Premium Transit on US 31/Columbiana/Green Springs
- Premium Transit on US 31

Nine alternatives will advance to the Tier 2 Evaluation. The Tier 2 Evaluation will compare the performance of the optimal configurations and alignments for each of the modes and form the basis for selecting a locally preferred option.

In order to receive input on major trip destinations in the I-65 / US 31 corridor and preferences for new transit and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) service in the corridor, Mr. Rumble announced a series of public involvement meetings to be held March 31, 2009. The location and time of the meetings is as follows:

7:00a.m. – 9:00 a.m. BJCTA Central Station - 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35203

11:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Riverchase Galleria Mall (near the food court) -3000 Riverchase Galleria, Hoover, AL 35244

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Birmingham-Homewood Holiday Inn Conference Room - 492 Wildwood Circle North, Homewood, AL 35209

The \$100 million authorization under SAFETEA-LU for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the I-65 corridor could expire after September 30, 2009 with the passage by Congress of a new transportation reauthorization bill. This funding, while only an authorization and not an appropriation, can only be used for a justified BRT project and cannot be used for HOV or general purpose lanes. Further authorizations for bus capital for express type services would be appropriate.

### **JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (5316) AND NEW FREEDOM (5317) PROJECTS**

Mr. Scott Tillman presented a report on the Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom projects. A summary of each of the six proposals received on November 12, 2008 from the call for projects was included in the meeting packet.

Staff reviewed each of the project requests and recommendations were presented to the MPO Human Service Transportation Committee on March 12, 2009. The committee includes members from the Transportation Citizens Committee and Transportation Technical Committee.

Committee members reviewed and discussed a summary of each proposal. Each summary included staff recommendations for the project as well as recommendations on improving the proposals that were not recommended for funding.

The committee voted to recommend the following projects for funding:

1. Cooper Green-Mercy Hospital for \$20,000 under New Freedom Funding
2. Travelers Aid Society for \$50,000 under New Freedom Funding
3. Glenwood, Inc for \$178,746 under New Freedom Funding

The proposals that were not recommended for funding can be resubmitted by June 30, 2009. The Human Service Transportation Committee will meet on April 27, 2009 to discuss re-scoping the proposals with each of the project sponsors so that they can be accepted by the committee.

The current balance after funding the three recommended proposals will be \$524,574 for JARC funds and \$176,052 for New Freedom funds. The funds will be rolled into FY 2010 if not used in FY 2009.

All six proposals are posted at [www.bhammpo.org/publicinvolvement/doingbusiness.htm](http://www.bhammpo.org/publicinvolvement/doingbusiness.htm) for review.

Mr. Al Folcher made a motion to recommend approval of the three projects as recommended by staff and the Human Services Committee. Mr. Rod Long seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**OTHER**

Mr. Darrell Howard announced a change of meeting date for the RTP work group. The new meeting will be held April 1, 2009.

The Health Action Summit to be held April 8, 2009 at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center was announced.

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

- MPO Subcommittee, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- MPO, April 8th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- NCI Charrette System Training, April 14-16, 2009, RPC.
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for April 22, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

DH:cb

K:\TRA\Production\01-Clt-Adm\Adm-TEC\Minutes March 09.doc

**APPROVED:**

---

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman  
Transportation Technical Committee

---

Date