



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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May 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

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

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Wednesday, May 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
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
Represented by Mr. John Tally

Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Chris Reeves
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
 Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. David Hunke

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Mr. Al Folcher, City of Vestavia Hills Representative
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Pascal Caputo, Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce (Non-Voting Member)
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. 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. Harry He, RPC
Mr. Tom Maxwell, RPC
Mr. Sean Saffle, CommuteSmart
Mr. Kyle Parker, AECOM

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. With no corrections or additions, the meeting minutes for April 22, 2009 were approved as written.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO did not meet in April. The MPO TIP Subcommittee met in April and a full report will be given in Agenda Item # 2. Mr. Foisy noted that staff assisted local governments in with requests to Congressman Davis and Congressman Bachus on projects for the new Transportation Bill and annual appropriations. Some of the known projects submitted include:

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Finley Boulevard | City of Birmingham |
| Superstops/Express Buses | BJCTA |
| Northern Beltline | Jefferson County |
| In-Town Transit Partnership | RPC |
| New Decks | UAB |
| I-59/20 De-elevation | ONB |
| I-65 HOV | RPC |

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report from the MPO TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Subcommittee met April 27, 2009 to discuss the process to be used to insure that the 14 projects approved by the MPO for 100% Recovery Act funding are obligated by the March 2, 2010 deadline. A list of the projects was included in the meeting packet. Agreements from ALDOT were discussed at the TIP Subcommittee meeting. Some project sponsors have received agreements, some have not, and some agreements require modification.

Mr. Foisy noted that ALDOT had informed him that the two BJCTA projects approved by the MPO for Recovery Act funding have already been flexed to the Federal Transit Administration and would not be eligible for 100% funding. The projects were flexed in March as they were included in the FY 2009 TIP adopted by the MPO in October 2008. The Subcommittee recommended that the FY 2010 BJCTA projects for the same scope of work be substituted for the FY 2009 projects.

Greenlight teams have been established to monitor project development. A copy of the organization and individuals assigned for each project was included in the meeting packet.

The Subcommittee discussed the process for “backfilling” the TIP to replace the Recovery Act projects. In theory this would be \$22.9 million, but project cost refinements for other TIP projects already indicates a balance of \$18.9 in the federal aid spreadsheet.

The federal funding rescissions were discussed per the report that Mr. Dave Harris, Federal Highway Administration, provided to the MPO at the April 8, 2009 meeting. SAFETEA-LU

rescissions set for September 2009 will amount to \$170 million for the State of Alabama which could significantly impact the unobligated carryover funds for the Birmingham Area estimated at \$45 million for the Surface Transportation Program and \$8 million for the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program. In addition, the FY 2009 Congressional Omnibus Bill will require an additional \$50-\$60 million in rescissions for the State of Alabama.

In consideration of project cost modifications and the likely rescission of TIP funding carryover, the Subcommittee recommended that modifications beyond immediate programming requirements be done later in the fiscal year that would coincide with adoption of the updated Regional Transportation Plan (long-range 2035).

The process for consideration of new TIP projects recommended by local governments will include a resolution of support that expresses:

- (1) Desire to seek federal funds.
- (2) Desired funding amount.
- (3) Understanding that federal funds may not be encumbered until preliminary engineering and final design have been approved by the Alabama Department of Transportation.
- (4) Understanding of the MPO's Reasonable Progress Policy.
- (5) Commitment to provide match for the funded project phases throughout the life of the TIP.
- (6) Agreement to fund any costs above the finalized project estimate.

The TIP Subcommittee made the following recommendations:

- (1) Modify the Recovery Act projects as follows:
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital, \$ 709,929; substitute project 100050646 for 100050645.
 - BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles, \$1,057,841, substitute project 100052169 for 100052168.
- (2) Add a project to the FY 2010 TIP, Table 13, Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program, for the Birmingham Regional Paratransit Consortium (ClasTran) activities, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority as grantee, in the amount of \$3,080,000 federal (\$2,800,000 for operations and \$280,000 for administration at 10%) (\$3,850,000 total cost).

The recommendations have been included as part of the TIP modification chart presented to the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bill Foisy then presented a list of TIP request modifications, included below:

ALDOT Request- Interstate Maintenance / National Highway System

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|---------|----|-----------|------|--------------|--------|------------------------|---|
| <u>IM</u> | 100053693 | I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252) | 6/10/09 | PE | 5/1/2009 | 2009 | \$1,500,000 | Exempt | Interstate Maintenance | 5 |
| <u>IM</u> | 100053694 | I-65 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from I-459 (Exit 250) to SR-3 (US 31, Exit 252) | 6/10/09 | CN | 1/15/2010 | 2010 | \$30,000,000 | Exempt | Interstate Maintenance | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---|---------|----|-----------|------|-------------|--------|-------------------------|---|
| <u>IM</u> | 100053699 | I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass | 6/10/09 | PE | 5/01/2009 | 2009 | \$500,000 | Exempt | Interstate Maintenance | 5 |
| <u>IM</u> | 100053701 | I-59 reconstruction Northbound and Southbound from Alabama Adventure Parkway (Exit 110) to North CSXT Railroad overpass | 6/10/09 | CN | 3/26/2010 | 2010 | \$9,500,000 | Exempt | Interstate Maintenance | 5 |
| <u>NHF</u> | 100053741 | Corridor Study for the Elevated Expressway on SR-38 (US-280) from west of I-459 to east of CR-355 (Eagle Point Parkway) | 6/10/09 | PE | 6/01/2009 | 2009 | \$1,000,000 | Exempt | National Highway System | 3 |

These requests are for preliminary engineering and construction budgets for reconstruction work and corridor studies and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

ALDOT Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|---------|----|-----------|------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>STMPTOC</u> <u>5311</u> | 100053453 | Section 5311 Shelby / Jefferson County Stimulus Class Transit Capital Bus Rolling Stock – ClasTran | 6/10/09 | TR | 5/01/2009 | 2009 | \$774,875 | Exempt | Surface Transportation STP/ST | 1 |
| <u>STMFTA9C</u> <u>5307</u> | 100053617 | Section 5307 / 5340 Birmingham Transit Stimulus Support Facilities and Equipment- BJCTA | 6/10/09 | TR | 5/01/2009 | 2009 | \$8,694,931 | Exempt | Surface Transportation STP/ST | 1 |

These requests are for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

TIP Subcommittee Request – Recovery Act 2009 Projects

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|---------|----|-----------|------|-------------|--------|--|---|
| <u>STMBH</u> | 100050646 | BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital | 6/10/09 | TR | 5/01/2009 | 2009 | \$709,929 | Exempt | Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham | 1 |
| <u>STMBH</u> | 100052169 | BJCTA, Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles | 6/10/09 | TR | 5/01/2009 | 2009 | \$1,057,841 | Exempt | Surface Transportation Stimulus Birmingham | 1 |

These requests are substituting project numbers 100050646 for 100050645 and 100052169 for 100052168 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Questions were raised regarding reconstruction projects for I-65 and I-59. Mr. Lance Taylor noted that the reconstruction projects included replacement with a higher quality concrete. This will include the reconstruction of the base. Several members of the Committee requested that additional consideration of specific design elements be addressed in the project, including the poor condition of ramps, elevated structures, etc. on the I-65 reconstruction project.

Mr. Rod Long made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Mr. Tom Magee seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Bill Foisy reviewed a copy of the Federal Register dated May 18, 2009 that included a notice of funding availability for supplemental discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) totaling \$1.5 billion. This is a national notice with potential for 100% eligible funding for projects with a minimum cost of \$20 million. ALDOT has submitted a request for \$150 million for the completion of Corridor X. RPC will be submitting a request for around \$32

million for the In-Town Transit Project. Jefferson County is part of a larger group requesting funding for a statewide bridge program.

RIDESHARE PROGRAM

Mr. Sean Saffle gave a presentation on the CommuteSmart Rideshare 2008 Annual Report. Information presented included:

- History of the CommuteSmart Program
- Ridematching database with over 9,400 commuters
- 7,310,492 Vehicle miles reduced
- Incentives programs- Get Green and Commuter Club
- Emergency Ride Home Program
- Vanpool program statistics with 38 vanpools at the end of 2008
- In the News publicity with 119 media placements with an advertising equivalency value of \$1.2 million
- CommuteSmart Partnerships with 77 companies and organizations

Mr. Saffle asked attendees to contact him if they knew of companies that might be interested in the CommuteSmart program.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a status report on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Information presented included:

- Project Prioritization
- Financial Assumptions
- MPO Recommendations and Actions
- Next Steps

Project prioritization included goals based planning and needs identification. The three goals are Transportation System Sustainability, Transportation System Integration and Connectivity, and Community Driven. The needs identification included congested conditions, high crash locations and freight volumes.

Financial assumptions included information on federal funds assumed for future use. The overall funding split of money will be 51% capacity/capital projects and 49% operations and maintenance activities. The funding assumptions, developed by the Federal Highway Administration and the ALDOT, are based on historic authorizations and how the money has been spent in the past

Mr. Howard noted that there are three challenges to face in the financial assumptions. Challenge #1 is balancing the RTP. The overall RTP budget is over programmed by \$1.2

billion. Challenge #2 is balancing the capacity program. The RTP capacity program budget is over programmed by \$2.1 billion. Challenge #3 is increasing the operations and maintenance program which is under programmed by \$980 million. This could change due to new EPA non-attainment designations. CMAQ dollars could be divided between five areas in Alabama.

Recommendations and / or proposed actions for the capacity program (Surface Transportation Program - Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Change Project Scopes
- Increase Local Match Requirement
- State Funded Projects
- Move Projects from Fiscally Constrained to Visionary
- Remove Projects

Recommendations and/or proposed actions for the Operations and Maintenance Program (Birmingham Attributable and Non-Attributable Funding) include:

- Place more emphasis on Operations Strategies
 - o Regional Signal Timing Project
 - o Incident Management Activities
 - o Traveler Information
 - o ITS Architecture and Deployment Plan Update

Additional actions include establishing generalized funding pots for the following:

- Non-Motorized Travel
- Smart Corridors
- Bottleneck Relief
- Travel Demand Management
- Transportation System Maintenance

Next steps include identifying and securing long-term funding. Regional Transportation Funding Source ideas include:

- Identify new revenue sources
- Exercise existing revenue sources
- Promote activities that encourage changes in behavior.

OTHER

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

- MPO Subcommittee, May 28th, RPC.
- MPO, June 10th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for June 24th, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

Mr. Matt Lacke reviewed a flyer that was included in the meeting packet requesting everyone interested in receiving air quality alert notice to sign up at <http://birmingham.enviroflash.info>.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

DH:cb
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APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date