



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203  
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July 22, 2009

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Technical Committee

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

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Wednesday, July 22, 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  
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services  
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham  
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager  
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large  
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large  
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer  
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner  
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large  
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large  
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative  
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative  
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large  
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA Representative  
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative  
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer  
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham  
Represented by Ms. Cynthia Hill  
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming  
Represented by Ms. Kim Fort  
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative  
Represented by Mr. John Tally  
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large  
Represented by Ms. Kerry Henenberger  
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large  
Represented by Mr. David Hunke

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery  
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large  
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative  
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large  
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. Darrell Howard, RPC  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC  
Mr. Tom Maxwell, RPC  
Ms. Carmen Mays, RPC  
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPC  
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates  
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Attendees introduced themselves. With no corrections or additions, the meeting minutes for June 24, 2009 were approved as written.

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO reviewed a five-minute simulation video for the In-Town Transit Partnership that will be included as part of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure programs. The MPO also reviewed the “Trained In” video. The video discusses the Collegeville neighborhood and the hardships of being surrounded by railroad tracks on all sides.

The MPO reviewed the revised schedule for adopting of the Regional Transportation Plan.

**UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Darrell Howard presented information on the transportation planning program areas and projects to be conducted in FY 2010 by the Regional Planning Commission and the Alabama Department of Transportation, including third-party contractors.

Seven task areas consistent with the RPC Work Program goals were discussed, including:

1. Administration.
2. Data Collection and Analysis.
3. Unified Planning Work Program.
4. Public Involvement.
5. Environmental Mitigation and Streamlining.
6. Transportation Systems.
7. Special Projects and Corridor Management Planning.

The TTC was requested to review the projects and provide comments on tasks that can be incorporated into the work program. The MPO is responsible for adoption of the proposed work program including funding sources and the RPC Executive Committee is responsible for programming staff and match dollars in its annual budget for the five funding sources in order to complete the planning projects.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Tom Maxwell presented a list of TIP request modifications, included below:

**ALDOT Request – Recovery Act 2009 Enhancement Projects**

<u>STMTE</u> <u>TE09</u> <u>(912)</u>	100053868	Landscaping along SR-119 in front of American Village, Montevallo in Shelby County	8/12/2009	CN	12/15/2009	2010	\$406,918.88	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8
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<u>STMTE</u> <u>TE09</u> (922)	100053939	Watkins Creek Bridge widening for pedestrian in the City of Mountain Brook. This project is located at Watkins Bridge Road in Mountain Brook	8/12/2009	CN	12/15/2009	2010	\$282,000.00	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8
<u>STMTE</u> <u>TE09</u> (944)	100054054	Landscape enhancements at I-65 and U.S. Highway 31 in the City of Hoover. This project is located on I-65 intersecting at U.S. 31 in the City of Hoover	8/12/2009	CN	12/15/2009	2010	\$399,150.00	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8
<u>STPTE</u> <u>TE08</u> (919)	100054055	Renovation of rare 1948 Budd Planetarium Dome railroad car for the Shelby County Commission. This project is located in Shelby County, AL about 2 miles east of I-65, near CR-42 in Calera.	8/12/2009	CN	12/15/2010	2011	\$280,192.00	Exempt	Enhancement Projects	8

**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.**

Mr. Maxwell noted that the renovation project is not a part of the stimulus funds. It will be funded at 80% through regular enhancement projects.

Ms. Denise Hornbuckle made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Mr. Rod Long seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009**

Mr. Darrell Howard presented information on the proposed Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. On June 18, 2009, Representative James Oberstar and Representative John Mica of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Representative Peter DeFazio and Representative John Duncan, Jr. of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee released [“The Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009: A Blueprint for Investment and Reform.”](#)

The blueprint is a six-year, \$500 billion bill that intends to overhaul the U.S. Department of Transportation, expedite projects, coordinate planning for different modes of transportation and tie federal funds to measurable benchmarks. Objectives of the bill include:

1. reduce fatalities and injuries on the nation’s highways
2. unlock congestion
3. provide transportation choices for commuters and travelers
4. limit adverse effects of transportation on the environment
5. promote public health and the livability of communities.

General plan recommendations:

1. Redefine Federal role and restructure Federal surface transportation by consolidating or terminating more than 75 programs and consolidating the majority of highway funding in four core formula categories:
  - Critical Asset Investment
  - Highway Safety Improvement
  - Surface Transportation
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)
2. Focus majority of transit funding in four core categories to bring urban and rural public transit systems to a state of good repair
3. provide specific funding to restore transit rail systems

4. provide mobility and access to transit-dependent individuals
5. plan, design, and construct new transit lines and intermodal facilities
6. Direct Federal highway safety investments to specific activities demonstrated to reduce fatalities and injuries
7. Establish new initiatives to address congestion in major metropolitan regions
8. eliminate bottlenecks in freight transportation
9. Allow USDOT to review rural consultation process by eliminating a carry-over provision from TEA-21
10. Create a National Transportation Strategic Plan to develop intermodal connectivity of the nation's transportation system and identify projects of national significance
11. Reform U.S. Department of Transportation to require intermodal planning and decision-making; ensure that projects are planned and completed in a timely manner; and ensure that DOT programs advance the livability of communities

MPO Reform, included in the Blueprint as part of an effort to increase metropolitan and government ability to access and benefit from suballocated STP and Transportation Enhancement Funds, contains the following provisions:

1. Population threshold for mandatory MPO creating is increased from 50,000 to 100,000, but allows existing MPOs in regions under 100,000 to be "grandfathered" in
2. Increased participation by public transit officials in all MPOs
3. Reforms MPO certification process by requiring proportional voting on MPO boards as well as performance targets, and applies certification requirements to all MPOs with 100,000-plus population
4. New Performance Targets
5. A national MPO database will be established for USDOT to collect information on MPO performance
6. USDOT to set transportation planning performance measures for MPOs with minimum requirements
7. MPOs to develop performance targets to meet the performance measures
8. MPOs to annually report on meeting performance measures
9. Performance measures to be linked to the MPO certification process
10. Strengthened Planning Process for Largest Metropolitan Areas
11. Metro areas with population of more than one million (or 500,000 if want to receive Metropolitan Mobility funding) are required to perform "Blueprint" alternative planning
  - Land use to support improved mobility and reduced dependency on single occupant vehicle trips
  - Adequate supply of housing for all income levels
  - Limited impacts on valuable farmland, natural resources and air quality
  - Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
  - Increase in water and energy conservation and efficiency
  - Increase in livable communities

Statewide and Rural Planning reform contains the following provisions:

1. Strengthen Role of Rural Agencies in Statewide Process
  - Recognize RPOs that currently exist within the States

- Direct States to coordinate with existing RPOs and local officials in statewide transportation planning process
- Eliminates TEA-21 provision that prohibits DOT from reviewing rural consultation process

2. Establish New Performance Targets (for States)

Mr. Tom Maxwell reviewed a portion of the proposed House bill related to Complete Streets initiatives. The portion of the bill discussed reads as follows:

**GUIDANCE ON COMPREHENSIVE STREET DESIGN**

**PRINCIPLES**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of Livability, shall issue guidance on the Department’s implementation of the requirements related to comprehensive street design policies and principles and practical design standards under section 109(a) of title 23, United States Code.

This initiative will allow for better intermodal planning with other projects.

Mr. Darrell Howard reviewed a portion of the proposed House bill related to Appalachian Highway Funds. The portion of the bill discussed reads as follows:

**APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

**APPORTIONMENT** —Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall apportion funds made available by section 1102(a)(6) of this Act for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 among the States in the ratio that— (1) the latest available cost to complete estimate for the Appalachian development highway system under section 14501 of title 40, United States Code, in each State; bears to (2) the latest available cost to complete estimate for the Appalachian development highway system under section 14501 of title 40, United States Code, in all States.

**MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM APPORTIONMENT** — Notwithstanding subsection (a), each State that receives an apportionment under subsection (a) shall receive— (1) not less than one percent of the funds apportioned under this section; and (2) not more than 25 percent of the funds apportioned under this section.

**CORRIDOR X-I** — (1) In determining the cost to complete estimate for the Appalachian development highway system of title 40, United States Code, the total Federal share of the cost to complete Corridor X-I in Alabama, as designated in section 123 of title I of division F of Public Law 108–199 (118 Stat. 296) shall not exceed \$500,000,000.

More information will be sought to determine the exact impact of this provision on the proposed Northern Beltline should the bill pass as written.

**OTHER**

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

- MPO Subcommittee, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 p.m. RPC.
- ALDOT Public Involvement Meeting, Finley Boulevard Extension, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 p.m., RPC.
- Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee Meeting, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- MPO, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., RPC.

The next meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee will be Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

DH:cb  
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**APPROVED:**

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Mr. David Hunke, Chairman  
Transportation Technical Committee

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Date