



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, AL 35203
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October 28, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2009**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Wednesday, October 28, 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
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA Representative
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

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

Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
 Represented by Ms. Kerri Henneberger
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
 Represented by Mr. John Tally
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
 Represented by Mr. Doug Hale
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Richard Caudle
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
 Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Carletta Singleton, At-Large
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
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
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Ms. Laurel Land, RPC
Ms. Yvonne Murray, RPC
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates
Mr. Sedrick Rutledge, City of Birmingham
Ms. Jaclyn Sain, Sain Associates

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Bill Foisy introduced Laurel Land, RPC Coordinated Human Service Transportation Planner. With no corrections or additions, the meeting minutes for September 23, 2009 were approved as written.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO amended the TIP as recommended by the TTC to include five projects. The MPO received information on the rebalancing of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program in light of rescissions as well as a status report on the MPO Recovery Act projects. The MPO also received an update on the In-Town Transit Partnership Project TIGER Grant application. Awarding of TIGER grants is expected in January. \$56 billion in grant requests were received with only \$1.5 billion available for award. Mr. Foisy noted that at least 50% of the projects received were for roads and bridges.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The TIP Subcommittee met October 14, 2009 to review the list of Recovery Act (Stimulus) projects and solicit updates from the project sponsors. The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the bids from five of the higher cost projects. The bids proved to be an average of about 20% less than the project cost estimates. ALDOT must de-obligate these additional funds and the funds must be obligated again before March 2, 2010 or the Birmingham MPO will lose the unobligated stimulus funding.

The TIP Sub-Committee reviewed the list of existing projects in the TIP and discussed those projects that could be ready for authorization before the March 2010 deadline. As a result of this discussion, the Sub-Committee recommended that the following two projects be added to the list of stimulus projects as alternates:

Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate
Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham CL to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.&Const.	\$4,637,905
Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000

These projects would potentially utilize any de-obligated stimulus funds available. All projects on the original stimulus list would be funded in their entirety before any funds would be allocated to these two alternate projects. The available stimulus funds may not cover 100% of the total project cost for these alternates. All costs that are not covered by stimulus funds

would be funded at 80% federal / 20% match under their original funding category. A full list of stimulus projects, including the two proposed alternates, was included in the meeting packet and is included as Attachment 1.

Mr. Doug Hale made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP amendment. Mr. Phillip Garratt seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a request from the Montgomery MPO to approve a resolution of support for an inter-city rail line from Mobile to Birmingham. ADECA has submitted a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for assistance in the development of a Railroad Corridor Transportation Plan for a Mobile to Birmingham corridor. Previous north-south service existed in Alabama until 1995. Inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities. The resolution is included as Attachment 2.

The following recommendations for additions to the resolution were made:

1. Add a section mentioning the population growth in Shelby County.
2. Add a section about airport size and the need for commercial travel.

Ms. Sheila Chaffin made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution. Mr. Richard Caudle seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Bill Foisy presented information on the In-Town Transit Partnership Bus Rapid Transit Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that is currently being advertised. The purpose of the RFQ is to solicit proposals from a professional consultant with extensive knowledge and experience in project management, design and construction of a Bus Rapid Transit solution for urban mobility. A question and answer forum will be held November 4, 2009 at the RPC to answer any questions. Proposals are due November 23, 2009. The goal is to be ready for a request for proposal upon grant award notification.

In addition, the BJCTA will be responsible for vehicle specifications and procurement, and determining routing and scheduling for the neighborhood connectors.

Committee members provided comments on how to conduct a successful design-build project, including the selection of a project manager/firm who would oversee the process.

NOMINATING / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Richard Caudle presented a report from the TTC Nominating / Membership Committee. The committee, consisting of Mr. Richard Caudle, Mr. David Hunke and Ms. Sheila Chaffin, made the following recommendations for officers for 2010-2011:

Mr. David Hunke	TTC Chairman
Mr. Greg Dawkins	TTC Vice Chairman

Additional nominations from the floor as well as a vote will be taken at the next TTC meeting.

OTHER

Mr. David Hunke reviewed the 2009 Building Communities flyer that was included in the packet. The Conference will be held Thursday November 5, 2009 at the McWane Science Center. Also included in the package was the 2010 meeting schedule for the Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, MPO Subcommittee and MPO. Mr. Hunke then reviewed the list of meetings of interest to the committee that included:

- MPO Subcommittee, October 29th, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- MPO, Tuesday November 10th, 2009, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for November 18, 2009, 10:00 a.m., RPC. *Please note this meeting is being held on the 3rd Wednesday due to holidays and may be moved to 12 p.m. noon.*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

DH:cb

APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date

ATTACHMENT 1

Recovery Act STMBH (Stimulus Birmingham) Project Status Summary
 Birmingham MPO - Transportation Improvement Program
 FY 2009/2010

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	FY 2009 Project Recovery Act at 100%	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act Funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100007607	Birmingham	East Lake Blvd (new lanes)	\$339,737			Yes			Nov. or Dec.	Air Quality Hot Spot analysis is done - Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - FHWA Environmental approval is pending - Plan to bid in November or December
100029491	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from 50th St. to 40th St. (Phase I)	\$2,971,198	\$2,624,716	\$346,482	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion has been cleared by FHWA - Bid on September 25th
100007610	Birmingham	Tarrant-Huffman Rd. Phase 1 (intersection improvements)	\$3,706,164	\$2,900,627	\$805,538	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	with a Finding of No Significant Impact - Bid on September 25th
100052764	Birmingham	Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1	\$726,426			Yes	Yes		Dec	Agreement at ALDOT-Div 3 and is pending - Cost increased to \$726,426 as per to bid in December
100050646	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital	\$709,929			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100052169	BJCTA	Bus and Bus Related Capital Paratransit Vehicles	\$1,057,841			n/a	Yes		n/a	RPC submitted a request to Flex the funds to ALDOT Multi-Modal on July 20th.
100053532	RPC/ClasTran	Vehicle Acquisition (16 vehicles)	\$784,030	\$784,030	\$0	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Agreement signed on August 12th - RPC has submitted orders for new vehicles to ALDOT - funds authorized September 22nd
100029509	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 6 (Lorna Rd.) (signal/intersection improvements)	\$1,296,053			Yes	Yes		Jan.	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - Relocating utilities - Plan to bid in January
100007545	Hoover	Hoover Topics Phase 7 (Shades Crest Road) (intersection improvements)	\$2,298,891	\$1,878,318	\$420,573	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bids came in 20% lower than estimate
100048387	Hoover	Sidewalks along Rockview Lane and Cloudland Drive	\$161,055			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100048388	Hoover	Sidewalks along Park Ave	\$466,125			Yes	Yes		Dec.	Agreement in Multi-Modal's office in Montgomery - Environmental is clear - revisions of plans for Geotechnical Engineering - Plan to bid in December
100007554	Jefferson County	Patton Chapel Road from Crayrich Dr. to US31 (additional lanes)	\$1,375,027			Yes			Dec.	Funding Agreement is signed - Categorical Exclusion reevaluation is required - Utilities have started relocation - ROW is clear - Plan to bid in December
100042381	Leeds/Jefferson Co.	Rex Lake Road (additional lanes)	\$7,091,459	\$5,497,449	\$1,594,010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Funding Agreement and Environmental are clear - ROW is recorded - Utility agreements signed - Bid on September 25th
Total Programmed			\$22,983,937	\$13,685,139	\$3,166,603	Total Authorized:		\$16,851,742		
Total Available			\$22,996,589					73%		

Alternate Stimulus Projects

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Description	Project Cost Estimate	Final Bid Amount + CE&I	Recovery Act funding to be De-obligated	Funding Agreements Signed?	Environmental Clear?	Funds Authorized?	Project has been Bid?	Project Status (as of October 14th)
100040855	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Util.	\$1,985,711			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100029490	Birmingham	Jefferson Ave. from B-ham City Limits to 50th St. (Phase II) - Const.	\$2,652,194			Yes	Yes		Jan.	
100039930	Hoover	Chapel Lane Extension from Current Terminus to New Road - Util.	\$2,035,000			Yes	Yes		Jan.	

Total of Alternate Projects: \$6,672,905
 Stimulus funds available: \$3,179,256
 Amount of Alternate project costs currently not funded by Stimulus: \$3,493,649

Note: These alternate projects would be funded with the de-obligated funds available from the original stimulus projects listed above

**RESOLUTION
BIRMINGHAM AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

**SUPPORTING RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIRMINGHAM MPO AREA AND
THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the current federal transportation funding bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), was signed into law on August 10, 2005 governing urban transportation planning under the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, and

WHEREAS, the SAFETEA-LU transportation funding bill expired on September 30, 2009 with extensions expected, and a next generation of transportation funding bill will be authored that will promote, encourage and require multi-modal transportation options, advocate for passenger rail transit, and provide for transportation choices for commuters and travelers, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO is designated by the Governor and the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a continuous, cooperative comprehensive transportation planning process for the Birmingham Area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Birmingham MPO desires to improve and expand multi-modal transportation options for passengers and freight throughout the MPO Area and the State of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, inter-city passenger rail can promote environmental quality by alleviating travel congestion, provide service to communities with inadequate commercial air transportation, promote economic development through increased tourism, and support interconnected livable communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby support efforts to develop corridor transportation plans for inter-city passenger rail service in the State of Alabama on a north-south corridor connecting Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and north Alabama.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Birmingham Area Metropolitan Planning Organization at a meeting held on November 10, 2009.

Kenneth R. "Randy" Cole, Chairman

Date