



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203  
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July 28, 2010

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Technical Committee

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

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2010**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 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. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large  
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham  
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large  
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Rhonda Siserir, BJCTA Representative  
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative  
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner  
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery  
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT  
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large  
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large  
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large  
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer  
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager  
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative  
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative  
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large  
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large

Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming  
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division  
Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke  
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Lionel Harbin  
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large  
Represented by Mr. David Hunke  
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative  
Represented by Mr. Clay Aderholt

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative  
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large  
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer  
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates  
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham  
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large  
Mr. Ron Clement, Railroad Representative  
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative  
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery  
Mr. Ron Gore, ADEM (Non-Voting Member)  
Ms. Holly Peterson, FTA (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)  
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance (Non-Voting Member)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Bill Foisy, RPC  
Mr. Charles Ball, RPC  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC  
Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC  
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, RPC  
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, City of Birmingham  
Honorable Jim Lowery, City of Fultondale  
Mr. Peter Behrman, BJCTA  
Mr. George Munchus, Birmingham  
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates

Ms. Christy Cahalan, AECOM  
 Ms. Iris Kimbrough, 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. With no additions or corrections, the May 26, 2010 minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on MPO actions. The MPO Subcommittee received a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The annual Rideshare program was authorized. The TIP Subcommittee is working to establish a resurfacing program for smaller governments to utilize. The MPO has received a request for funding from Norfolk Southern for the Intermodal Facility in McCalla. The RPC is currently determining eligibility before sending to the TIP Subcommittee and the MPO Committees. TIGER II planning grant information was presented to the MPO Subcommittee. The RPC will be pursuing money to complete a comprehensive plan for the McCalla area.

Mr. Foisy also discussed the High Speed Rail press conference that was held by the RPC to announce the partnership with the GA DOT to perform a feasibility study for a high speed rail line from Atlanta to Birmingham. The GA DOT will be responsible for procuring a consultant.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request from ALDOT to modify the 2008-2011 TIP to include the following projects:

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>IM-I065()</u>	100055414	Concrete pavement rehab, underseal, grinding, paverlaid surface treatment, underdrain, shoulder pavement, guardrail on I-65 from I-459 to Raleigh Ave. Overpass	8/11/2010	PE	10/1/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-I065()</u>	100055415	Concrete pavement rehab, underseal, grinding, paverlaid surface treatment, underdrain, shoulder pavement, guardrail on I-65 from I-459 to Raleigh Ave. Overpass	8/11/2010	CN	5/27/2011	2011	\$7,520,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>HSIP-0003()</u>	100055331	Resurface (2 foot safety widening) SR-3 (US-31) from 52 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 0.4 miles north of Black Creek, Phase 1.	8/11/2010	CN	8/15/2010	2010	\$125,000	Exempt	Safety Projects	11

These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

<u>BR-1065()</u>	100055324	Bridge widening on I-65, South of SR-3 (US-31) in Alabaster over L&N RR, and over CR-26, and over CR-87	8/11/2010	PE	5/1/2011	2011	\$1,170,907	Non-Exempt	Bridge Projects	6
<u>BR-1065()</u>	100055332	Bridge widening on I-65 over L&N RR – 0.8 miles North of SR-3 (US-31) in Calera	8/11/2010	PE	11/1/2012	2011	\$360,144	Non-Exempt	Bridge Projects	6

**These are preliminary engineering studies for widening projects that are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of a larger project which was included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Map ID 162 on page 5C-17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

<u>DEMO-A016()</u>	100055406	Demolition and structure removal at 2 locations along the Northern Beltline (SR-959)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$13,500	Non-Exempt	High Priority and Congressional Earmark	14
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**This project is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. This project is part of the Northern Beltline which was included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Map ID 172 on page 5C-17 of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

<u>IM-1459()</u>	100055279	Pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface, PATB, binder, wearing layer, underdrain, shoulder treatment and guardrail on I-459 from just north of SR-150 to the South end of SR-3 (US-31) overpass	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100055280	Pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface, PATB, binder, wearing layer, underdrain, shoulder treatment and guardrail on I-459 from just north of SR-150 to the South end of SR-3 (US-31) overpass	8/11/2010	CN	12/3/2010	2011	\$4,300,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054988	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.)	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054990	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$12,390,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054989	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.) to SR-7 (US-11)	8/11/2010	PE	8/15/2010	2010	\$250,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>IM-1459()</u>	100054991	I-459 pvt rehab, mill, patch, resurface with binder and wearing layers, shoulder treatment and guardrail from CR-143 (Grants Mill Rd.) to SR-7 (US-11)	8/11/2010	CN	9/24/2010	2010	\$6,750,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5

**These projects are exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

Ms. Virginia Williams asked how interstate needs are prioritized. Mr. Lance Taylor noted that projects are prioritized statewide. Local governments with specific concerns can contact Charles Malone at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division office.

Mr. Doug Hale asked if the resurfacing project on US 31 met the new bike/ped regulation thresholds. Mr. Taylor noted that this is a preventative maintenance project and does not require meeting the thresholds.

Mr. Richard Caudle made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Mr. Chris Reeves seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a request to modify the 2010 Unified Planning Work Program to incur PL expenses of approximately \$13,600 federal for strategic planning activities in support of the development of the Transit Development Program (TDP).

The adopted FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program includes the following task:

- Task 6.3, Public Transit Planning, Including Transit Development Program  
Task A., Short-Range Transit Planning – Transit Authority Planning Assistance;  
Conduct continuing planning assistance to the BJCTA concerning the TDP update, program maintenance, and program implementation.

Task A would be modified to read as follows:

**Update Transit Development Plan.** Update the existing Transit Development Plan and Operations Analysis to refine maps, evaluate transit routes, and identify both passenger and system-wide needs. The plan update will consist of multiple phases to be accomplished over the course of two fiscal years. The plan update will also standardize the plan horizon to more closely match with the metropolitan transportation plan horizon as well as adjustments to better coordinate TDP recommendations with regional transportation plan recommendations. Phase 1 activities will occur in FY 2010 and are described below:

#### **Vision and Goal Setting – Transit Board of Directors**

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's Board of Directors will be engaged in a strategic planning session in order to develop an updated vision for the transit system's future given the existing and expected financial constraints, as well as the desired condition of the Authority. This will be followed by the establishment of specific goals and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agree-Upon, Realistic, and Time-Bound) objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Strategic Plan and Action Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

#### **Vision and Goal Setting – Key Stakeholders (Funding Partners)**

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's funding partners (i.e. participating municipalities and contract agencies) will be engaged through stakeholder interviews and/or focus groups in order to obtain information about their perspective of the transit authority's existing operations, their vision/desires for public transit services as it relates to the region, and their desires for transit system funding. Stakeholder inputs will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Stakeholder Interview Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

**Vision and Goal Setting – Partnering Agencies/Committees**

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's partnering agencies and committees (i.e. the BJCTA Transit Advisory Committee, BJCTA VIP Advisory Committee, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham/Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization, Jefferson County Department of Public Health, Birmingham Business Alliance, Blue Ribbon Transit Committee, etc). will be engaged through one on one stakeholder interviews in order to obtain perspectives about the transit authority 's existing operations, and to gather their vision/desires for public transit services as it relates to the region. Stakeholder inputs will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the articulated vision.

Deliverable: Partnering Agency/Committees Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

**Vision and Goal Setting – Riders**

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority's riders will be engaged through public outreach activities in order to obtain input to the development of the BJCTA's vision for the provision of public transit services. Rider input also will be used to inform the development of specific goals and SMART objectives for achieving the vision.

Deliverable: Rider Input Summary Report for input to Chapter 1 of the TDP.

**Staffing** for Task A will include the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and a contract employee.

Mr. Peter Behrman discussed the request made to the MPO for strategic planning funds as part of the BJCTA's Transit Development Plan. Mr. Behrman also discussed the peer review that was conducted at the request of the City of Birmingham and was performed by three general managers from transit authorities around the country. Mr. Darrell Howard noted that information used in the planning portion of the TDP will be used as part of the MPO's Regional Transportation Plan.

Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to recommend modification of the UPWP. Ms. Kim Fort seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

## **RESURFACING PROGRAM**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented information on a proposed resurfacing program being considered by the TIP Subcommittee. RPC staff asked for suggestions on how to best establish guidelines for a resurfacing program utilizing Surface Transportation Program funds. The purpose of the program would be to assist local governments in resurfacing roads that are non-state highways. Population, lane miles and vehicle miles traveled were evaluated from the 2009 regional travel demand model and the US Census Bureau to determine the best way to distribute funding for the program.

Suggestions and comments given during the meeting included the following:

- Distribute funds to counties and cities with populations greater than 50,000.
- The smaller cities are not as familiar with the federal requirements and the Counties would be able to use their funds for resurfacing projects in the smaller cities.
- ALDOT distributes its federal maintenance funds to the Divisions around the State based on lane miles of State roadways.
- Distributing funds to the Counties and large cities based on lane miles would be consistent with ALDOT's method.
- Distribution of funds should exclude interstate and principal arterial lane miles since the program is intended for non-state highways.

Questions asked included:

- Will the cities/counties be responsible for the 20% local match?
- Are the funds just for construction?

Mr. Kaczorowski responded that the city or county sponsoring a project would be responsible for the 20% local match and that funds could be used for other phases of the project. It was also stated that preliminary engineering for these projects costs much less than a typical roadway construction project and that resurfacing projects typically do not involve right-of-way or major utility work. Mr. Kaczorowski also noted that the amount of the Resurfacing Program has yet to be determined. Anyone with additional comments or suggestions were encouraged to send them to Mr. Kaczorowski.

## **OTHER**

Chairman David Hunke reviewed the list of meetings of interest to the committee that included:

- MPO Subcommittee, May 27, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- MPO, June 9, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

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With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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**APPROVED:**

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Mr. David Hunke, Chairman  
Transportation Technical Committee

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Date