



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
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September 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2010**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 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. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
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. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large

Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Chris Reeves
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
 Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
 Represented by Mr. John Tally
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Lionel Harbin

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., 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
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPC
Mr. Darrell Howard, RPC
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPC
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, RPC
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee
Mr. Randy Sain, Sain Associates
Mr. John Gordon, Wisser Company

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. With no additions or corrections, the August 25, 2010 minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Bill Foisy presented a report on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) actions. The MPO approved the TIP modification recommended by the TTC as well as the 2011 UPWP. The MPO also received a report on the Building Communities Program.

Based on prior discussions, staff will be putting together a committee to discuss programming bridge projects for a future meeting. Volunteers are asked to contact Darrell Howard.

Mr. Bill Foisy announced two Building Communities projects for FY 2011, including the I-59/20 lowering traffic simulation project in conjunction with UAB and the Scenic Corridor Design Standards project in Montevallo.

LIVABLE CITIES SIDEWALKS PROGRAM

Mr. Tom Maxwell gave a report on the status of ten sidewalk projects funded by the MPO. There are 35 bicycle / pedestrian / greenway projects in the MPO area that are included in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and in the FY 2008-2011 TIP. Projects reviewed by Mr. Maxwell included the following:

- Birmingham City Center Bicycle
 - Railroad Reservation Park
 - 14th Street Streetscape Project
- City of Birmingham Accessibility Improvement Project
- Trussville Greenway and Walkway
- Irondale Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
- Homewood Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
- Shades Creek Greenway
- Birmingham Village Creek Greenway – Phase I
- Birmingham Village Creek Greenway – Phase 3 & Safe Routes to Schools Improvements
- Hoover Cahaba River East Greenway & Shelby County Inverness Greenway
- Adamsville Hazelwood Road Sidewalks
- Hoover Bluff Park Sidewalks Phase 1 & 2
- Vestavia Hills Sidewalk System – Implementation of Sidewalk Master Plan
- Birmingham High Line Rail-Trail
- Five Mile Creek Greenway District – Cane Creek Branch Rail-Trail
- Center Point Reed Harvey Greenway
- Mountain Brook Shades Creek Parkway Sidewalks

- Hoover Hackberry Lane Sidewalk Extension

Mr. Maxwell noted that the sidewalk projects were funded with MPO money under a 2007 application process. Expectations for the 2007 projects included Safe Routes to School, system connectivity, Master Plan implementation and open space connectivity.

Staff is requesting guidance on whether to take individual requests or set aside specific funds for a bicycle / pedestrian category that would include sidewalks. If approved, criteria would need to be established for non-motorized projects, including the need for a master plan or comprehensive plan as well as a specific base amount for project eligibility such as \$250,000.

Chairman David Hunke suggested staff compile a “Greenprint Birmingham” to summarize how the projects included in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan support the “Blueprint Birmingham” objective of improving the Birmingham region’s quality of place amenities and the action for promoting and expanding recreational opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

ALDOT Request

<u>NH-0005()</u>	100055424	Resurface and seal, SR-5 (US-78) from I-59 to CR-105 (Cherry Ave.)	10/13/2010	FM	11/5/2010	2011	\$2,861,568	Exempt	National Highway System	3
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This project will not add capacity and is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

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

RESURFACING PROGRAM

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a report from the TIP Subcommittee. The City of Leeds presented a request to the TIP Subcommittee for additional stimulus money to cover project overruns on Rex Lake Road. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that stimulus funds had to be obligated by March 2, 2010, so no additional stimulus funds are available. Overruns would be funded using STPBH funds, requiring a 20% local match from the Project Sponsor.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski then presented information on the proposed Resurfacing Program that was recommended by the TIP Subcommittee. The 2035 Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the MPO proposes that the Birmingham MPO set aside resources to assist with transportation system maintenance. The Resurfacing Program would utilize funds from the Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) funding category in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Program requirements would include the following:

- The amount of funding for the Program will be approved by the MPO with the understanding that the MPO may choose not to provide funds for the program in any given year.
- The amount of funding approved for the Program must not result in a negative balance in STPBH funds for any year within the adopted TIP.
- Projects funded by the program must be on federal aid routes. All roadways that are functionally classified are federal aid routes.
- Funds will be distributed to the following jurisdictions based on the percentages of lane miles of functionally classified Minor Arterials and Collectors (excludes Interstates, Expressways, and Principal Arterials):

	Lane Miles of Functionally Classified - Minor Arterials and Collectors*	%
Jefferson County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	1,684	47.1%
Shelby County (excluding Birmingham and Hoover)	855	23.9%
Birmingham	847	23.7%
Hoover	189	5.3%
Total: 3,576 100%		

Sources: Based on the Highway Functional Classification and Federal Aid Map, June 2010, produced by the ALDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning in conjunction with the MPO. City and County boundaries are from the Census Bureau. And number of lanes from the RPCGB's Year 2009 Regional Travel Demand Model

* Note the number of lane miles and the resulting percentages will be reviewed and refined by the Cities and Counties based on maintenance boundaries

- The Transportation Technical Committee suggested that the funds be distributed to Jefferson County, Shelby County, Birmingham, and Hoover based on size, their experience with federally funded projects, and their knowledge of federal requirements. This suggestion is also based on the fact that these four jurisdictions would be doing the majority of the work for projects funded by the program including those projects located within other cities.
- The jurisdictions will determine which federal aid routes within the cities and unincorporated regions of their area receive funds.
- These funds are intended to be used on non-State roadways. However, it is understood that there may be special circumstances in which the jurisdictions could use some of the funds on the State system.
- Projects funded through this program must follow FHWA requirements for resurfacing projects (for example – if sidewalks exist on the roadway then the sidewalk ramps at intersections must meet ADA requirements).

- ALDOT will review plans and bid projects funded by the Program. The preliminary engineering and plan review process will be reviewed and refined for this Program.

The current dollar amount to be programmed would be \$10 million for FY 2011. Municipalities would need to request money directly from the county (except Birmingham and Hoover) and provide a 20% match. Money allocated would go directly to the city or county to which it was allocated.

Discussion was made about the possibility of adding a provision to consider bicycle lane striping subject to ALDOT approval as well as concerns over distribution of funds to local governments by the counties.

Mr. Doug Hale made a motion to recommend approval of programming \$10 million for FY 2011 for a resurfacing program to be distributed to Jefferson and Shelby Counties, Birmingham and Hoover. Mr. Al Folcher seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented the timeline for public involvement for the 24-hour particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) standard for the 2035 Long-Range transportation Plan and Rebalanced FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The proposed date for the public involvement meeting is October 20, 2010. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Jefferson County Department of Health will also discuss the new regulations for ozone as well as explain how emissions modeling is performed. Additional information on the meeting will be mailed to the committee.

OTHER

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

- MPO Subcommittee, September 23, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC
- Building Communities Conference, October 7-8, 2010, McWane Center/RPC.
- MPO, October 13, 2010, 1:30 p.m., RPC.
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Wednesday October 27, 10:00 a.m., RPC.

Mr. Foisy announced the annual Building Communities Conference to be held October 7-8 at the McWane Center. It was noted that the Conference has been approved for 7 CM's.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

DH:cb

APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date