



*Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham • 1731 First Avenue North Suite 200 • Birmingham, Al 35203
Phone (205) 251-8139 • Fax (205) 328-3304 • www.rpcgb.org • www.bhammpo.org*

January 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2011**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman, At-Large
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Ms. Wytangy Peak, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative

Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

- Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Represented by Mr. Sedrick Rutledge
- Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Jesse Miller
- 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
- Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large
Represented by Ms. Alicia Rudolph
- Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Represented by Ms. Pamela Jones
- Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Cynthia Hill

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
- Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
- Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
- Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
- Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
- Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
- Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
- Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
- 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. Charles Ball, RPCGB
- Mr. Darrell Howard, RPCGB
- Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPCGB
- Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPCGB
- Mr. Scott Tillman, RPCGB
- Mr. Harry He, RPCGB
- Ms. Cissy Crowe, RPCGB

Ms. Francesca Gross, CAWACO Five-Mile Creek
 Honorable Earl Niven, City of Chelsea
 Honorable Mike Denton, City of Chelsea
 Mr. George Pickle, City of Helena
 Mr. Dave Bechtel, City of Helena
 Mr. Keith Pike, City of Jasper
 Mr. Ryan Collins, Nimrod Long Associates
 Mr. George Munchus, Birmingham
 Mr. Chris Leffert, BJCTA

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 December 15, 2010 minutes were approved as written. The MPO did not meet in December so no report was given.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

ALDOT Requests

<u>UMTAC-53100</u>	100055976	Section 5310 Transit, City of Alabaster, Capital Vehicle	2/9/2010	TR	2/10/2011	2011	\$55,356	Exempt	Transit Projects	9
<u>IM-10200</u>	100055915	I-20/I-59 Interstate Median Crossover Protection from I-459 Interchange to CR-56 (Valley Road) Interchange	2/9/2010	PE	2/10/2011	2011	\$100,000	Exempt	Interstate System	5
<u>IM-10200</u>	100055916	I-20/I-59 Interstate Median Crossover Protection from I-459 Interchange to CR-56 (Valley Road) Interchange	2/9/2010	CN	6/24/2011	2011	\$1,800,000	Exempt	Interstate System	5
<u>IAR-037-000-004</u>	100056047	CR 2303 (Lakeshore Parkway) improvements including acceleration and deceleration lanes, traffic signal and an approximately 700 foot long industrial access road 0.5 miles north of SR-150 in the City of Bessemer	2/9/2010	CN	3/15/2011	2011	\$1,365,000	Exempt	State Funded Projects	7
<u>IAR-037-000-005</u>	100056048	Interchange improvements, traffic signal and striping on Tallapoosa Street (40th Street) from north of I-59/I-20 Interchange to approximately 1,200 feet south of I-59/I-20 Interchange for City of Birmingham	2/9/2010	CN	3/15/2011	2011	\$1,276,800	Exempt	State Funded Projects	7

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

<u>STPAA-7112(605)</u>	100055394	Demolition and structure removal at 10 locations along SR-261 for widening project from Bearden Road to US-31	12/8/2010	CN	1/14/2011	2011	\$126,403	Non-Exempt	Other Surface Transportation Program	2
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These projects are non-exempt from regional emission analysis. These projects are part of larger projects which were included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Appendix 5C of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

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

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski then reviewed information on the Funding Requests for the Fiscal Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The RPCGB on behalf of the MPO announced a call for funding requests for projects eligible for Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STPBH) or Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Kaczorowski reviewed the eligibility requirements for STPBH and CMAQ including:

Federal Eligibility Requirements

Projects must be eligible to receive STPBH or CMAQ funds before the funding requests can be considered for the TIP and the project must be on a functionally classified roadway. Other eligibility requirements are as follows:

STPBH Eligibility - STPBH funds may generally be used for any functionally classified roads excluding those roads that are functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors. STPBH funding may be used for any type of highway or transit capital project. However, a detailed list of eligibility requirements can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/title23.pdf> (see page 72– Section 133)

The following is an abbreviated list of the eligible projects:

- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, restoration, and operational improvements for highways and bridges including any such construction or reconstruction necessary to accommodate other transportation modes
- Capital costs for transit projects eligible for assistance under chapter 53 of title 49
- Carpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities and programs, bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways and the modification of public sidewalks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Highway and transit safety infrastructure improvements
- Capital and operating costs for traffic monitoring, management, and control facilities and programs
- Transportation control measures listed in section 108(f)(1)(A) (other than clause (xvi)) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7408(f)(1)(A))
- Development and establishment of management systems
- Natural habitat and wetlands mitigation efforts (see 23 U.S.C. 133(b)(11))
- Intelligent transportation systems capital improvements
- Environmental restoration and pollution abatement projects (including the retrofit or construction of storm water treatment systems) to address water pollution or environmental degradation caused or contributed to by transportation facilities

If it is unclear if the requested project is eligible for STPBH funding, the RPCGB staff in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) can assist in determining a project's eligibility.

CMAQ Eligibility - CMAQ funds may be used for transportation projects and programs that are likely to contribute to the attainment of national ambient air quality standards. Programs and projects are funded in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter (PM-10) that reduce transportation-related emissions. Birmingham is a non-attainment area for both ozone and PM-2.5. Eligible activities under CMAQ include: transit system capital expansion and improvements that are projected to realize an increase in ridership, travel demand management strategies and shared ride services, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities that encourage walk and bicycle commuting. The U.S. Code which provides details of the CMAQ program can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/title23.pdf> (see page 111 – Section 149)

Examples of the many project types that are eligible to use CMAQ funding include the following:

- Public Transit Improvements
- High-occupancy and Shared-Ride Services
- Commuter Parking Lots
- Traffic Flow Improvement Programs that Achieve Emission Reductions
- Road Surface Limitation Programs
- Bicycle and Bicycle Parking Projects
- Pedestrian Facility Projects
- Other Projects:

These projects do not fit into the above categories, but result in emissions reductions that can be estimated and are otherwise eligible for CMAQ funds. Examples include: trip-reduction ordinances; employer-based transportation management plans; employer-sponsored programs to permit flexible work schedules; rideshare incentive programs; programs to limit or restrict vehicle use in downtown areas or other areas of emission concentration particularly during periods of peak use; programs to control extended idling of vehicles; low-emission engine and fuel technologies program implementation, including diesel retrofits; the Alabama Partners for Clean Air - Air Quality Alert public information program; advanced truck stop electrification, and cold-start emissions reductions.

Mr. Kaczorowski then reviewed the required information for funding requests, including:

Project Sponsor: List the name of the unit of government sponsoring the project, such as, City, County, or ALDOT. Projects on State Highways shall demonstrate in writing that the Alabama Department of Transportation supports the project.

Contacts: The person or persons most knowledgeable of the specifics of the project and the person who is responsible for reporting on the progress of the project.

Address: Official mailing Address

Telephone: Telephone number of the contact person

E-mail: E-mail address of the contact person

Program from which Funds are being Requested: List either STPBH or CMAQ.

Location Description: This should include at a minimum the roadway name and project limits (project termini). Where applicable, please include Federal, State and County route numbers in addition to the roadway names. The location description can be omitted if the project is not associated with a specific roadway (such as a regional project or study).

Location Map: A map showing the project location is required. A hand drawn map is not desirable, but will suffice if an electronic map cannot be created.

Project Description: The project description is particularly important if it is not a typical roadway widening or construction of a new roadway.

Functional Class: List the established functional class of the roadway segment on which the project is located. As stated previously, a roadway segment must be functionally classified to be eligible for STPBH or CMAQ funds. Bicycle and pedestrian projects may be considered if off system. If you do not have an approved and adopted functional classification map, RPC staff can assist you in determining the functional class.

Estimated Project Total Cost and Preferred Fiscal Year by Phase: It is encouraged that construction projects be a minimum of \$250,000 in order to be an efficient use of federal funds.

The following are the requirements for providing project costs and the preferred fiscal year:

- be as accurate as possible - underestimating project cost does not benefit the project selection
- use total cost figures for your estimates (not just the federal share you are requesting) - the federal share and local match will be calculated by RPCGN staff
- costs must be separated by project phase such as preliminary engineering (PE), right-of-way (RW), utilities (UT), and construction (CN)
- the preferred fiscal year of the project by project phase – phases should be separated into the fiscal years (FY) that the project could feasibly (considering local match and other known factors) and realistically be funded:
 - FY 2012 – PE - \$100,000
 - FY 2013 – RW - \$250,000
 - FY 2014 – UT - \$250,000
 - FY 2014 – CN - \$1,000,000

Financial Plan for Projects over \$5 million: If the total project cost exceeds \$5 million, a financial plan should be provided. The financial plan should demonstrate the project sponsor's fiscal capacity to provide matching funds for the project phases in the preferred fiscal years. Information such as the source of matching funds and the historical and projected availability of those funds should be included.

Estimated Year Open to Traffic or Year Project will be Completed: Especially for roadway projects that are adding lanes or new roadways, estimate the year when the entire project will be opened to traffic or completed (if funded in the preferred fiscal year). This is necessary for the air quality analysis required for conformity.

Existing Lanes: The number of through lanes currently in place (especially if it is a roadway widening project).

Proposed Lanes: The number of through lanes in place after the proposed improvement.

Planning Document(s) or Other Document where the Project is Listed: Identify if the project is included in a local or regional plan, or other study. Include a description of where the project is listed in the document.

Identify if the project is included the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) adopted by the Birmingham MPO. A copy of the 2035 RTP can be downloaded from the MPO website located at <http://www.bhammpo.org/longrangeplan/lrp.htm>.

Purpose and Need of the Project: This information does not need to be as extensive and detailed as a purpose and need statement in an environmental document, however, it should clearly state the problem and how the proposed project will address it. This information will assist in the review and consideration for the project.

Consideration for Alternate Modes of Travel: Describe the plans for the project to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and/or transit supportive infrastructure. If the project does not accommodate alternative modes, provide specific and detailed reasons.

Access Management Improvements or Strategies: Describe any improvements included in the proposed project that will manage access to the roadway thereby improving traffic flow. For roadway capacity projects, describe any other actions or strategies that have been employed to address congestion. Examples of access management include removing and/or consolidating driveways, installing raised medians to restrict mid-block left turns, or constructing connections between adjacent parking lots.

Funding requests must be emailed or postmarked by February 28, 2011 to Mr. Mike Kaczorowski at kaz@rpcgb.org or:

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Attn: Michael Kaczorowski
1731 First Avenue North Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35203

Questions / comments raised during the presentation included the following:

- How can you find out if a road is functionally classified?
 - o The local municipality, RPC, or ALDOT will have that information.
- What are some examples of funded bicycle / pedestrian projects?

- Shades Creek, Village Creek
- If a municipality has a new roadway or new alignment, how can they be eligible for a project?
 - This will be discussed further at the Congestion Management meeting to be held immediately after the TTC meeting. Currently, RPCGB staff makes a recommendation it is then presented to the MPO for approval.
- What about off road for bike/ped projects?
 - Exceptions are made for trail type projects.
- Will ALDOT Montgomery or 3rd Division be the one reviewing the projects?
 - 3rd Division is responsible for review.
- If a government / agency will be submitting more than one project, should the projects be prioritized?
 - That is up to the submitting government / agency, but is recommended.
- How much money is available for projects?
 - Still going on old transportation bill so there will be about the same amount available as in the previous year.
- Will new projects be intermingled with existing projects?
 - The TIP Subcommittee will make recommendations to the MPO on inclusion of existing and new projects.
- What are you looking for with full projects already in existence? Does a letter or something need to be drafted as support or state your case?
 - A suggestion was made for project sponsors to send status updates on their existing projects currently found in the FY 2008-2011 TIP.
- What are the geographic boundaries?
 - Jefferson and Shelby Counties

Mr. Darrell Howard stressed the realistic need for project years, recommending, for example, a PE project will take two years, don't say it will take one year.

Mr. Richard Caudle asked for a review of other types of projects funded by the MPO. Mr. Darrell Howard noted that the Building Communities projects have been funded by the MPO, along with Jobs Access Reverse Commute, New Freedom and 5310 projects.

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski announced the deadline for submittal for projects is February 28, 2011.

OTHER

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

- RPCGB Annual Meeting, Wednesday January 26, 2011, 9 a.m., The Club
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday January 27, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPC
- Congestion Management Committee - Planning and Project Development Working Group, February 2, 2011, 10:30 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Meeting, Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPC
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPC

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

DH:cb
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APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date