



February 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2011**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, February 23, 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. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
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
Mr. Martin Edwards-Clarke, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Represented by Mr. Robert Shaw
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Wes Spiller
Ms. Kim Fort, UAB Parking Services Dir. of Auxiliary Services
Represented by Ms. Sheila Chaffin
Mr. Phillip Garratt, P.E., At-Large
Represented by Ms. Alicia Rudolph
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Cynthia Hill

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. John Stewart, At-Large
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. Darrell Howard, RPCGB
Ms. Cynthia Barton, RPCGB
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, RPCGB
Mr. Scott Tillman, RPCGB
Mr. Harry He, RPCGB
Mr. Greg Wingo, RPCGB
Mr. George Henry, City of Alabaster
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, TCC

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. With no corrections or additions, the January 25, 2011 minutes were approved as written. Mr. Darrell Howard gave an update on MPO actions. The MPO met February 9, 2011 and approved the TIP modification as recommended by the TTC. The MPO reviewed the CommuteSmart Annual Report. The MPO also concurred with the annual TCC and TTC Membership.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Darrell Howard gave a brief review of the Congestion Management Committee activities and those of the working group. The working group has been charged with coming up with a way to move projects forward in a more timely manner. Recommendations will be brought forward to the Congestion Management Committee and the TTC for review and recommendation. The committee will meet again March 8, 2011 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. in the RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room. Mr. Howard then introduced Mr. Andy Sullivan to present the next portion of the review.

Mr. Andy Sullivan oversees the Birmingham Regional Transportation Data Center for UAB. RPCGB contracted with the Data Center to update the congestion management report that was previously prepared by Carter Burgess in 2008. The purpose of the interim report is to:

- Provide an overview of travel time indices on major routes in Birmingham
- Develop baseline measurements of speeds and travel times for future comparison
- Present findings in a simple report suitable for the general public

Data collection includes:

- Traditional travel time collection
 - Manpower intensive
 - Expensive
 - Data quality dependent on timing
 - Best method for low volume routes
- Fleet Probe Data (INRIX)
 - Comprehensive spatial and temporal coverage
 - Data quality degrades on low volume routes

Travel Time Index is being measured to include in the data collection.

$$TTI = \frac{\text{Measured travel time}}{\text{Free-flow travel time}}$$

For freeways, TTI greater than 1.05 indicates the onset of congestion, TTI greater than 1.5 indicates significant congestion, and TTI greater than 2.0 indicates severe congestion. For arterials, TTI greater than 1.5 indicates congestion, TTI greater than 2.0 indicates significant congestion, and TTI greater than 2.5 indicates severe congestion.

Mr. Sullivan then showed data on the A.M. and P.M. peak one-hour times. For the temporal distribution of congestion, probe data also allows the Center to track the extent of congestion by time of day to:

- Create a “snapshot” of congestion for any time period
- Determine duration of congestion on any route or segment

Baseline profiles of speed have been established at key highway segments throughout the region. These will enable the Center to track:

- Changes in congestion severity
- Any changes in duration
- Can serve as baseline data to evaluate impacts of future development or improvements

Travel time data was also collected for lower volume roads (state and county routes). This information will be used internally by the RPCGB. The Data Center is comparing AirSage and INRIX for future probe data acquisition.

Other activities being conducted include population of an online count database with historic count data and recent counts and working with local municipalities to gather data from traffic studies and local counts.

REGIONAL THOROUGHFARE PLAN

Mr. Scott Cothron presented an update on the Birmingham Regional Thoroughfare Plan and local Thoroughfare Development Guide. The project team working on the Plan includes Sain Associates, Vision Planning and RPCGB. Information presented included the following:

What’s a Thoroughfare Plan?

- Framework that provides a functional classification system of roadways that designates the role of each major route with the local and regional transportation network.
- Provide a hierarchy of streets and highways to serve long term needs of the community including identifying new roadway connections and existing infrastructure updates needs.

The project Began in the summer of 2010. The Project Steering Committee has held 3 meetings to date, including:

- Kick-off (September 15, 2010) - Project Overview and Direction
- Second Meeting (October 27, 2010) - CUBE AVENUE MODELING OVERVIEW (Paul Gilliam)
- Third Meeting (December 7, 2010) - Tracy Roberts (Counsel w/ AL League of Municipalities)

The evaluation process began by reviewing previous work including local efforts, traffic characteristics (existing and future), travel times, and an operational analysis that included the

Cube Avenue Model (mesoscopic) that uses existing RPCGB networks and files, models traffic controls at the regional level and dynamic assignment with real-time route choice.

Immediate Next Steps:

CUBE Modeling - Using Cube Avenue at the regional level to replicate observed traffic patterns to include two scenarios:

1. "No Build" Scenario
2. Other Scenarios

The Birmingham Regional Thoroughfare Plan - Develop a focused roadway network and manage the system to promote consistency and continuity in terms of design and operation.
Plan Elements:

- Roadway Functional Classification
- MAP
- Cross-section Standards
- Plan View Samples: Access Management and Intersections Treatments
- Local Thoroughfare Development Guide

Mr. Al Folcher asked about the local Thoroughfare Development Guide. The guide will be a "How To" guide and will be brought to the TTC for review within the next few months upon completion.

Final Considerations: A New Mindset for Complete Streets and Green Streets

Complete Streets: ITE: Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach - "Consider walking and bicycling as equals with other modes"

Green Streets as a Community Revitalization Strategy: Many Midwestern cities are using 'green street' strategies in place of routine street rehabilitation. A webinar will be conducted Tuesday, March 1, 2011 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM CST to present a blend of planning, engineering, and neighborhood revitalization strategies from pilot projects in Lansing, MI, Toledo, OH, and Chicago, IL. Since this webinar will conflict with the Tree Workshop at the Botanical gardens, RPCGB staff will look at hosting the webinar at a later date.

Additional information about the Thoroughfare plan can be found at:

<http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/regional-transportation-plan/regional-thoroughfare-plan/>

Mr. Tom Magee requested the TTC be copied on the meeting notices for the Regional Thoroughfare Plan Steering Committee.

Chairman David Hunke discussed the At-Large vacancies on the TTC as well as the vacancies on the TCC for those interested in becoming members.

TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE

Mr. Greg Wingo presented an overview of the new RPCGB website. The website includes information on the MPO, which has been integrated from the original MPO website. Mr. Wingo pointed out that all study related websites mentioned in the previous agenda item can be found on the RPCGB website. Under the Transportation link, you can find information about the MPO, TTC and TCC as well as copies of the current adopted plans, latest news, upcoming events, meeting calendars, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, Thoroughfare Plan and transit plans. The RPCGB can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. Comments or suggestions about the website can be directed to Mr. Greg Wingo at (205) 264-8458 or gwingo@rpcgb.org.

OTHER

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

- Councilor Kim Rafferty’s Transportation Meeting, February 24, 2011, Vulcan Park
- US 280 Stakeholders Meeting, February 24, 2011, 10:30 a.m., RPCGB
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- Congestion Management Committee meeting March 8, 2011, 1:00 p.m., RPCGB
- Trees and Development Workshop, March 1, 2011, 8:30 a.m., Botanical Gardens
- Commissioner Brown’s Transit Summit, March 7, 2011, Birmingham News

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date