



August 24, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Technical Committee

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

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2011**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 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. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative  
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer  
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner  
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large  
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large  
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large  
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT  
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative  
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham  
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming  
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large  
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large  
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates

Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large  
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager  
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large  
Mr. Martin Edwards-Clarke, BJCTA Representative

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Lionel Harbin  
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative  
Represented by Mr. Clay Aderholt  
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative  
Represented by Mr. John Tally  
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative  
Represented by Mr. Doug Hale  
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division  
Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer  
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large  
Mr. George Henry, At-Large  
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large  
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative  
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large  
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham  
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery  
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery  
Mr. Ron Gore, ADEM (Non-Voting Member)  
Ms. Holly Peterson, FTA (Non-Voting Member)  
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance (Non-Voting Member)  
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Keith Strickland, Gresham

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. Chairman Hunke asked how the bike plan was used in modeling. Mr. Howard replied that discussions were actually around using it in cross sections in the future. With no additions or corrections, the June 22, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DOCUMENTATION REPORT**

Ms. Cissy Crowe and Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented the Public Involvement Documentation report from the July 20, 2011 Public Involvement Meeting for the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Air Quality Conformity Determination and amended 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The meeting documentation included outreach procedures, information presented at the meeting, as well as a summary of comments and questions received.

Mr. Kaczorowski reviewed the comments/responses received during the 21-day comment period. Forty-seven comments were received regarding the Northern Beltline. Seven comments were received in relation to carbon footprints, air modeling, Lakeshore Extension, transit funding, and support for the plans. Comments received during the comment period were included in the final document.

The report can be viewed on line at <http://rpcgb.org/events/2011/06/27/tip-public-involvement/>.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that all Northern Beltline comments were sent to ALDOT for consideration as they move forward to public involvement in the future months.

Mr. Chris Reeves made a motion to concur that the documentation report accurately reflected the results of the public involvement meeting and the report be forwarded to the MPO for adoption. Mr. Greg Cobb seconded the motion. Discussion points included the following:

- Include a statement that Federally mandated projects must be included in the TIP
- Northern Beltline opposition seems to indicate people are opposed in general. Is there a way to departmentalize the concerns/objections for each segment?
- People will be able to address specific concerns at ALDOT conducted public meetings for the project.

With no additional discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

## **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

Mr. Darrell Howard gave a presentation on the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program. The UPWP lists the transportation planning program areas and projects to be conducted in FY 2012 by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and the Alabama Department of Transportation, including third-party contractors.

Mr. Howard's presentation included the following:

What is required of the MPO process?

- Develop and maintain:
  - Metropolitan Transportation Plan i.e. Long Range Transportation Plan
  - Transportation Improvement Program
  - Unified Planning Work Program
  - Congestion Management Process (metro areas of 50,000 people or greater)
  - Air Quality Conformity Analysis (federally designated air quality non-attainment areas)

The Regulations

- Federal regulations (23 CFR 450.314(a))
- "... MPO(s) in cooperation with the State and operators of publicly owned transit shall develop unified planning work programs (UPWPs) that meet the requirements of 23 CFR part 420, subpart A, and:
  - Discuss the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describe all metropolitan transportation and transportation-related air quality planning activities (including the corridor and subarea studies discussed in Sec. 450.318) anticipated within the area during the next one or two year period, regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting activities, in sufficient detail to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it and the products that will be produced;
  - Document planning activities to be performed with funds provided under title 23, U.S.C., and the Federal Transit Act."

FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program is the Annual Work Program for the Birmingham MPO. It directs and prioritizes MPO staff work, including:

- Required Activities
- Information Management
- Regular Planning Functions
- Support for Partner Planning Agencies
- Special Studies
- New Activities

Highlights of the FY 2012 UPWP include:

- Planning Information - Task 2.0

- Socio-economic Data
- Economic Indicators
- Traffic Data to include counts, travel times and incident response times
- Infrastructure Inventory
- Indicators Model
- Sub-regional Transportation Model
- Environmental Consultation Process - Task 4.0
  - Advanced Planning, Programming and Logical Engineering (APPLE) is a Local Assistance Program Designed to assess a project's feasibility, define/articulate project scope, inform the environmental process, help manage uncertainties/reduce risks and educate Local Governments about ALDOT Process. Note: APPLE does not replace the PE/Environmental Process
- Transportation Systems - Task 5.0
  - Thoroughfare Planning
    - Continuation of Regional Thoroughfare Plan
    - Model Street Design Manual
      - Tailored for Birmingham
      - Incorporate Complete Streets Concepts
      - Address Context Sensitivity
      - Identifies Realistic Safety Solutions and
      - Supports Community Health Initiatives
- Transportation Systems - Task 5.0
  - Public Transportation Planning
    - Support for BJCTA's Service Planning Efforts
      - Enhanced Data Collection
      - Transit Development Program
  - Active Transportation
    - Builds Upon Our One Mile, MPO Active Transportation Plan, and Individual Trail Planning Efforts
    - Task Activities Shift to:
      - Supports Non-Governmental Organizations and Advocacy Groups
      - Pushes Activities and Education
      - Promotes Existing Facilities
- Transportation Systems - Task 5.0
  - Logistics (Freight) Systems Planning
    - Freight Outlook Plan
      - Regional Freight Profile
      - Freight Forecasts/Freight Traffic Growth
      - Freight System Needs
  - Transportation Safety Planning
    - System Monitoring
    - Safety Education
    - Corridor Specific Crash Statistics and Safety Planning
- Corridor Planning and Special Projects - Task 7.0
  - U.S. 11/U.S. 78 East Corridor Alternatives Analysis

- Phase 1: Downtown to BIA
  - Identify Mode and Alignment of Potential Transit Services
  - Assess Project Feasibility
  - Identify Corridor wide Land Use Improvements
- U.S. 78 West Corridor Plan
  - Pratt City Bridge to Graysville
    - Reevaluate Feasibility of Widening
    - Reevaluate Land Uses to Balance Livability and Mobility
    - Identify Multimodal Transportation Solutions
- The UPWP Still Includes Popular Programs - Task 6.0
  - CommuteSmart
    - Assists Commuters to Carpool, Vanpool and Telework
    - Aids Employers
    - Helps Businesses Manage Parking and Transportation
  - Coordinated Human Service
    - Helps Non-Governmental Agencies to Transport Elderly and Disabled
    - Assists Private Transportation Providers Who Help Meet Critical Needs
  - Building Communities
    - Local Government Assistance Program that Supports Efforts to Link Transportation and Land Use Planning, Ordinances and Regulations, Economic Development and Community Health Initiatives

Why Not ALDOT or BJCTA?

- The RPCGB is Tasked Through the “3C Agreement” to carry out a Comprehensive, Cooperative, and Continuing Planning Process. The 3C Agreement is a formal agreement (Contract) that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the:
  - ALDOT
  - ADEM
  - Metropolitan Planning Organization
  - BJCTA and
  - Jefferson County Health Department (U.S. EPA designee)

The Birmingham MPO Manages:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Local Match</b>
<b>FHWA - PL</b>	\$1,050,273	\$ 262,568
<b>FHWA - STP (Birmingham)</b>	\$2,185,000	\$ 246,250
<b>FTA - 5309</b>	\$2,493,929	\$ 623,482
<b>FTA - 5316/5317</b>	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
<b>FHWA - CMAQ</b>	\$1,500,000	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,279,202*</b>	<b>\$1,132,300</b>

\* Excludes \$200,000 in State Planning and Research (SPR) Used by ALDOT for Their Administrative Expenses

\$5.3 million of \$7.3 million Programmed to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party for Projects and Programs. DBE Utilization is currently at 16%. DBE Participation Averages 12% over Previous 3 Quarters.

Other Notable Expenditures Include:

- \$150k of \$1 million is Programmed to Support Transit Planning Activities
- \$585k is Programmed for Local Planning Assistance (Building Communities)
- \$105k is Programmed for Local Planning Assistance for Transportation (APPLE)
- \$200k is Programmed for Congestion Management Activities

Mr. Scott Tillman reviewed funding set aside in the UPWP for CMAQ projects, including the Alabama Partners for Clean Air program and the CommuteSmart program. Mr. Tillman also reviewed Tables 1 and 2 of the UPWP.

Discussion amongst attendees centered on information and data sharing. Comments/questions included:

- Are traffic engineering reports available for past and future?
- Most traffic data information is given voluntarily.
- When contracting with someone, is data sharing included in the contract?
- Data typically becomes the property of the developer, consultant and/or contracting agency.
- UAB Traffic Data Center is collecting historic and current data.
- Is it a possibility to set aside funds as an incentive to volunteer data when financing a project?

Additional questions/comments included:

- What happens with the air quality money if we meet attainment?
  - ✦ The MPO area would be classified as “maintenance” for air quality and would continue to receive funds.
- Please provide an update on air quality at a future meeting.

Mr. Richard Caudle made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2012 UPWP. Mr. Martin Edwards-Clark seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

## **OTHER**

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

- MPO Subcommittee meeting August 25, 2011, 1:30, RPCGB
- MPO, September 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Mr. David Hunke, Chairman  
Transportation Technical Committee

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Date

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