



November 15, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)  
**FROM:** Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman /s/  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2011

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 12:00 Noon, RPCGB 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Chairman, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Willie Osborne, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Jackie Dye, Shelby County  
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Nichalaus Sims, West / Southwest Jefferson County  
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County  
Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Calvin Rumph, Shelby County  
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County  
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County  
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County

Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Robert Smith, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County  
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County  
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham  
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Elizabeth Denson, ILRGB  
Ms. Ruth Wright, League of Women Voters  
Mr. Solomon Wilson, BJCTA  
Mr. Caleb Goodwyn, Representative Bachus' Office  
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT

Chairman Ouida Fritschi called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

### **INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Attendees introduced themselves. The MPO minutes were included in the meeting packet for review.

### **U.S. 280 TRANSIT STUDY**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented an update on the U.S. 280 transit Study, including the following:

#### **Major Steps in Evaluating Transportation and Land Use Alternatives**

- Pre-Screening Evaluation
- Tier 1 Evaluation
- Tier 2 Evaluation
- Locally Preferred Alternative(s) - Currently in this phase

**Tier 2 Transportation Alternatives**

- Enhanced Local Bus Service Operated Within Existing Right-of-Way (*Transportation System Management Alternative Required by FTA*)
- Premium Bus Service in General Travel Lanes with Queue Jump Lanes
- Two Managed Lanes in Each Direction With Buses Operating in the Managed Lanes in Mixed Traffic
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Operating on Dedicated Guideway (*Buses Do Not Operate in Mixed Traffic*) Two Options:
  - o BRT In the Median of U.S. 280
  - o BRT Along the Shoulder of U.S. 280
- Pedestrian Bridge for Riders of the BRT Median Option (including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations)

**Other Tier 2 Assumptions**

- Downtown Birmingham (connection to In-Town Partnership Project)
- SR 119 at U.S. 280 (easternmost station for high-capacity transit along U.S. 280)
- From SR 119 to Harpersville (propose monitoring corridor for future express bus opportunities)

**Selected Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluation Criteria	No Build	TSM	Queue Jumps	Managed Lanes	BRT Median	BRT Outside Guideway
A5: Highway Average Peak Hour Travel Times on U.S. 280 (in mins.)	46	45	46	29	45	45
A9: Hours of Daily Transit User Benefit Compared to the No Build Alternative	0	944	1,102	1,901	1,890	1,890
B1: Forecast New Riders (Daily) Over the Baseline (regional measure)	0	1,360	1,596	2,744	2,699	2,699

Goal Statement	No Build	TSM	Queue Jumps	Managed Lanes	BRT Median	BRT Outside Guideway
1: Enhance Regional Mobility	7.0	9.0	11.0	21.0	12.0	12.0
2: Expand the Effectiveness of Multimodal Travel Options	2.5	4.5	4.5	7.0	6.5	7.0
3: Level of Local, Regional, and Statewide Financial Commitment	Pending Input from Stakeholders and Public					
4: Promote Livability and Sustainability	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
5: Minimize Capital and Operations and Maintenance Costs While Maximizing Cost Effectiveness	23.0	16.0	23.0	25.0	25.0	28.0
TOTAL POINTS: (assuming weights for ridership and costs)	33.5	31.5	40.5	58.0	47.5	51.0

### Summary of Tier 2 Evaluation Results

- BRT with Managed Lanes Provides Better Level of Service for Highway Users During Peak Periods Compared to Other Alternatives (“E” vs. “F”)
- Estimated User Benefits and Estimated New Riders are About the Same for the Managed Lane, BRT Median, and BRT Outside Guideway Alternatives
- BRT in Managed Lanes Alternative is Substantially More Expensive than the Other BRT and Bus Options
- Larger market exists for expanded transit service in the corridor as funding permits

A Public Workshop was held November 9, 2011 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Marriott Birmingham 3590 Grandview Parkway. Public attendees were asked to place a dot on preferred alternative(s). The two with the most dots included:

- Premium Bus within managed lanes (assumes grade separations at cross streets)
- BRT on a dedicated path located in the median

### Which Funding Strategies Are Best?

*Potential Funding Sources Federal Transit Administration*

- Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307)

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- Major Capital Investments (New Starts and/or Small Starts)
- Bus and Bus Facilities (Sections 5309 and 5318)
- Job Access and Reverse Committee Program (Section 5316)
- New Freedom Program (Section 5317)

*Federal Highway Administration*

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Surface Transportation Program
- National Highway System Program

*Public/Private Partnerships*

- New Toll Facility to Generate Revenue for Road and Transit
- New Toll Facility to Generate Revenue for Road Only

*Local Sources*

- General Revenue to Match Federal Funds
- Public/Private Partnerships for Station Areas
- Farebox Revenue
- Parking Revenue and Other Charges

**Requirements for FTA New Starts**

- Requires FTA evaluation for each phase of the project, including Alternatives Analysis, Preliminary Engineering, and Final Design
- FTA evaluations are based on:
  - Mobility Improvement
  - Environmental Benefits
  - Cost Effectiveness
  - Operating Efficiencies
  - Transit-Supportive Land Use and Future Patterns
  - Financial Capacity of Project Sponsor
  - Ability to Meet Future O&M Costs
  - Other Factors
  - Subcategories include:
    - *Small Starts* – for projects less than \$ 250 million and maximum of \$ 75 million in requested Section 5309 funds. Must meet other technical criteria.
    - *Very Small Starts* – total project cost is less than \$ 50 million with a maximum cost of \$ 3 million per mile (excluding vehicles). Must meet other technical criteria.

Next Steps:

November 2011- Compile Public Comments and Refine Recommendations

December 2011 - Complete Draft U.S. 280 Corridor Transit Alternatives Study, Submit to RPC for Comments, Finalize Report

Mr. Kaczorowski asked the committee to go to the study website and complete the survey and provide any comments in regards to the project at [www.US280TransitStudy.com](http://www.US280TransitStudy.com).

With a quorum declared, Chairman Fritschi called for a vote on the October minutes. Dr. Johnny Peebles III made a motion to approve the October 19, 2011 minutes. Mr. Bruce Ludwig seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**NOMINATING / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Officer recommendations presented at the October 19, 2011 TCC meeting were presented for a second reading and vote. Recommendations for officers included Ms. Jackie Dye of Shelby County for Chairman and Mr. Willie Osborne of Birmingham for Vice Chairman. Dr. Johnny Peebles III made a motion to approve the officer recommendations as presented for 2012-2013. Mr. Calvin Rumph seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request from ALDOT to modify the FY2012-2015 TIP to include the following:

**ALDOT Requests**

NH-0038()	100057896	Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Project	12/14/2011	PE	12/14/2011	2012	\$150,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3
NH-0038()	100057895	Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Project	12/14/2011	CN	5/25/2012	2012	\$2,500,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3

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

**City of Center Point Requests**

STPBH-CN10()		Reed Harvey Park Greenway Corridor Project - Segment 2 - from east of Hwy. 75 to Reed Harvey Park	12/14/2011	RW	1/1/2012	2012	\$200,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Birmingham Attributable	1
STPBH-CN10()		Reed Harvey Park Greenway Corridor Project - Segment 2 - from east of Hwy. 75 to Reed Harvey Park	12/14/2011	UT	1/1/2012	2012	\$200,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Birmingham Attributable	1

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

Mr. Kaczorowski discussed the projects, noting that the ALDOT request was for adaptive signal controls at 30 intersections on U.S. 280 from the Red Mountain Expressway to Chelsea. This project will allow for more green time as signals are redistributed to approaches with the most cars at any given time. This project can optimize signal timing by 10-15%.

The Center Point project requests a shift in current funding to include a right-of-way and utilities phase that was not included in the original request. This is not a request for additional money.

Mr. Willie Osborne made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP modification. Dr. Johnny Peebles III seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **OTHER**

Chairman Ouida Fritschi reviewed the list of upcoming meetings, including the following:

- Transportation Technical Committee, November 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Subcommittee, November 17, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, December 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Citizens Committee Meeting, December 2011, **CANCELLED**
- RPCGB Annual Meeting, January 25, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Club

Ms. Jackie Dye speaking on behalf of herself and Mr. Willie Osborne discussed the great responsibility of the new Chair and Vice Chair and their willingness to serve the Committee and offered to do their very best to continue moving the committee forward.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

### **APPROVED:**

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Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman  
Transportation Citizens Committee

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Date