



May 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)
FROM: Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman /s/
SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2012

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 12:00 Noon, RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman, Shelby County
Mr. Willie Osborne, Vice Chairman, City of Birmingham
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Calvin Rumph, Shelby County
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. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Robert Smith, City of Birmingham
Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jim Gunnin, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Mr. Nichalaus Sims, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Elizabeth Denson, DRR
Ms. Vicki Lewis
Mr. Richard Goldstein, BJCTA TAC
Ms. Willa Dean Hinson, Leeds Scenic Byways

Chairman Jackie Dye called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. She reminded the committee that they are holding the meetings to one hour. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Dr. Johnny Peebles, III made a motion to approve the March 21, 2012 minutes. Ms. Judy Gordon seconded the motion. Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer noted a typo on page 3 that should read lost not lot. With the correction, the motion 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

UMTAC TR12 ()	100058283	Section 5310 Transit Glenwood, INC Capital Bus Support Equipment (3 GPS)	6/12/2012	TR	6/13/2012	2012	\$1,500	Exempt	Transit Projects
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<u>FTA3C</u> <u>TR12 ()</u>	100058293	Section 5309 Transit City of Kimberly Capital Bus (IMV)	6/12/2012	TR	6/13/2012	2012	\$47,372	Exempt	Transit Projects
<u>IM-1065 ()</u>	100058058	Repair and cleaning concrete flumes and repair sinkholes on backslope benches to prevent future sinkholes in roadway – I-65 from Valleydale Rd to SR-119	6/12/2012	PE	6/13/2012	2012	\$100,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects
<u>IM-1065 ()</u>	100058059	Repair and cleaning concrete flumes and repair sinkholes on backslope benches to prevent future sinkholes in roadway – I-65 from Valleydale Rd to SR-119	6/12/2012	CN	6/13/2012	2012	\$500,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects

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

Questions / comments included:

1. The Kimberly project, is this something we've approved before?
 - a. No. This is from funds by ALDOT and is used strictly for equipment and comes from the Multimodal division. Kimberly requested money from ALDOT and it has to be included in the TIP.
2. On the sinkholes, why wasn't this identified before the project started?
 - a. Not all sinkholes are found during the initial phases of a project and it isn't until construction actually starts that some of these issues are discovered. This specific request is for future assurances.

Mr. Kaczorowski then presented requests from ALDOT on behalf of Governor Robert Bentley. The projects are a part of the new Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIPS) initiative created by Governor Bentley to assist governments with their urgent transportation infrastructure needs. The program will be funded through the GARVEE program for \$200-\$300 million. This money will be borrowed against future federal funding. A separate bureau called Innovative Programs Bureau will be responsible for oversight and consists of the Governor, members of his staff, and outside professionals. Projects will not go through the 3rd Division office. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that none of the projects have been selected yet, but ALDOT has requested they be included in the TIP so that they will be ready to go when specific projects are selected by the governing committee.

ALDOT Requests - ATRIPS Projects

<u>ACATRIP</u> <u>AA100058</u> <u>379</u>	100058379	Turn lanes on CR-153 (Trussville-Clay Road) & signalization Husky Parkway At CR-2133 (Deerfoot Pkwy) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$922,875	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP</u> <u>AA100058</u> <u>367</u>	100058367	Resurface Mt. Olive Road from CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) to CR-112 (Mount Olive Boulevard)	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$431,250	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP</u> <u>AA100058</u> <u>369</u>	100058369	Resurface CR-94 (Queenstown Road) from CR-10 (Roper Rd) To 2nd Street in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$488,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 70</u>	100058370	CR-1523 (Shady Grove Road), resurface from CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) to (Carrington Drive)	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$161,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 71</u>	100058371	Resurface CR-77, CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) from CR-1497 (Jew Hollow Road) to I-65 in Gardendale, AL	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,092,500	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 72</u>	100058372	Patton Chapel Rd and Lorna Rd resurfacing and intersection Improvements in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$2,122,259	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 73</u>	100058373	Resurface CR-2123 (Camp Coleman Road) from SR-7 (US-11) To CR-2124 (Windsong Drive) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$373,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 74</u>	100058374	Resurface CR-353 (Hugh Daniel Drive from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-41 (Duavant Road) in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$839,646	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 76</u>	100058376	Resurface CR-1151 (Old Rocky Ridge Road) from CR-115 (Lorna Road) to CR-1220 (Rocky Ridge Lane) in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$813,511	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 78</u>	100058378	Resurface and realign SR-150 at Galleria Boulevard, in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$633,854	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 80</u>	100058380	Riverchase Parkway East Roadway Lighting in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,193,813	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 81</u>	100058381	Turn Lanes on CR-2133 (Deerfoot Parkway) at Jonathans Way in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$250,125	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 82</u>	100058382	Replace Bridge on CR-12 over Dry Creek BIN # 6952 Suff Rating 39.3 In Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,713,760	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 83</u>	100058383	Resurface CR-29 (Caldwell Mill Rd) & CR-14 (Cahaba Valley Trace) in Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$559,550	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 84</u>	100058384	Resurface CR-61 from SR-145 to SR-25 (Carison Road) in Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$754,982	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 75</u>	100058375	Traffic signalization on CR-19 (Chalkville Mountain Road) from Norrel Drive to CR-155 (Tyler Loop Road) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$254,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 77</u>	100058377	Interchange Lighting on I-59 at CR-2133 (Deerfoot Parkway) City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$621,600	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIP AAI000583 66</u>	100058366	Replace Bridge over Watkins Brook on Mountain Brook Parkway BIN # 2850 Suff Rating 58.3 in the City of Mountain Brook	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$957,619	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

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

<u>ACATRIP</u> <u>AAI000583</u> <u>63</u>	100058363	Widen Cotton Avenue from 7th Street SW to Lomb Avenue in Birmingham	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$3,194,897	Non-Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
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This project is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. If selected for funding, this project will be included in an update to the regional emissions analysis and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

Questions /Comments included:

1. This is borrowing against future money so do they know how much money will be available from the future?
 - a. This is money the state anticipates receiving. These are anticipation loans based on historical funding. The money is paid back by reduction in federal funds received.
2. There are none from the City of Birmingham. Why?
 - a. The cities had to submit requests. One project near Princeton Hospital is on the list for Birmingham and it is the largest request for funds.
3. You're anticipating this money and with the condition of roads and you have future problems like sinkholes where are we getting the money when we need it and it isn't there?
4. How did word get out to Mayors about this and why does it come here?
 - a. The Governor's office and ALDOT announced the request for projects. Governor Bentley announced it during his State of the State address and Mr. John Cooper sent out a letter to all municipalities and county commissions. The Birmingham MPO sent out an email to the municipalities in our region and announced the call during an MPO meeting.
5. If federal money is not there are bonds guaranteed by the state?
6. Who is the responsible party from the City of Birmingham to ask for these projects?
 - a. The Mayor, City Engineers, etc.
7. In past years Birmingham used to get more money until recently. These are local projects so why aren't they responsible for these?
8. How was notice sent out to governments in the MPO?
 - a. The request for projects was announced at an MPO meeting.
9. Will this affect existing projects?
 - a. These will not specifically go through ALDOT so no. They will be going through the Innovative Programs Bureau.
10. Cotton Avenue, will Princeton have to pay something?
 - a. They will have to put up the local match or the City of Birmingham will be responsible.
11. The Cotton Avenue project adding to the TIP, what about emissions and violating conformity?
 - a. The project can't be authorized until conformity is met.
12. This is adding something that is not in compliance.
 - a. Staff will address this issue with the feds.
13. Before MPO addresses this, staff needs to make sure conformity is met.

Ms. Judy Gordon made a motion to table all of the TIP requests. Dr. Johnny Peebles seconded the motion. Additional comments/questions were given, including:

1. If the Cotton avenue project causes a violation then why is it on the list?
2. It's crazy to reject the whole request because then the region will lose money.
3. Suggest we table the request until an answer is given on the Cotton Avenue conformity issue.
4. Table the Birmingham issue and go forward with the remaining requests.
5. Recommend getting information about conformity issue before sending to the MPO.

Chairman Jackie Dye called for a vote by show of hands on the motion to table all TIP requests. There were 12 no votes and 4 yes votes. The motion died.

Ms. Ouida Fritschi made a motion to recommend approval of the first four TIP amendments. Ms. Nancy Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer made a motion to recommend approval of the ATRIPS projects with a proviso that before the MPO approves these projects, research be done on the conformity issue. Ms. Pat Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Jackie Dye called for a vote by show of hands. There were 12 yes votes and 5 no votes. The motion passed.

MPO CERTIFICATION

Mr. Darrell Howard presented an update on the MPO Certification held March 15-16, 2012 by the FHWA and FTA. The Birmingham Urbanized Area TMA's planning process has been certified. The FHWA/FTA certification will remain in effect for a maximum of four years from the issuance date of the report. The purpose of the MPO certification is to ensure the metropolitan planning process for the Birmingham MPO meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 23 CFR 450.334. Three areas of comments by FTA and FHWA were received in the certification, including Corrective Actions, Recommendations and Noteworthy Practices.

Corrective Actions

None: There were No Corrective Actions for this Certification Cycle.

Recommendations

- Project-level Public Involvement

The ALDOT (Central Office and Third Division) should strive to address the project-level (e.g. NEPA) public comments received during the certification review.

- Financial Plans

As part of the next round of LRTP updates, the ALDOT, MPOs and public transportation operators must cooperatively develop and document the financial plans that support the LRTPs and TIPs, including forecasts of revenues, cost estimates and operations and maintenance expenditures.

- **2010 Census**
The MPO should begin the process of analyzing needed changes to the urbanized and study areas based on the release of the 2010 Census data.
- **Obligation of Attributable Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds**
The MPO and ALDOT are encouraged to continue coordinating with project sponsors and monitor the project development process to ensure that the unobligated balances of STP and CMAQ funds are obligated in a timely manner.

Noteworthy Practices

- **Air Quality**
The MPO continues to implement programs and partnership activities aimed at improving air quality levels in the Birmingham area; the Alabama Partners for Clean Air, CommuteSmart Rideshare program and construction of park-and-ride lots are notable examples.
- **Project Development Process**
The MPO's Advanced Planning, Programming and Logical Engineering (APPLE) program designed to educate local governments about the project development process, assist them in their decision-making process and provide resources to help develop and advance transportation projects is a promising new tool which may prove useful in drawing down the MPO's unobligated balance of STP- attributable funds.
- **Organizational Structure**
The MPO's organizational structure and efficient use of its committees is an effective mechanism for managing the transportation planning process.
- **Public Involvement**
The MPO's use of visualization techniques and other techniques such as electronic voting and touch-table technologies are elements of a proactive and effective public involvement process.
- **Transit Funding**
BJCTA and the City of Birmingham utilize all of the 5307, 5309, 5316 and 5317 funds.

Subsequent FHWA and/or FTA actions on future products of the TMA planning process partially will be based on the progress made by the TMA's planning process partners in addressing the aforementioned review findings.

Ms. Ouida Fritschi noted that during her very first MPO certification as the TCC Chairman, the report was not good, but the RPC has worked hard to improve the MPO from that point and has done an excellent job.

ADVANCE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND LOGICAL ENGINEERING (APPLE)

Due to time constraints, this item was held until the next TCC meeting.

TCC LETTER TO ALDOT

The TCC at the March meeting requested the MPO write a letter to ALDOT requesting information on rescinded funds and potential rescissions to fund allocated in the TIP and Long-Range transportation plan. The MPO Subcommittee denied the request and returned the request back to the TCC stating that they could write the letter themselves, but also noted that there are a great many reasons why projects are delayed, including environmental concerns, financial shortfalls, personnel and more. Delays can't always be blamed on ALDOT.

Chairman Jackie Dye appointed a subcommittee to address the letter request. The subcommittee will include Vice Chairman Willie Osborne, Phillip Wiedmeyer and Barbara McKenna. The Subcommittee will present their information at the next TCC meeting.

OTHER

Chairman Jackie Dye reviewed the list of upcoming meetings, including the following:

- Transportation Technical Committee, May 23, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Subcommittee, May 24, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, June 13, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Citizens Committee Meeting, June 20, 2012, 12:00 noon, RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date