



December 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, Secretary /s/
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2011**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m., in the RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Doug Brewer, MPO Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Vice Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Harvey Henley, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, District 1, City of Birmingham
Ms. Virginia Williams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Walter Jackson, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Wayne Sullivan, MPO Secretary, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Ken Boozer

Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. David Ricker

Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Othell Phillips

Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie

Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke

Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor

Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Andy Mayo

Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Randy Cole

Honorable Sandra Little Brown, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Walter Mitchell

Honorable Ken Gulley, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Forrest Davis

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Alberto Zaragoza, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member

Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable Joe Knight, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

Honorable George Bowman, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable Jay Roberson, District 1, City of Birmingham

Mr. Patrick Sellers, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative

Honorable Tom Henderson, Sr., District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County

Honorable Melanie Bouyer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster

Mr. Robert Caliento, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena

Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member

VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative
 VACANT, Remaining Voting Representative

OTHERS PRESENT

- Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission
- Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
- Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
- Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
- Honorable Jim Lowery, City of Fultondale
- Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Transportation Citizens Committee
- Ms. Renee Carter, CRT
- Ms. Jackie Dye, Transportation Citizens Committee
- Mr. William Parker, Birmingham
- Mr. George Munchus, UAB
- Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
- Mr. Keith Strickland, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood
- Mr. Ryan Pearce, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood
- Mr. Jim Meads, Sain Associates
- Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance
- Ms. Kamilah Gray, City of Birmingham

MPO Chairman Doug Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Councilor Maxine Herring Parker made a motion to approve the November 9, 2011 meeting minutes. Councilor Valerie Abbott 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

<u>NH-0038()</u>	100057896	Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Project	12/14/2011	PE	12/14/2011	2012	\$150,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3
<u>NH-0038()</u>	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.

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%.

TCC Chairman Ouida Fritschi gave the recommendation of the TCC to approve the TIP modification request by ALDOT. TTC Chairman David Hunke likewise gave the recommendation of the TTC to approve the ALDOT request with the caveat that ALDOT provide information on the maintenance plan for this project and include stakeholder input from the multiple jurisdictions along the U.S. 280 corridor.

Mr. Hunke discussed the concerns of the TTC that real-time information input is needed. This is a labor and data intensive project and ALDOT will need to provide assurances that sufficient staffing and maintenance will be provided.

Questions / comments regarding this project request included the following:

- How about training for maintenance?
 - o This is a pilot project thru FHWA initiative. ALDOT will bring in training specialists. Maintenance will remain the same as current agreements but will need to be completed in a timely manner.
 - o ALDOT officials assured that in device failures, the jurisdiction(s) or agencies responsible for maintenance can be notified immediately through text, phone, and email. If a detection device goes down the entire system is not shut down and if a major shut down occurs the system will go into default mode.
- Are jurisdictions going to be involved in the decision making process for the detection devices?
- Will funds cover all expenditures or will cities be required to fund parts of the project?
 - o Local jurisdictions will be responsible for maintenance costs based on the current maintenance agreements in place.
- ALDOT will work with the jurisdictions on timely responses to any maintenance issues.
- Mr. Cooper wants this system in place by June 2012.
- Who is doing PE?
 - o Sain Associates
- Where does the project go?
 - o Red Mountain Expressway to Chelsea.
- Is there any available data on this type of system?
 - o Systems currently in place have seen a 5-10% improvement in traffic flow. Alpharetta has seen a 14% improvement.

Mr. Kaczorowski then presented the request from Center Point to modify the TIP.

City of Center Point Requests

<u>STPBH-CN10Q</u>		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
<u>STPBH-CN10Q</u>		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.

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.

TCC Chairman Ouida Fritschi and TTC Chairman David Hunke gave the recommendations of their committees to recommend approval of the project.

Mr. Rod Long made a motion to approve the requests to modify the TIP. Mr. Randy Cole seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

MPO NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Doug Brewer gave a report from the Nominating Committee. The Committee met September 14, 2011 to make recommendations for MPO Officers for 2012-2013. The committee made the following recommendations:

Mayor Thomas Henderson	MPO Chairman
Mr. Wayne Sullivan	MPO Vice Chairman
Councilor Maxine Herring Parker	MPO Secretary

Mr. Harvey Henley made a motion to approve the recommendations for officers for 2012-2013. Mr. David Ricker seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

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)
- Major Capital Investments (New Starts and/or Small Starts)
- Bus and Bus Facilities (Sections 5309 and 5318)
- Job Access and Reverse Commute 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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Charles Ball gave special recognition to the outgoing officers of the Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee and the MPO. Mr. Ball presented desk clocks to Ms. Ouida Fritschi, Mr. David Hunke and Mayor Doug Brewer and thanked them for their contributions to their respective committees and for their leadership and service. Each outgoing officer was given an opportunity to speak.

Outgoing TCC Chairman Ouida Fritschi expressed her love of working with the committees for the past 20 plus years as TCC Chairman and looks forward to continuing her membership on the TCC. Ms. Fritschi then introduced Ms. Jackie Dye, the new TCC Chairman beginning in January.

Outgoing TTC Chairman David Hunke stated that it was an honor to serve as TTC Chairman and will continue his membership on the Committee. He also noted that it is a pleasure working with the government staffs that are a part of the TTC.

Outgoing MPO Chairman Mayor Doug Brewer thanked the RPS staff, elected officials and friends for their help. He noted that it is an honor to be a part of the MPO and work with great people and brilliant minds.

OTHER

Mayor Othell Phillips thanked ALDOT for holding one of the three Northern Beltline meetings in Gardendale. There were over 700 in attendance.

Chairman Brewer reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- Citizens Committee Meeting, December 2011, **CANCELLED**
- Technical Committee Meeting, December 2011, **CANCELLED**
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting, December 2011, **CANCELLED**
- MPO Meeting, January 2012, **CANCELLED**
- RPCGB Annual Meeting, January 25, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Club
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, February 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

MHP:cb

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APPROVED:

Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, MPO Secretary

Date