



April 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, Secretary /s/
**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2012**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 1:30 p.m., in the RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Thomas Henderson, MPO Chairman, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Vice Chairman, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Valerie Abbott, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Andre Bittas, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Tom Magee, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, District 1, City of Birmingham
Ms. Renee Kemp-Rotan, District 1, City of Birmingham
Ms. Linda Allen, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Harvey Henley, District, 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Doug Brewer, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Roger McCondichie, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Steve Parsons, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Othell Phillips, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Jesse Jowers, District 4, Shelby County- City of Pelham
Mr. Randy Cole, District 4, Shelby County
Ms. Virginia Williams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Mr. Randall Kemp, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Loxcil Tuck, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Lawrence Oden, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable Jay Roberson, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Jeffery McDaniels
Honorable Delor Baumann, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Jim Byram
Honorable William Bell, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams
Ms. Tracey Adams, District 1, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Andy Mayo
Honorable Jerry Brasseale, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mayor Roger McCondichie
Honorable Alberto Zaragoza, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Represented by Mr. Chris Brady
Mr. Ray Hamilton, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Honorable Larry Dillard, District 4, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Randy Cole
Honorable David Frings, District 4, Shelby County- City of Alabaster
Represented by Mr. Brett Tucker
Mr. Robert Caliento, District 4, Shelby County- City of Helena
Represented by Mayor Sonny Penhale
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT, Remaining Voting Representative
Represented by Mr. Lance Taylor
Mr. Robert Jilla, ALDOT, Non-Voting Member
Represented by Mr. Victor Jordan

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Maxine Herring Parker, MPO Secretary, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable George Bowman, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Joe Knight, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Sandra Little Brown, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Walter Jackson, District 2, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Gene Melton, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Rod Long, District 4, Shelby County- City of Hoover
Honorable Tommy Alexander, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Kim Rafferty, District 1, City of Birmingham
Honorable Jim Lowery, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Gary Richardson, District 3, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Slade Blackwell, Remaining Voting Representative
Honorable Kurt Wallace, Remaining Voting Representative

Mr. Patrick Sellers, BJCTA, Remaining Voting Representative
Mr. Mark Bartlett, FHWA, Non-Voting Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Willie Osborne, Transportation Citizens Committee
Honorable Katherine Ennis, City of Helena
Chief William Hewitt, City of Tarrant
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, UAB
Mr. Ben Weiseman, KPS
Mr. Randy Robertson, City of Vestavia Hills
Ms. Kamilah Gray Lewis, City of Birmingham
Ms. Becky White, Sain Associates
Mr. William Parker, Birmingham
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA
Ms. Meredith Davidson, BBA
Ms. Christy Cahalan, AECOM
Mr. Steven Schwantes, AECOM
Ms. Selena Rodgers, Sarcor LLC
Mr. Preston Huddleston

MPO Chairman Tom Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Councilor Valerie Abbott made a motion to approve the February 8, 2012 meeting minutes. Mayor Doug Brewer 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>STPBH-PE120</u>	100058186	CR-1498 (Ensley Avenue) from SR-269 (20 th Street) to Warrior Road - sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services	4/11/2012	PE	4/12/2012	2012	\$75,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable	1
<u>STPBH-PE120</u>	100058187	19 th Street from I-59 to Tuxedo Junction - sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services	4/11/2012	PE	4/12/2012	2012	\$75,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable	1
<u>STPBH-PE120</u>	100058188	12 th Street from SR-7 (US-11) to Baptist Princeton Hospital - sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services	4/11/2012	PE	4/12/2012	2012	\$75,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable	1
<u>IM-10650</u>	100058529	Bridge replacement on I-65 (NB) at NS RR north of Exit 228	4/11/2012	RW	5/1/2012	2012	\$20,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5

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

ALDOT Request

<u>NH-10650</u>	100058158	I-65 add lanes from SR-3 (US-31) to CR-52 (8-lanes)	4/11/2012	RW	7/1/2012	2012	\$600,000	Non-Exempt	National Highway System	3
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This project is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. This project is included in the adopted and approved regional emissions analysis. See Appendix 5C of the Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

Vestavia Hills Request

<u>STPBH-CN10(908)</u>	100048391	Sidewalks in Vestavia Hills along Canyon Road, Vista View Lane & Merryvale Road	4/11/2012	CN	9/1/2012	2012	\$607,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable	1
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This project is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Helena Request

<u>CMAQ-9802(126)</u>	100032383	Helena Buck Creek/Tocoa Rail Trail System	4/11/2012	CN	4/12/2012	2012	\$2,414,075	Exempt	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	1 3
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This project is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

Mr. Ben Wieseman discussed the Helena project. Councilor Valerie Abbott asked about the average price range for walking trails. The average price can range from \$500,000 to \$1 million per mile. Mr. Darrell Howard noted that the Helena project is connecting to a trail system that is already in place. Ms. Virginia Williams asked about the CEI cost percentage. Currently it is averaging around 30%.

Mr. Willie Osborne, TCC Vice-Chairman, stated that the Transportation Citizens Committee recommended approval of the TIP projects. Mr. Greg Dawkins, TTC Chairman, stated that the Transportation Technical Committee also recommended approval. Mr. Mike Kaczorowski noted that the TCC and TTC did not have an opportunity to review the RW request for the I-65 bridge

replacement project as it came in the day before the MPO Subcommittee, but he did speak with the officers of both committees and they agreed to recommend moving forward to the MPO for review. MPO vice Chairman Wayne Sullivan stated that the MPO Subcommittee moved the item forward for consideration.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to approve the TIP modification as requested. Mayor Othell Phillips seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS REPORT

Mr. Andrew Sullivan gave an update on the Congestion Management Process. Data was collected in 2010 and processed in 2011 for a report that was completed at the end of 2011. Report information presented included:

Purpose of the Report

- 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

This report will serve as a guideline for future reports.

The Study network included major US and state arteries in Jefferson and Shelby counties.

Process of data collection

- Probe vehicles
- Fleet Data GPS
 - o Improved Data Quality

Previous data was collected by people in single vehicles driving and collecting information that only accounted for about three data points. New data collected for this report was from fleet data, giving a larger sampling of data and will be used as a starting point for determining congestion.

Travel Time Index = Measured travel time over Free-flow travel time.

For Freeways:

- TTI > 1.1 indicates the onset of congestion
- TTI > 1.5 indicates significant congestion
- TTI > 2.0 indicates severe congestion

For Arterials:

- TTI > 1.5 indicates congestion
- TTI > 2.0 indicates significant congestion
- TTI > 2.5 indicates severe congestion

Maps of AM Peak Congestion and AM Peak Travel Times to Downtown were included in the presentation.

Lane Miles of Congested Facilities

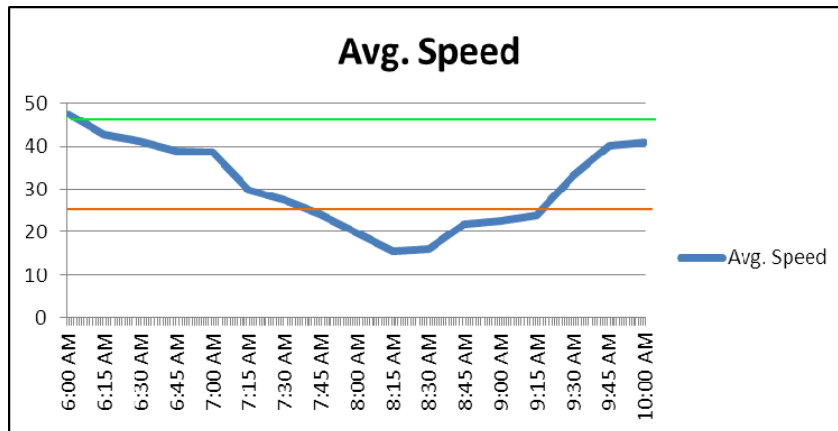
Table 3. Lane-Miles of Congested Interstates

Route	From/To	AM Peak		PM Peak	
		NB/EB	SB/WB	NB/EB	SB/WB
I-65	Chilton Co. Line to Blount Co. Line	73.5	20.3	62.9	68.9
I20/59	Tuscaloosa Co. Line to I-20/59 Split	22.7	25.1	23.0	12.9
I-20	I-20/59 Split to St. Clair Co. Line	4.3	7.6	4.3	2.8
I-59	I-20/59 Split to St. Clair Co. Line	-	24.1	17.7	0.9
I-459	I-20/59 to I-59	40.3	19.5	42.0	30.7
I-22	Walker Co. Line to Coalburg Road	-	-	-	-
Totals (by direction)		140.7	96.6	149.9	116.2
Total (both directions)		237.4		266.1	
% of Total Interstate Lane-Miles		27%		31%	

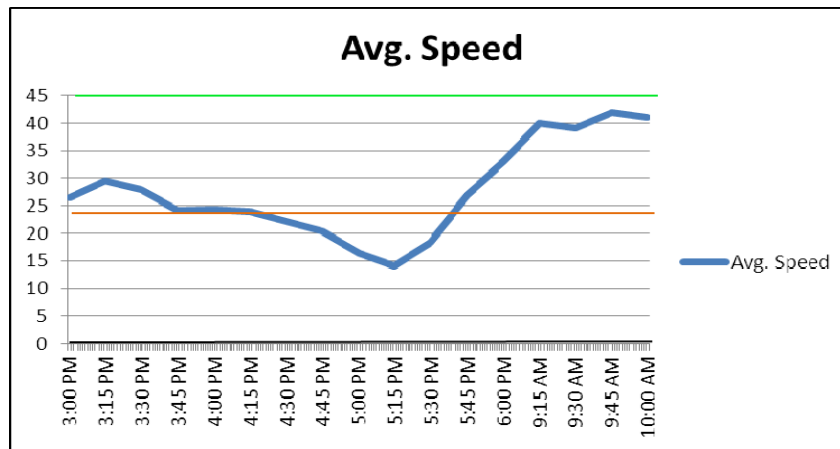
Table 4. Lane-Miles of Congested Arterials

Route	From/To	AM Peak		PM Peak	
		NB/EB	SB/WB	NB/EB	SB/WB
U.S. 31	Chilton Co. Line to Blount Co. Line	11.2	7.4	8.0	18.0
U.S. 280	Shelby Co. Line to Red Mt. Expwy.	0.6	17.9	22.3	11.0
U.S. 78	Walker Co. Line to St. Clair Co. Line	7.7	11.0	8.1	10.0
U.S. 11	Tuscaloosa Co. Line to St. Clair Co. Line	6.3	6.5	5.2	6.8
Totals (by direction)		25.8	42.8	43.7	45.7
Total (both directions)		68.6		89.4	
% of Total Arterial Lane-Miles		10%		13%	

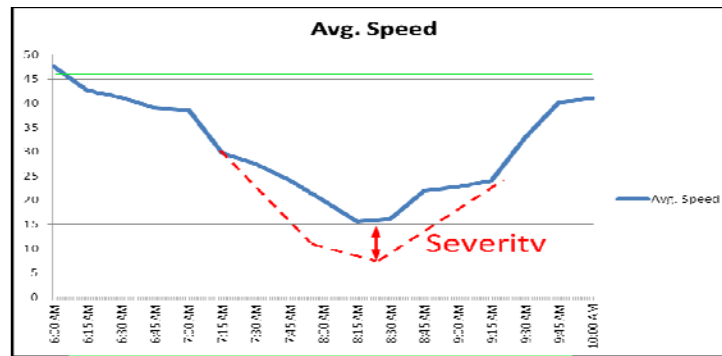
- Westbound 280 (AM Peak)



- Eastbound 280 (PM peak)



Speed Profiles



The Report will be updated yearly and will show where congestion is growing / shrinking and will show how new projects have changed congestion patterns. The next report will present data collected during October 2011. Mr. Sullivan noted that data will be made available online to municipalities.

ADVANCE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND LOGICAL ENGINEERING (APPLE)

Mr. Darrell Howard gave a presentation on the new APPLE program. Information presented included:

Which Comes First?

- Do we program projects and then plan them?
- Do we plan the project then program it?

What is APPLE?

The APPLE Program is a program designed to streamline project development by assisting local governments to:

- **Understand the Project Development Process** by educating them about ALDOT’s PDP and NEPA
- **Make Better Decisions** by including more of the information that is typically needed in the environmental document

- **Provide Resources for Planning** to help projects advance with fewer delays and loss of information

Key Outcomes of APPLE

- APPLE will produce a report that:
 - Documents the preliminary “purpose and need”
 - Compare alternatives
 - Identify High-level Environmental Issues
 - Provides preliminary cost estimates
- APPLE **is not** intended to develop a detailed roadway/trail alignment
- Ultimately the APPLE process will help project sponsors to define a project’s scope and minimizing scope creep

Why Apple?

- **The Issues**
 - Lost time getting up to speed
 - Information loss – inconsistent project contacts
 - Ill-defined transportation problem – leads to...
 - Unclear project scopes – which leads to...
 - Scope creep – which leads to...
 - Cost increases – which leads to...
 - Added delays – which leads to...
 - Cost increases

More Questions Answered

- **Funding Availability (How Much)** APPLE funding participation for each project is capped at \$24k federal. Project sponsors may overmatch to get more mileage.
- **Funding Equity (How Many)** Local governments will be limited to two (2) APPLE projects/calendar year.
- **Producing the Report (Who/How)** Consultants hired by the RPCGB will do the work and write the report. RPCGB will manage consultants.
- **Getting Started (How to)** Eligible local governments that are interested in APPLE should contact the RPCGB.
- **APPLE Project Length (How Long Will it Take?)** It is anticipated that APPLE projects will range from 2 to 6 months to complete from the time that the Notice to Proceed is issued. APPLE projects may take longer if there are numerous stakeholders, significant environmental factors, or a variety of feasible solutions.

It was noted that this is a demonstration program at this time and the small municipalities were encouraged to contact the RPCGB. Staff has secured a suite of consultants to work on APPLE for those governments that do not have the technical support needed to perform the tasks.

**TRANSPORTATION CITIZENS / TECHNICAL COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP
CONCURRENCE**

Ms. Cynthia Barton presented information on the membership concurrence of the Transportation Citizens Committee and the Transportation Technical Committee. The MPO is charged annually to review and concur with the geographic composition of the Transportation Technical and Citizens' Advisory Committees, independent standing committees established under written agreement between the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and other major groups involved in transportation planning.

The TCC membership consists of 50 members and is geographically representative of the urban area based upon the amount of population. Representation is apportioned by district according to the population of the decennial Census. The following are the designated districts according to the 2000 Census:

City of Birmingham	15 members
South / Southeast Jefferson County	8 members
West / Southwest Jefferson County	8 members
East / Northeast Jefferson County	6 members
North / Northwest Jefferson County	4 members
Shelby County	9 members

The TTC is organization-based and currently consists of 46 membership positions, including:

- A. Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority Representative
- B. City of Birmingham
 - Chief Planner
 - Birmingham Traffic Engineer
- C. Jefferson County
 - Department of Roads and Transportation County Representative
- D. Alabama Department of Transportation
 - Multimodal Transportation Engineer, Montgomery
 - Preconstruction Engineer, Birmingham
 - Environmental Coordinator, Montgomery
 - Maintenance Representative, Birmingham
- E. Shelby County
 - Shelby County Highway Department Representative
 - Shelby County Development Services Representative
- F. Jefferson County Department of Health Representative
- G. Railroad Representative
- H. Trucking Representative
- I. Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
- J. City of Homewood Representative
- K. City of Hoover Representative
- L. City of Vestavia Hills Representative

- M. University of Alabama at Birmingham
 - Executive Director of Campus Planning
 - Parking and Transportation Services Director – Auxiliary Services
- N. CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
- O. Traffic Safety Representative
- P. Operation New Birmingham Representative

The TTC membership also includes a maximum of twenty (20) At-Large members and four (4) Non-Voting Member Organizations, including:

- A. Federal Highway Administration Representative
- B. Federal Transit Administration Representative
- C. Alabama Department of Environmental Management Air Division Chief
- D. Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce Representative

The TCC and TTC are working committees of the MPO and they are charged with certain tasks related to the development of specific program solutions to area wide needs as identified through community research and public meetings.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to concur with the geographic composition of the Transportation Technical and Citizens Committees. Ms. Cindy Hill seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

Chairman Henderson reviewed a list of upcoming meetings including:

- MPO Certification 30-Day Comment Period Began March 15, 2012
- Citizens Committee Meeting April 18, 2012, 12 noon, RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting, April 25, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- Clean Fuels Conference, April 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Birmingham-Southern College
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting, April 26, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Announcement of next MPO Meeting, May 9, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:058 p.m.

MHP:cb
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APPROVED:

Councilor Maxine Herring Parker, MPO Secretary

Date