



October 27, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

**FROM:** Mayor Thomas Henderson, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes  
October 27, 2011**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, October 27, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1731 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honorable Thomas Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County  
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Walter Jackson, Unincorporated Jefferson County

**MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY**

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

Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County  
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay

Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens

Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Represented by Mayor Thomas Henderson

Mr. Jesse Jowers, Shelby County – Pelham  
Represented by Mr. Josh Osborne

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham  
Represented by Mr. Tom Magee

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

Mr. Mark Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration (Non-Voting Member)  
Represented by Mr. Dave Harris

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT  
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities  
Mr. Patrick Sellers, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
Honorable Stan Batemon, ex-officio, St. Clair County Commission  
Honorable Bruce Hamrick, ex-officio, Walker County Commission  
Honorable Tim Mims, ex-officio, Chilton County Commission  
Honorable David Standridge, ex-officio, Blount County Commission

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Ms. Laurel Land, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Mr. George Henry, City of Alabaster  
Ms. Christy Cahalan, AECOM  
Mr. Mike Eddington, City of Birmingham  
Mr. David Ricker, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT  
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, TCC  
Mr. George Henry, City of Alabaster

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Mayor Thomas Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

### **INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. Subcommittee Chairman Henderson asked the Committee's permission to move Agenda Item # 4 to the top of the meeting agenda at the request of Councilor Kimberly Rafferty. The Committee agreed to the agenda change. Mr. David Hunke made a motion to approve the August 25, 2011 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY MAYORS ASSOCIATION TRANSIT ADVOCATE PRESENTATION**

Councilor Kimberly Rafferty spoke to the Subcommittee about her efforts to address the area's transit deficiencies in relation to economic development, tourism and quality of life. Councilor

Rafferty spoke of four needs:

- Need to look at bringing transit to the region
- Need to connect people to places
- Need to attack the issue at the state level
- Need to make this work on a practical sense

The four largest metro areas in Alabama, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile and Birmingham, are in one accord to change the state rules in relation to transit funding. Councilor Rafferty is proposing a 5-year initiative to buy into a metro transit system. She will meet with ADO Director Greg Canfield and Governor Robert Bentley to discuss this initiative further. She pointed out that a metro transit system would bring about better livable sustainability, more disposable income for riders, improved air quality and increase tourism.

Councilor Rafferty noted that the legislature in Montgomery is looking at transit funding options and she plans to bring something to Montgomery after the first of the year.

Discussion on this item included the following:

- Need to work with the Alabama Road Builders Association
- Looking at aviation fuel taxes and lodging taxes for possible transit funding
- Need to look at alcohol taxes and remove the cap on those taxes
- How does this tie into RPCGB's work?
  - o RPCGB is looking at premium transit studies (Light Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, etc.). These studies are a first step in receiving additional funds available for premium transit under the New Starts Program. These require local match funds and local support. These studies would tie into transit systems.
- Would this affect small areas like Alabaster?
  - o Yes. These premium transit units would spawn off metro systems to suburban and rural areas.
- Funding for transit has always been a constitutional issue. Most transit systems are funded by the states.

Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to add this agenda item to the November MPO meeting agenda. Mr. Tom Magee seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) AND NEW FREEDOM GRANTS**

Ms. Laurel Land presented a recommendation of projects to be funded in FY 2012 under the JARC and New Freedom Programs. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding under the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs was publicized by the RPC in July 2011. Responses were due by noon on August 26, 2011. Funding is limited to projects in the urbanized areas of Jefferson and Shelby County.

JARC projects must support transportation services to and from jobs and job-related activities. New Freedom projects must provide transportation options for individuals with disabilities. The RPCGB received eight applications in response to this RFP.

The Human Service Transportation Committee met on September 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members reviewed and discussed each of the eight proposals received and voted to approve the following projects for funding:

- The Village - \$28,000 for one vehicle (JARC)
- Three Hots and a Cot - \$45,500 (\$28,000 for one van; \$17,500 for operations) (JARC)
- Aletheia House - \$250,000 for operating expenses (JARC)

A summary of the recommended proposals was included in the meeting packet. The BJCTA is responsible for the financial oversight of these grant programs. All proposals are available for review upon request. The RPCGB estimates the balance after funding these projects will be approximately \$900,000 for JARC and \$600,000 for New Freedom. Unspent funds are rolled into future years. Future funding for these programs has not been designated.

Mr. Walter Jackson made a motion to add the agenda item to the November MPO meeting agenda. Mr. David Hunke seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented a request by ALDOT to modify the FY 2012-2015 TIP with the following:

#### **ALDOT Requests**

<u>SRTS- PE12Q</u>	100057814	Safe Routes to School FY2012 Division-wide Preliminary Engineering	11/9/2011	PE	11/10/2011	2012	\$150,000	Exempt	Safety Projects	11
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**This project is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.**

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that Safe Routes to School Projects are 100% funded. There are around 14 projects for around \$1 million in the TIP for Jefferson and Shelby Counties. A list of Safe Routes to School projects is included in the FY 2012-2015 TIP and covers projects in Jefferson and Shelby counties.

Mr. David Hunke stated that the TTC recommended approval of this request along with the JARC/New Freedom projects. Ms. Ouida Fritschi noted the TCC recommended the same.

Mr. Walter Jackson made a motion to add this request to the November MPO meeting agenda. Mr. Wayne Sullivan seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

**MPO MEETING AGENDA (NOVEMBER 9, 2011)**

Agenda Item #2 (Jobs Access Reverse Commute/New Freedom), Agenda Item #3 (TIP) and Agenda Item #4 (Jefferson County Mayors Association Transit Advocate Presentation) will be included on the November 9, 2011 MPO meeting agenda per the votes of the Subcommittee.

**OTHER**

Upcoming meetings listed on the agenda include:

- Building Communities Conference, November 3, 2011, 8:30 a.m., McWane Science Center
- US 280 Public Open House, November 9, 2011, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Grandview Marriott 280
- MPO, November 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Honorable Thomas Henderson  
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

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Date