



November 17, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mayor Thomas Henderson, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
November 17, 2011**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Thomas Henderson, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill

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 Ms. Virginia Williams

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

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Randy Kemp

Mr. Patrick Sellers, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Represented by Mr. Tom Solomon

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Sandra Little Brown, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
Mr. Walter Jackson, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Mark Bartlett, Federal Highway Administration (Non-Voting Member)
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. 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
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA
Mr. Ryan Collins, Nimrod Long and Associates
Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Ms. Christy Cahalan, AECOM
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, TCC

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Mayor Thomas Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Ms. Cynthia Barton called roll. A quorum was declared. Mr. Wayne Sullivan made a motion to approve the October 27, 2011 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Mr. David Hunke 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-00380	100057896	Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Project	12/14/2011	PE	12/14/2011	2012	\$150,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3
NH-00380	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, including the original request to table this project pending further information from ALDOT. The TTC discussed the potential this project has to improve the corridor, but 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. The TTC also expressed concerns over the current operation of previous MPO funded projects (Dynamic Message Boards and ALDOT Traffic Center). ALDOT will need an operations plan in place.

Ms. Cindy Hill stated that each jurisdiction along the corridor will be responsible for standard maintenance while the signal timing will be ALDOT's responsibility. Monitoring procedures have not been determined yet since it is still early in the process, but the goal is to improve the system.

Mr. Rod Long described the project as a new leap in traffic control with the ability to adjust signal cycles in real-time and allows for an opportunity to upgrade the current system.

Ms. Hill stated that this system is easily adaptable to any new projects along the corridor as the system can be upgraded.

Mr. Kaczorowski noted that ALDOT representative Stacy Glass confirmed the maintenance budget is good for this project. ALDOT representatives will be at the December MPO meeting to address any additional concerns.

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Mayor Thomas Henderson asked if the jurisdictions would be notified in a timely manner on any maintenance issues.

Mr. Scott Holladay expressed the need for stakeholder input on maintenance and education of the system.

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

City of Center Point Requests

STPBH- CN100		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- CN100		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. TTC Chairman Hunke noted that the TTC did discuss the potential for additional funding requests from Center Point for STPBH funds in the future for this project.

Mayor Doug Brewer made a motion to add the TIP modification request to the MPO agenda. Ms. Virginia Williams 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

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.

Mr. David Hunke requested an update on all Alternatives Analysis corridor projects and requested that the MPO also receive those updates.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (NOVEMBER 9, 2011)

Agenda Item #2 (TIP), Agenda Item #3 (U.S. 280 Transit Study) and the vote on officers for 2012-2013 will be included on the December 14, 2011 MPO meeting agenda per the votes of the Subcommittee.

OTHER

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Thomas Henderson reviewed the list of upcoming meetings listed on the agenda, including:

- MPO Meeting, December 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room
- 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, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Club

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

APPROVED:

Mr. Wayne Sullivan
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date

WS:cyb

K:\TRA\Production\01-Clt-Adm\Adm-MPO\MPO Sub-Min Nov 11.doc