



January 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

FROM: Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Subcommittee Chairman/s/

**SUBJECT: MPO Subcommittee Minutes
January 26, 2012**

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Walter Jackson, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Mr. David Hunke, Shelby County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham
Represented by Ms. Virginia Williams
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. David Ricker
Honorable Sandra Little Brown, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Represented by Mr. Walter Mitchell
Honorable Othell Phillips, City of Gardendale
Represented by Mr. Jeff Holliyan
Mr. Brian Davis, ALDOT
Represented by Ms. Cindy Hill
Mr. Ray Hamilton, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. David Hunke
Mr. Patrick Sellers, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
Represented by Mr. Tom Solomon

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Honorable Tommy Alexander, City of Irondale
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. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Lindsey Gray, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Allison Nichols, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Jeniese Hosey, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. T. Ray Mauldin, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Ozge Cavusoglu, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Transportation Technical Committee
Mr. Willie Osborne, Transportation Citizens Committee
Honorable Doug Brewer, Jefferson County Municipalities
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA
Ms. Meredith Davidson, BBA

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Mr. Wayne Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Chairman Sullivan introduced the new members to the MPO Subcommittee. Mr. Walter Mitchell made a motion to approve the November 17, 2011 MPO Subcommittee minutes. Mr. David Ricker 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>STPAA-0003Q</u>	100056425	SR-3 (US-31) install TECCO wire mesh and rock bolting over sandstone & pneumatic concrete over exposed shale rock to prevent weathering and rock falls - from northbound ON ramp SR-3 (US-31) to Brookwood Medical Center Drive Interchange	2/8/2012	PE	2/8/2012	2012	\$50,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area	2
<u>STPAA-0003Q</u>	100056427	SR-3 (US-31) install TECCO wire mesh and rock bolting over sandstone & pneumatic concrete over exposed shale rock to prevent weathering and rock falls - from northbound ON ramp SR-3 (US-31) to Brookwood Medical Center Drive Interchange	2/8/2012	CN	2/8/2012	2012	\$100,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area	2
<u>IM-1065(401)</u>	100005054	Bridge replacement on I-65 (northbound) at NS railroad north of Exit 228	2/8/2012	CN	3/30/2012	2012	\$10,491,182	Exempt	Interstate System Projects	5
<u>STPAA-0007(532)</u>	100056636	SR-7 (US-11) resurfacing from CR-10 (Chalkville Mountain Road) to the St. Clair County Line	2/8/2012	CN	3/30/2012	2012	\$1,077,783	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area	2

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

Ms. Virginia Williams asked if the recent tornadoes had any impact on the US 11 project. Chairman Wayne Sullivan stated that storm damage was to the west of US 11 along I-59 and did not affect the project area.

Mr. Willie Osborne stated that the Transportation Citizens Committee recommended approval of the TIP projects. Mr. Greg Dawkins stated that the Transportation Technical Committee also recommended approval.

Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to move the request forward to the MPO for consideration. Mr. Randy Cole seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Scott Cothron of Sain Associates gave an update on the U.S. 280 Adaptive Signals Project approved by the MPO in December. The project uses SCAT technology. Video will record real-time data that will be sent to a centralized server and signals will be adapted to real-time conditions. Implementation of the project is expected late May 2012. The system will use the existing fiber with video detection. A 10-15% improvement in traffic flow is expected with the adjustment of signal timings based on the real-time data.

Questions / Comments included:

1. Will the software require human interpretation?
 - a. There will be a two year monitoring period but typically the system is self sustaining and can revert to default timings in case of problems.
2. Will there be daytime monitoring by ALDOT staff?
 - a. Not all of the time. In case of problems, the system will contact the appropriate municipalities by email and text.
3. Are the signal adjusted based on algorithms?
4. Can signals be preempted in emergencies?
 - a. Yes

5. If something goes wrong at one signal does it affect all signals?
 - a. No.
6. Does someone need to be monitoring the system?
 - a. One benefit of this system is that it will not be reliant on specific peak times and can adjust based on actual traffic flow.
 - b. Signals will adjust up to a maximum point. There will still be traffic delays based on the mass volume of traffic on US 280, but this project should improve flow on the fringes of the peak hour.
7. Has this system been tested?
 - a. Georgia has this technology in use in Alpharetta, Marietta, and Augusta.
8. Will it be all video detection or a combination?
 - a. All video.
9. Isn't the current system time based on peak travel time volumes?
 - a. Yes, but the timings have not been updated in years and the current timings do not adjust to the variation in traffic.
10. What is the service area?
 - a. Red Mountain expressway to Doug Baker Blvd.
11. How many municipalities are represented along the project area?
 - a. Five Cities and two Counties - Birmingham, Homewood, Mountain Brook, Vestavia, Hoover, Jefferson County and Shelby County.
12. What is the cost?
 - a. \$2.5 million

COMMUTESMART ANNUAL REPORT

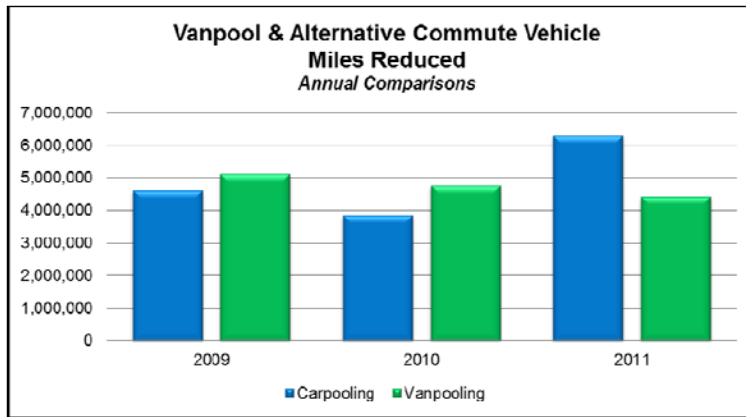
Ms. Allison presented the CommuteSmart Annual Report for FY 2011. Information presented included:

- Launched a new ridematching database in October 2010
- VPSI is the current vanpool provider
- The program added 3,745 new applicants to the ridematching database
- 29% increase in annual participation
- More than 10.7 million vehicle miles reduced
- Launched newly designed website May 2011

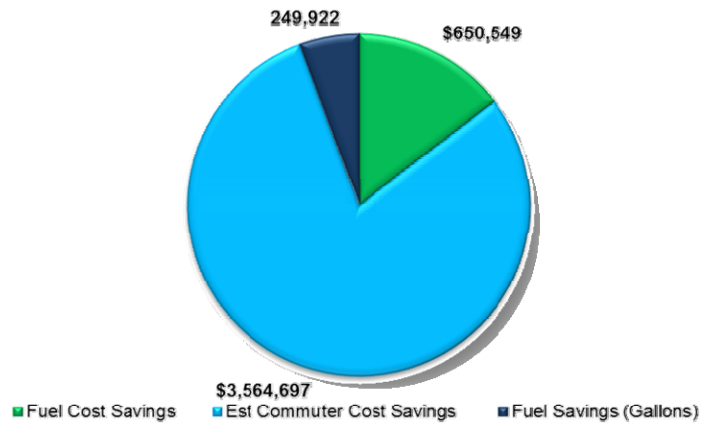
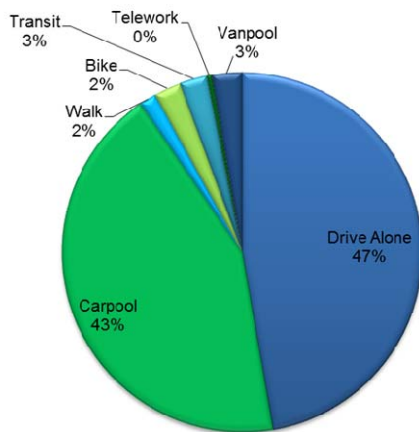
More than 10.7 million vehicle miles reduced in FY2011

- Vanpooling: 4.4 million vehicle miles reduced
- Carpooling: 6.3 million vehicle miles reduced

More than 14,000 people have registered in the CommuteSmart database that live and/ work in Jefferson and Shelby County.



Alternative Commute Comparison
Per CommuteSmart Database



Alternative commutes include carpooling, teleworking, walking, bicycling and transit.

Commuter Cost Savings:

- Commuter Cost Savings: \$3.5 million
- Fuel Cost Savings: \$650k
- Fuel Gallons Savings: 250k

Program Tracking

MEASUREMENT

Ridematch Applications
 Ridematches Attempted

OCT '10 – SEPT '11

3,745
 5,591

Phone Calls / Emails	899 / 4,586
Commuter Mailings	15,975
Emergency Ride Home	71
Emergency Ride Home Cost	\$3,546
Web Hits	71,002
Unique Visitors	43,205

Program Overview

- 4th year of this commuter rewards program
- 1,201 new commuters registered
- Reduced 1.1 million vehicle miles
- Cost for year was \$105,000
- Average check per participant was \$87
- 1,316 commuters registered
- Eliminated 5.1 million vehicle miles
- Cost for the year was \$109,000
- Participants received quarterly \$25 gift cards
- 7 new gift card options
- 71 ERH trips were provided
- Cost for the year was \$3,546
- Average cost per trip was \$50
- Most common reasons were unexpected overtime and illness
- Maintained an average of 29 vanpools each month
- Reduced emissions more than 1800 tons
- Reduced more than 4.4 million vehicle miles travelled

Vanpool Tracking

<u>MEASUREMENT</u>	<u>OCT '10 – SEPT '11</u>
Vanpool Riders	3,218
Occupancy Percentage	88%
Average Passengers	9.1
Total Passenger Trips per Day	6,436
Cars Off Highway	62,986
Trips Eliminated	91,251
VMT Reduced	4,403,005
Fuel Saved (Gallons)	174,722
Average Fuel Cost	\$3.26
Fuel Savings (Dollars)	\$573,645
Commuter Savings	\$2,531,532

Outreach Overview

- **80** company partners
- **11** new company partners established

- Launched quarterly newsletter, *The Route*
- Various **tools and strategies** were used to outreach to companies and employees
- **Website redesign** launched in May 2011
- Unique Visitors: **43,205**
- 1st Time Visitors: **21,430**
- Returning Visitors: **21,775**

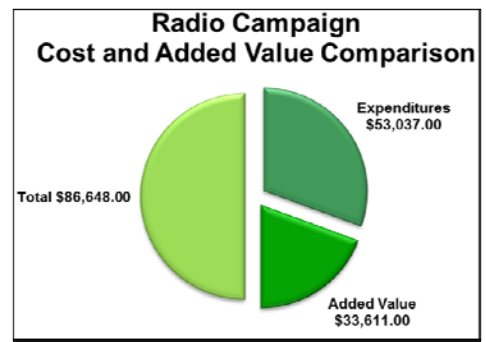
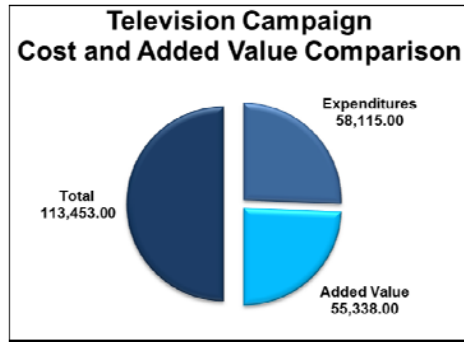
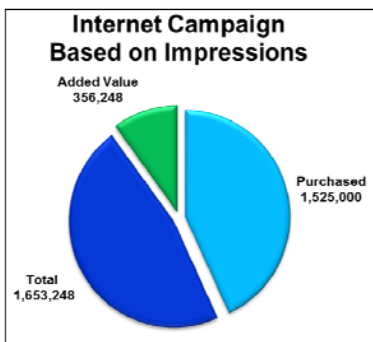
Outreach Tracking

<u>MEASUREMENT</u>	<u>OCT '10 – SEPT '11</u>
Applications Collected	1313
Phone Calls/Email	815 / 3876
Partner Meetings	140
Company Fairs	36
Speaking Presentations	126
Commuter Appreciation Days	13
Transportation Days	68
Community Events	30
% of People Reached That Registered	10%

Public Relations Overview

- Launched new logo with redesign
- **Social Media-**
 - Facebook: 481 “friends” and 46 messages 21,458 page views
 - Twitter: 346 followers and 1,010 Tweets
- **Target demographic** was females ages 25 – 54.
- Hosted the 2011 Barons *Drive Around* and UAB Basketball Season

Internet Flight Dates: October 2010 to March 2011
 600,000 impressions per month
 Cost was \$4,200 a month (*October & November: \$4,000*)



Television Flight Dates:
2/7/2011 – 5/1/2011

Radio Flight Dates:
4/11/2011 – 5/22/2011

Ms. Nichols also showed the 30 second advertisement spot as shown on television and noted that the radio spot was similar in content. A copy of the full report is available upon request.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (FEBRUARY 8, 2012)

Mr. Walter Mitchell made a motion to include Agenda Item #2 (TIP) and Agenda Item #3 (CommuteSmart Annual Report) to the February 8, 2012 MPO meeting agenda. Ms. Virginia Williams seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

OTHER

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Wayne Sullivan reviewed the list of upcoming meetings listed on the agenda, including:

- MPO Meeting, February 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Citizens Committee Meeting, February 15, 2012, 12 noon, RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting, February 22, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Subcommittee Meeting, February 23, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Wayne Sullivan
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date