



March 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
FROM: Mr. Wayne Sullivan, Subcommittee Chairman/s/
SUBJECT: **MPO Subcommittee Minutes**
March 29, 2012

A meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Subcommittee was held on Thursday, March 29, 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. David Hunke, Shelby County

MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Randy Cole, Shelby County
Represented by Mr. Scott Holladay
Mr. Andre Bittas, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Randy Kemp
Honorable Tommy Alexander, City of Irondale
Represented by Councilor Craig Sanderson
Honorable William Bell, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Kevin Owens
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 Ms. Wytangy Peak

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honorable Othell Phillips, City of Gardendale
Honorable Sandra Little Brown, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Mr. Walter Jackson, Unincorporated Jefferson County
Honorable Delor Bauman, Jefferson County Municipalities
Honorable Kim Rafferty, City of Birmingham
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. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Transportation Technical Committee
Mr. Willie Osborne, Transportation Citizens Committee
Ms. Nan Baldwin, BBA
Ms. Meredith Davidson, BBA
Mr. Zachary Robertson, EDT

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Mr. Wayne Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mr. David Hunke made a motion to approve the January 26, 2012 MPO Subcommittee minutes.
Mr. Kevin Owens 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

STPBH- PE120	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
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<u>STPBH-PE12()</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-PE12()</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

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

ALDOT Request

<u>NH-I065()</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/Tococa Rail Trail System	4/11/2012	CN	4/12/2012	2012	\$2,414,075	Exempt	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	13
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This project is exempt from regional emission analysis under 40 CFR 93.126. Table 2.

ALDOT submitted an additional request as follows:

ALDOT Request

<u>IM-1065()</u>	100005852 9	Bridge replacement on I-65 (NB) at NS RR north of Exit 228	4/11/2012	RW	5/1/2012	2012	\$20,000			
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It was noted this request was submitted after the TTC and TTC meetings.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS REPORT

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski 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 which 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%	

Map of Duration of AM Congestion

Map of Speed Profiles

Temporal Distribution of Congestion

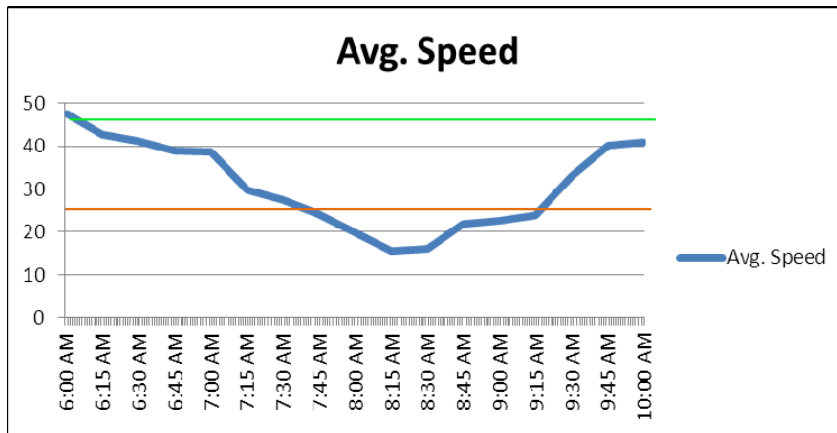
- Probe data also allows us to track extent of congestion by time of day:
 - Create a “snapshot” of congestion for any time period
 - Determine duration of congestion on any route or segment

Speed Profiles

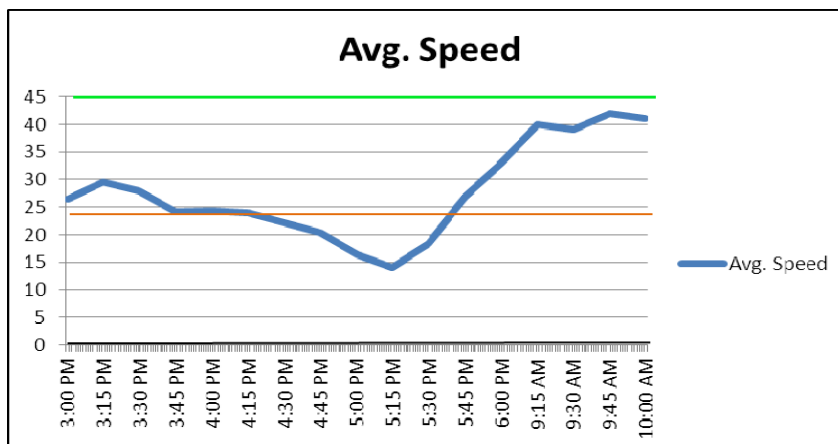
- Baseline profiles of speed have been established at key highway segments throughout the region. These will enable us to track:
 - Changes in congestion severity
 - Any changes in duration
 - Can serve as baseline data to evaluate impacts of future development or improvements

Speed Profiles (US 280 at Rocky Ridge)

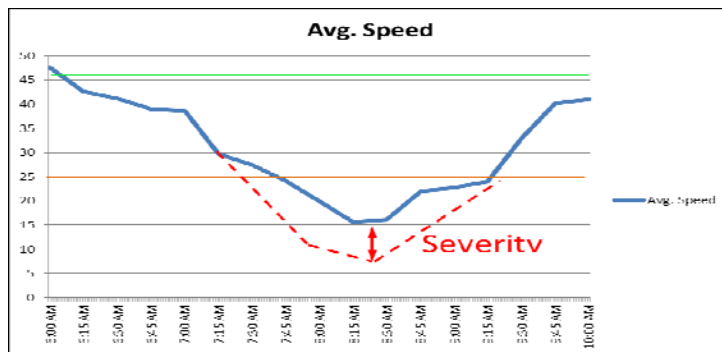
- Westbound 280 (AM Peak)



- Eastbound 280 (PM peak)



Speed Profiles



Other Travel Time Data

- Travel time data were also collected for lower volume roads (state and county routes). Will be used internally at RPCGB
- Considering AirSage and INRIX for future probe data acquisition

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.

ADVANCE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND LOGICAL ENGINEERING (APPLE)

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski reviewed the Advanced Planning, Programming and Logical Engineering (APPLE) program. The program is designed to educate local governments about the project development process, assist them in their decision making process and provide resources to help develop and advance transportation projects.

Key outcomes of the APPLE program are intended to:

- Provide information to decision makers about whether or not a project is technically and financially feasible
- Assist local governments to clearly define transportation problems
- Aid local governments to articulate a project's purpose and need
- Help local governments to clearly define a project's scope
- Assist local governments to better understand the potential environmental challenges, benefits and burdens
- Aid local governments to better understand the financial costs and impacts of pursuing potential projects

APPLE is meant to help local governments determine whether or not to pursue a project and whether or not federal funding is appropriate. It is designed for use by local governments that do not have the technical capacity to develop and/or manage transportation project development

activities. These governments along with projects identified as part of a Building Communities planning effort will be given first priority.

The RPCGB will contract with the local government to conduct an APPLE assessment. The RPCGB will hire a planning or engineering consultant on behalf of the municipality, manage the consultant and assist the local government through the initial project feasibility process.

The local government will provide a 20% match to the federal funding. The local government will also actively participate in the project development process.

The APPLE projects are capped at \$30,000 total (\$24,000 federal/\$6,000 local). The sum includes an Advanced Planning Report or Feasibility Study complete with recommendations, as well as a Pre-NEPA screening to include problem identification, purpose and need and project scope.

Ms. Nan Baldwin asked how the local municipalities will learn about the program. Mr. Kaczorowski stated that the municipalities will be notified by the RPCGB staff of the program and projects currently in the Long-Range Plan will be considered for the program first. Mr. Kaczorowski noted that this will be a pilot program.

TRANSPORTATION CITIZENS COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Transportation Citizens Committee requested the MPO write a letter to ALDOT requesting information on rescinded funds and potential rescissions to funds allocated in the TIP and Long-Range Plan after discussion of the ALDOT TIP requests for STPBH funds due to rescission of funds allocated previously.

Mr. Willie Osborne, Vice Chairman of the TCC discussed committee concerns about funds being rescinded due to non-movement of project delays prompting the request to the MPO to write a letter to ALDOT requesting information on how many other projects have not advanced and are in jeopardy of having funds rescinded.

MPO Subcommittee Chairman Wayne Sullivan discussed project delays due to various reasons, including environmental concerns, funding shortfalls, personnel, and any number of other delays. Delays cannot always be due to ALDOT.

Councilor Craig Sanderson stated that there isn't enough information available with the request to show cause to write a letter. Councilor Sanderson asked if the funds were rescinded because the projects were held up, was the timeframe not met, did the sponsor receive information about delays, etc.

Mr. David Hunke suggested the TCC ask RPCGB staff to write the letter on behalf of the Citizens Committee. The MPO Subcommittee concurred. The request will go back to the TCC.

MPO MEETING AGENDA (APRIL 11, 2012)

Mr. David Hunke made a motion to include Agenda Item #2 (TIP) including the added ALDOT project, Agenda Item #3 (Congestion Management Process) and Agenda Item #4 (APPLE) to the April 11, 2012 MPO meeting agenda. Councilor Craig Sanderson 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 Certification 30-Day Comment Period Began March 15, 2012
- MPO, April 11, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- 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

With no other business, the Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Wayne Sullivan
MPO Subcommittee Chairman

Date

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