



November 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. David Hunke, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2011**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. David Hunke, Chairman, At-Large
Mr. Greg Dawkins, Vice-Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Representative
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. George Henry, At-Large
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Mr. Blair Perry, At-Large
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative

Mr. Keith Strickland, At-Large
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
 Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
 Represented by Mr. John Tally
Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large
 Represented by Ms. Katie Warren

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Mr. Martin Edwards-Clark, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery
Mr. Ron Gore, ADEM (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Holly Peterson, FTA (Non-Voting Member)
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance (Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, TCC
Ms. Christ Cahalan, AECOM

Chairman David Hunke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. With no additions or corrections, the October 26, 2011 minutes were approved as written. The MPO minutes were included in the meeting packet for review.

NOMINATING / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Richard Caudle presented a second reading of recommendations from the Nominating / Membership Committee for Officers for 2012-2013, including Mr. Greg Dawkins for Chairman and Mr. Rod Long for Vice Chairman. With no additional recommendations from the floor, Mr. Richard caudle made a motion to approve Mr. Dawkins and Mr. Long as officers for 2012-2013. Mr. Chris Reeves seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Caudle then presented a recommendation for new membership. The Nominating Committee recommended Mr. Keith Strickland of Goodwyn Mills and Cawood for membership as an At-Large member. Mr. Caudle presented the recommendation in the form of a motion to approve the At-Large membership. Mr. Greg Cobb seconded the motion. Mr. Strickland gave a brief bio of his career and family. The motion 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>NH-0038()</u>	100057896	Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Project	12/14/2011	PE	12/14/2011	2012	\$150,000	Exempt	National Highway System	3
<u>NH-0038()</u>	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 using SCATS software. 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%.

The committee expressed concerns over the maintenance of this project including the following questions/comments:

- Who is responsible for the maintenance?
- Need to program funds for maintenance.
- Is there a default alternative?

- Does ALDOT maintain the traffic center funded by the MPO?

Mr. Doug Hale made a motion to table this request pending further input from ALDOT representatives. Mr. Chris Reeves seconded the motion. Mr. Scott Tillman noted that funding for this project is through the National Highway System and does not affect local funds and that if this project isn't approved there is a chance the funds could be spent elsewhere.

Ms. Virginia Williams stated that is it in the best interest to answer the list of concerns now. Mr. Rod Long noted that the technology is good and would improve traffic control with the ability to adjust signal cycles in real-time and allows for an opportunity to upgrade the current system.

Chairman Hunke called for a vote on the motion to table. By a show of hands, the motion failed with seven (7) votes to table and eleven (11) not to table.

Mr. Rod Long made a motion to approve contingent on ALDOT providing a plan for funding and maintenance. Mr. Richard Darden seconded the motion. After additional discussion the motion was revised to include stakeholder input. The motion passed by a show of hands.

Mr. Kaczorowski then presented a request from Center Point.

City of Center Point Requests

<u>STPBH-CN100</u>		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
<u>STPBH-CN100</u>		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.

Mr. Doug Hale made a motion to recommend approval of the requested TIP modification. Mr. Rod Long 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.

OTHER

Chairman Hunke reviewed the list of meetings of interest to the committee that included:

- MPO Subcommittee, November 17, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, December 14, 2011, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting December 2011, **CANCELLED**
- Announcement of next Technical Committee meeting for Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m. (*Please note this is the 3rd Tuesday due to the RPCGB Annual Meeting*)
- RPCGB Annual Meeting, January 25, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Club

Chairman Hunke expressed his honor to serve as Chairman for the previous four years.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date

GD:cb
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