



January 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2012**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Rod Long, Vice-Chairman, City of Hoover Representative
Mr. David Hunke, At-Large
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. Blair Perry, At-Large
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Mr. Keith Strickland, At-Large
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large

Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
 Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke
Ms. Mary Margaret Nicholson, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Bob Portera
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Jesse Miller
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
 Represented by Mr. Zachary Robertson

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Martin Edwards-Clark, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Mr. George Henry, At-Large
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)
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
Mr. Darrell Howard, 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. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Harry He, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Lindsey Gray, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Allison Nichols, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. T. Ray Mauldin, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Greg Wingo, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

- Ms. Jeniese Hosey, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Mr. Willie Osborne, Transportation Citizens Committee
- Ms. Meredith Davidson, BBA
- Mr. Ryan Parker, City of Trussville
- Mr. Jeff Stephenson, Sain Associates
- Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
- Ms. Christ Cahalan, AECOM
- Ms. Selena Rodgers, SARCOR, LLC.

Chairman Greg Dawkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. With no additions or corrections, the November 16, 2011 minutes were approved as written. The MPO approved all of the projects recommended by the TTC for November 2011.

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-00030</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-00030</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.

A question was asked about the exempt status of the bridge replacement project. The project is exempt as it adds no capacity.

Mr. Al Folcher made a motion to recommend approval of the requested TIP modification. Mr. David Hunke seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Jeff Stephenson of Sain Associates gave an update on the U.S. 280 Adaptive Signals Project brought before the TTC in November. The project will include 25 intersections beginning at the Red Mountain Expressway and ending at Doug Baker Blvd. This area currently has fiber optic cables installed. The plans have been designed and submitted. ALDOT and the local municipalities will meet to review plans with implementation early summer. The let date for this project is May 26, 2012, with implementation of the project expected June 2012.

Mr. Stephenson noted that the controllers will be replaced with M-50 controllers with video at all intersections to consistently monitor traffic and send data to a centrally located computer server. Signals will then be adapted to real-time conditions. Maintenance agreements in place with local municipalities will remain.

Questions / Comments included:

1. What happens to side street traffic?
 - a. Cycle length will build with traffic flow and could reduce delay in hold.
 - b. Cuing might not be recognized on side streets, which is a concern.
 - c. Hopefully build up will be averted without long cycle lengths
2. Is there side street detection?
 - a. Yes at stop lights, using the SCAT system.
3. Doesn't this prioritize side flow?
4. Is there a default alternative?
 - a. It will go back to historical data service on the system.
5. What constitutes a default?
 - a. Depends on the length of down time with no communication and then it would go to back-up mode.
6. Local municipalities pay maintenance and ALDOT handles fiber as is currently being handled under maintenance contracts.
7. When prioritizing flow, what is the minimum turn time?
 - a. Based on the volume of traffic designers will use traffic volume data to input timing.
 - b. The system will have a maximum time limit before changing.
8. Municipalities will need to work with ALDOT to determine what constitutes a problem with video detection.
9. The consultant is looking to find a central location to house the server unit, possibly at the Fire Station.
10. How much construction time?
 - a. Unable to say at this time.

COMMUTESMART ANNUAL REPORT

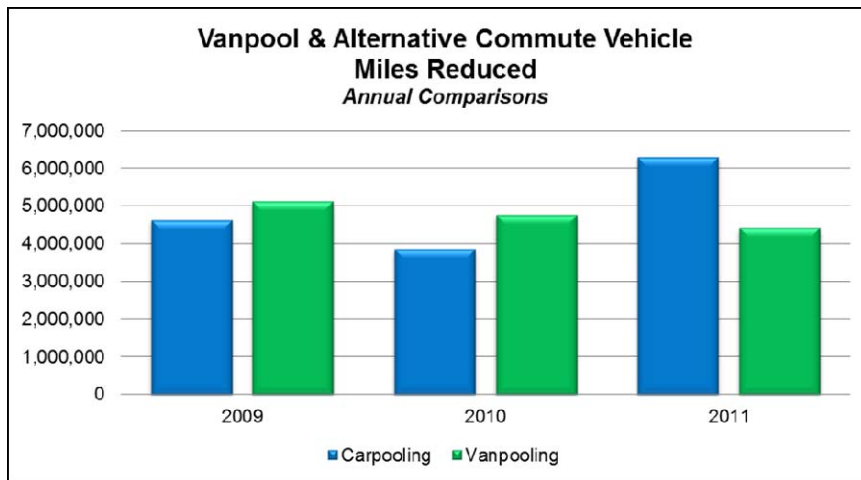
Ms. Lindsey Gray presented the CommuteSmart Annual Report for FY 2011. Information presented included:

- 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

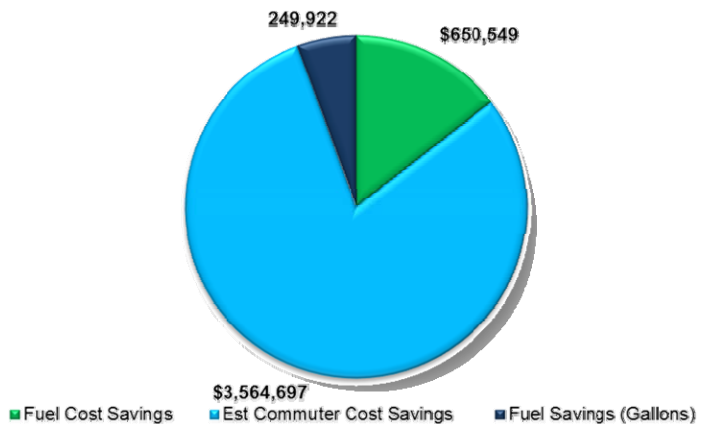
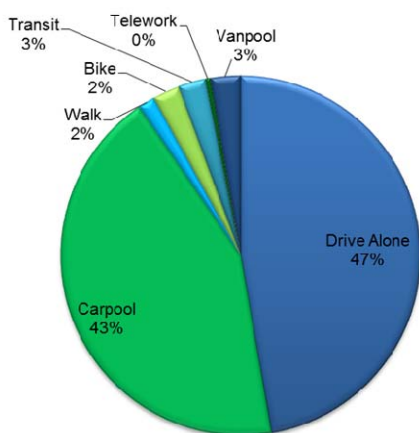
More than 10.7 million vehicle miles reduced in FY2011

- 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



Ms. Gray stated that 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

<u>MEASUREMENT</u>	<u>OCT '10 – SEPT '11</u>
Ridematch Applications	3,745
Ridematches Attempted	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
- Participates 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**

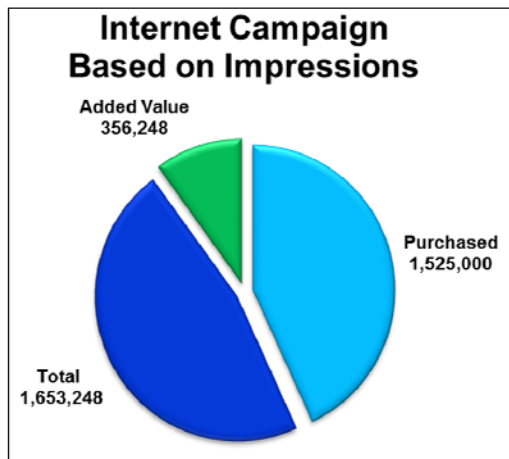
Outreach Tracking

<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

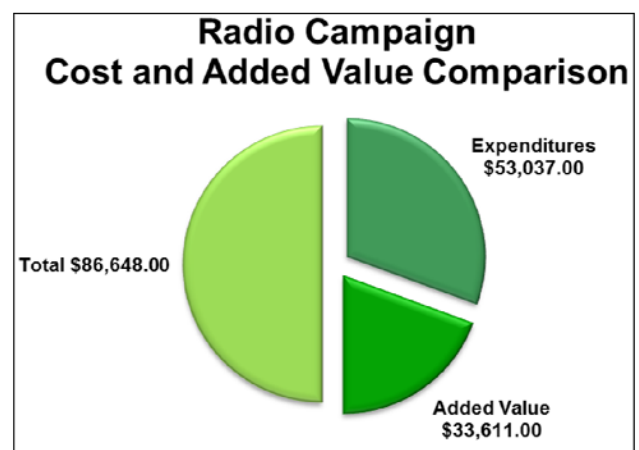
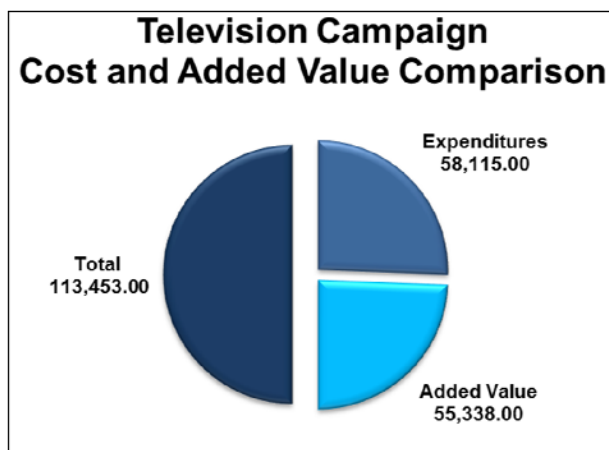
- Launched new logo with redesign
- **Social Media-**
 - Facebook: 481 "friends" and 46 messages 21,458 page views
 - Twitter: 346 followers and 1,010 Tweets
- **Target demographic** was females ages 25 – 54.
- Hosted the 2011 Barons *Drive Around* and UAB Basketball Season

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. Gray 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.

Questions / comments included:

1. What Partners support bicycling and walking?
 - a. Alabama Power, Cahaba Cycle, University of Montevallo, City of Montevallo, as well as the CSRS Bike to Work Day, Birmingham Bike and others.
2. Need to include monthly gas prices in the next Annual Report.
3. Are drive alones included in miles plus gas?
 - a. No because they don't log commutes.
4. What was operational budget?
 - a. \$1.2 million
5. Did UAB have contact to promote?

- a. UAB has multiple ETC's and others that help promote the program at UAB as well as CSRS staff participation in the UAB Walk Challenge and other events held throughout the year.
- 6. Is Jefferson State a partner?
 - a. Yes, both campuses.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

This item was held to the next meeting due to time constraints.

OTHER

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

- RPCGB Annual Meeting, January 25, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Club
- MPO Subcommittee, January 26, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, February 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting, February 22, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date