



March 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2012**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, March 28, 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 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. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. John Tally, CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager
Mr. George Henry, At-Large

Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Mark McAdams
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
 Represented by Ms. Becky White
Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large
 Represented by Mr. Rob Vermillion
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
 Represented by Mr. John Tally
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
 Represented by Mr. Matt Lacke
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Jesse Miller

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Martin Edwards-Clark, BJCTA Representative
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover Engineer
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
Mr. Willie Osborne, Transportation Citizens Committee
Ms. Shandi Wilson, Hayden
Mr. Ryan Parker, City of Trussville
Ms. Selena Rodgers, SARCOR, LLC.
Mr. Warren, McCall, ADECA

Ms. Nadia Shalaby, Jefferson State Community College
 Mr. Andre Davis, UAB
 Mr. Brett Tucker, Alabaster

Chairman Greg Dawkins called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Virginia Williams made a motion to approve the January 18, 2012 minutes. Mr. George Henry 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>STPBH-PE12Q</u>	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
<u>STPBH-PE12Q</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-PE12Q</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-1065Q</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

CMAQ- 9802(126)	100032383	Helena Buck Creek/Tocoa 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.

Mr. David Hunke made a motion to recommend approval of the TIP requests by ALDOT, Vestavia Hills and Helena. Ms. Virginia Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS REPORT

Mr. Andrew Sullivan 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%	

Temporal Distribution of Congestion

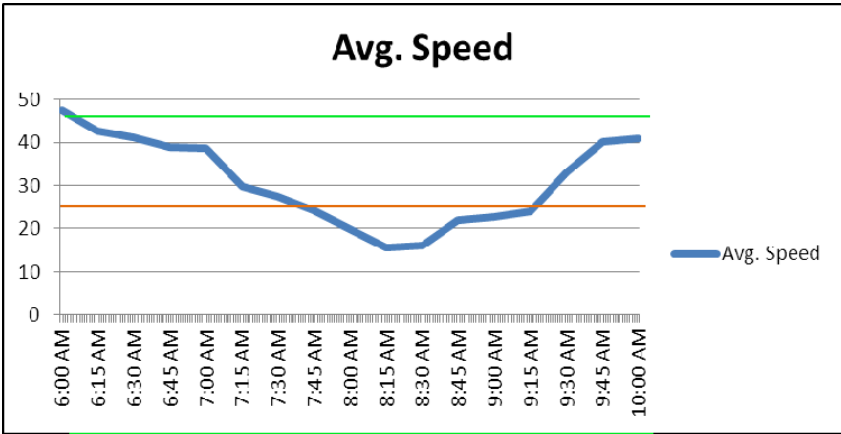
- Probe data also allows us to track extent of congestion by time of day:
 - Create a “snapshot” of congestion for any time period
 - Determine duration of congestion on any route or segment

Speed Profiles

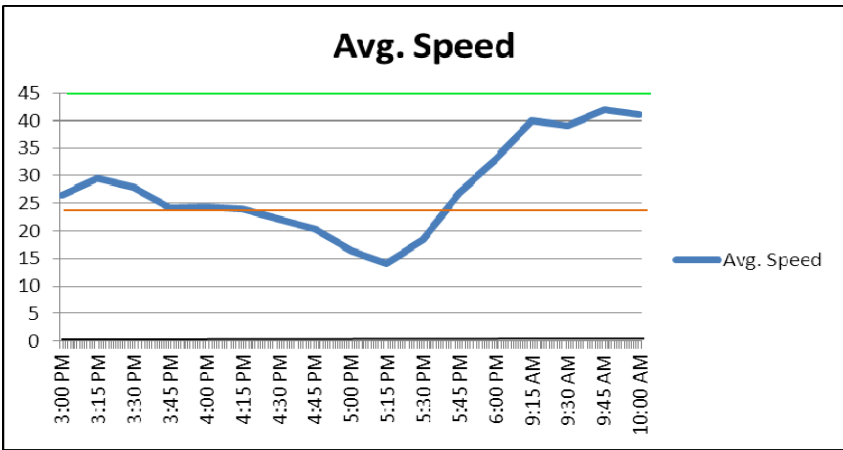
- Baseline profiles of speed have been established at key highway segments throughout the region. These will enable us to track:
 - Changes in congestion severity
 - Any changes in duration
 - Can serve as baseline data to evaluate impacts of future development or improvements

Speed Profiles (US 280 at Rocky Ridge)

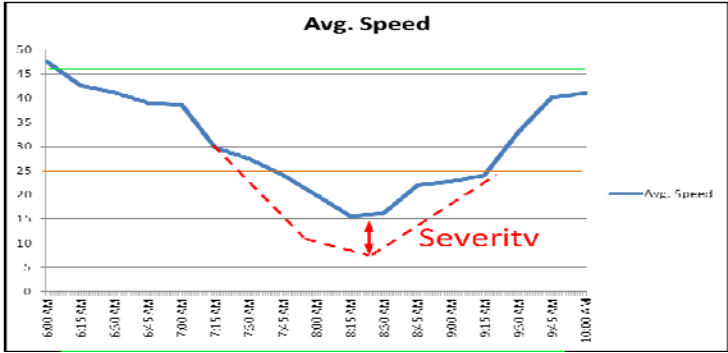
- Westbound 280 (AM Peak)



- 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 RPC.
- 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.

Questions/Comments included:

1. Data collected is a vast leap over what was previously collected before the fleet data.
2. What are some of the alternatives being looked at?
 - a. MPO is required to monitor congestion and recommend where sponsors might make improvements as well as suggestions on what to do.
3. It would be useful if you included segments under construction in the data.
4. Is there a place for member governments to ask for supplemental information for their projects?
 - a. All data will be made available to member governments as it comes available without compromising security.
 - b. Traffic count data is available on the MPO website at www.rpcgb.org.

ADVANCE PLANNING, PLROGRAMMING AND LOGICAL ENGINEERING (APPLE)

Which Comes First?

- Do we program projects and then plan them?
- Do we plan the project then program it?

What is APPLE?

The APPLE Program is a program designed to streamline project development by assisting local governments to:

- **Understand the Project Development Process** by educating them about ALDOT's PDP and NEPA
- **Make Better Decisions** by including more of the information that is typically needed in the environmental document
- **Provide Resources for Planning** to help projects advance with fewer delays and loss of information

Key Outcomes of APPLE

- APPLE will produce a report that:
 - Documents the preliminary "purpose and need"
 - Compare alternatives
 - Identify High-level Environmental Issues
 - Provides preliminary cost estimates
- APPLE **is not** intended to develop a detailed roadway/trail alignment

- Ultimately the APPLE process will help project sponsors to define a project's scope and minimizing scope creep

Why Apple?

- **The Issues**
 - Lost time getting up to speed
 - Information loss – inconsistent project contacts
 - Ill-defined transportation problem – leads to...
 - Unclear project scopes – which leads to...
 - Scope creep – which leads to...
 - Cost increases – which leads to...
 - Added delays – which leads to...
 - Cost increases

More Questions Answered

- **Funding Availability (How Much)** APPLE funding participation for each project is capped at \$24k federal. Project sponsors may overmatch to get more mileage.
- **Funding Equity (How Many)** Local governments will be limited to two (2) APPLE projects/calendar year.
- **Producing the Report (Who/How)** Consultants hired by the RPCGB will do the work and write the report. RPCGB will manage consultants.
- **Getting Started (How to)** Eligible local governments that are interested in APPLE should contact the RPCGB.
- **APPLE Project Length (How Long Will it Take?)** It is anticipated that APPLE projects will range from 2 to 6 months to complete from the time that the Notice to Proceed is issued. APPLE projects may take longer if there are numerous stakeholders, significant environmental factors, or a variety of feasible solutions.

It was noted that projects to be funded cannot be in the current TIP. City of Birmingham neighborhoods would not be eligible because the City would need to be the project sponsor and this program is for small municipalities who cannot or do not have the resources necessary.

OTHER

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

- Clean Fuels Conference, April 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Birmingham-Southern College
- MPO Certification 30-Day Comment Period Begins March 15, 2012
- MPO Subcommittee, March 29, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, April 11, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting, April 25, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date

GD:cb
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