



May 23, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2012**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 1st Floor Conference Room, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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. 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. Robert Portera, At-Large
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
Ms. Denise Hornbuckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. George Henry, At-Large

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Represented by Mr. Cody Long
Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large
Represented by Ms. Katie Warren
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
Mr. Randy Kemp, City of Birmingham
Represented by Mr. Mike Eddington
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Represented by Mr. Chris Reeves
Mr. Fred Hawkins, EDT
Represented by Mr. Cameron Buchina
Mr. Keith Strickland, At-Large
Represented by Mr. Nathan Sills

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman, City of Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Ms. Virginia Williams, At-Large
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Chris Leffert, BJCTA Representative
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer - Montgomery
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. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cynthia Barton, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Wiser Corporation
Mr. Christopher Brady, Vestavia Hills

Vice Chairman Rod Long called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Chris Reeves made a motion to approve the March 28, 2012 minutes. Ms. Denise Hornbuckle seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Darrell Howard presented a request from ALDOT to modify the FY2012-2015 TIP to include the following:

ALDOT Requests

<u>UMTAC</u> <u>TR12 ()</u>	100058283	Section 5310 Transit Glenwood, INC Capital Bus Support Equipment (3 GPS)	6/12/2012	TR	6/13/2012	2012	\$1,500	Exempt	Transit Projects
<u>FTA3C</u> <u>TR12 ()</u>	100058293	Section 5309 Transit City of Kimberly Capital Bus (IMV)	6/12/2012	TR	6/13/2012	2012	\$47,372	Exempt	Transit Projects
<u>IM-I065 ()</u>	100058058	Repair and cleaning concrete flumes and repair sinkholes on backslope benches to prevent future sinkholes in roadway – I-65 from Valleydale Rd to SR-119	6/12/2012	PE	6/13/2012	2012	\$100,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects
<u>IM-I065 ()</u>	100058059	Repair and cleaning concrete flumes and repair sinkholes on backslope benches to prevent future sinkholes in roadway – I-65 from Valleydale Rd to SR-119	6/12/2012	CN	6/13/2012	2012	\$500,000	Exempt	Interstate System Projects

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

Mr. George Henry asked if approving these projects would remove others from the TIP. Mr. Howard stated that these are ALDOT project funds and would only affect their projects at the state level. These do not affect the TIP balances for STPBH or CMAQ.

Mr. David Hunke made a motion to recommend approval of the four TIP projects as requested. Mr. Chris Reeves seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Darrell Howard then presented requests from ALDOT on behalf of Governor Robert Bentley. The projects are a part of the new Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIPS) initiative created by Governor Bentley to assist governments with their urgent transportation infrastructure needs. The program will be funded through the GARVEE program for \$200-\$300 million. This money will be borrowed against future federal funding. A separate bureau called Innovative Programs Bureau will be responsible for oversight and consists of the Governor, members of his staff, and outside professionals. Projects will not go through the 3rd Division office. It was noted that none of the projects have been selected yet, but ALDOT has requested they be included in the TIP so that they will be ready to go when specific projects are selected by the governing committee.

These projects if selected would be funded with state money and would not affect Birmingham Attributable funds. State projects are required to be included in the TIP by federal rule and any project not selected will be removed from the TIP.

ALDOT Requests - ATRIPS Projects

<u>ACATRIPA AI00058379</u>	100058379	Turn lanes on CR-153 (Trussville-Clay Road) & signalization Husky Parkway At CR-2133 (Deerfoot Pkwy) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$922,875	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058367</u>	100058367	Resurface Mt. Olive Road from CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) to CR-112 (Mount Olive Boulevard)	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$431,250	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058369</u>	100058369	Resurface CR-94 (Queenstown Road) from CR-10 (Roper Rd) To 2nd Street in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$488,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058370</u>	100058370	CR-1523 (Shady Grove Road), resurface from CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) to (Carrington Drive)	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$161,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058371</u>	100058371	Resurface CR-77, CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) from CR-1497 (Jew Hollow Road) to I-65 in Gardendale, AL	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,092,500	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058372</u>	100058372	Patton Chapel Rd and Lorna Rd resurfacing and intersection Improvements in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$2,122,259	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058373</u>	100058373	Resurface CR-2123 (Camp Coleman Road) from SR-7 (US-11) To CR-2124 (Windsong Drive) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$373,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058374</u>	100058374	Resurface CR-353 (Hugh Daniel Drive from SR-38 (US-280) to CR-41 (Duavant Road) in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$839,646	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058376</u>	100058376	Resurface CR-1151 (Old Rocky Ridge Road) from CR-115 (Lorna Road) to CR-1220 (Rocky Ridge Lane) in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$813,511	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058378</u>	100058378	Resurface and realign SR-150 at Galleria Boulevard, in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$633,854	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058380</u>	100058380	Riverchase Parkway East Roadway Lighting in Hoover	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,193,813	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058381</u>	100058381	Turn Lanes on CR-2133 (Deerfoot Parkway) at Jonathans Way in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$250,125	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058382</u>	100058382	Replace Bridge on CR-12 over Dry Creek BIN # 6952 Suff Rating 39.3 In Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,713,760	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058383</u>	100058383	Resurface CR-29 (Caldwell Mill Rd) & CR-14 (Cahaba Valley Trace) in Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$559,550	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058384</u>	100058384	Resurface CR-61 from SR-145 to SR-25 (Carison Road) in Shelby County	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$754,982	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058375</u>	100058375	Traffic signalization on CR-19 (Chalkville Mountain Road) from Norrel Drive to CR-155 (Tyler Loop Road) in the City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$254,750	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058377</u>	100058377	Interchange Lighting on I-59 at CR-2133 (Deerfoot Parkway) City of Trussville	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$621,600	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>ACATRIPA AI00058366</u>	100058366	Replace Bridge over Watkins Brook on Mountain Brook Parkway BIN # 2850 Suff	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$957,619	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

		Rating 58.3 in the City of Mountain Brook							
ACATRIPA AI00058688	100058688	Traffic signalization upgrade on 18 th Street North (5 locations) and on 19 th Street North (17 locations) in the City of Birmingham	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$1,442,986	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
ACATRIPA AI00058368	100058368	CR-118 (Fieldstown Road) install traffic signals from I-65 north to US-31 (SR-3) in the City of Gardendale	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$349,600	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

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

ACATRIPA AI00058363	100058363	Widen Cotton Avenue from 7th Street SW to Lomb Avenue in Birmingham	6/12/2012	CN	8/31/2012	2012	\$3,194,897	Non-Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
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This project is non-exempt from regional emission analysis. If selected for funding, this project will be included in an update to the regional emissions analysis and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Howard then addressed the Citizens Committee concerns with the Cotton Avenue request and issues with conformity. FHWA requires any capacity project be included in the Air Quality Conformity analysis which is currently scheduled within the next few months. Staff is researching this project through FHWA on how to best address the conformity issues.

Mr. Tom Magee asked if the Cotton Avenue project is being done in conjunction with the closing of Tuscaloosa Avenue. Mr. Doug Hale noted the project is not adding capacity, just redirecting traffic.

Mr. George Henry made a motion to recommend approval of the ATRIPS TIP requests by ALDOT, on the condition the conformity issue on the Cotton Avenue project be addressed. Ms. Denise Hornbuckle seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

MPO CERTIFICATION REPORT

Mr. Darrell Howard presented an update on the MPO Certification held March 15-16, 2012 by the FHWA and FTA. The Birmingham Urbanized Area TMA's planning process has been certified. The FHWA/FTA certification will remain in effect for a maximum of four years from the issuance date of the report. The purpose of the MPO certification is to ensure the metropolitan planning process for the Birmingham MPO meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 23 CFR 450.334. Three areas of comments by FTA and FHWA were received in the certification, including Corrective Actions, Recommendations and Noteworthy Practices.

Corrective Actions

None: There were No Corrective Actions for this Certification Cycle.

Recommendations

- **Project-level Public Involvement**
 The ALDOT (Central Office and Third Division) should strive to address the project-level (e.g. NEPA) public comments received during the certification review.
- **Financial Plans**

As part of the next round of LRTP updates, the ALDOT, MPOs and public transportation operators must cooperatively develop and document the financial plans that support the LRTPs and TIPs, including forecasts of revenues, cost estimates and operations and maintenance expenditures.

- **2010 Census**

The MPO should begin the process of analyzing needed changes to the urbanized and study areas based on the release of the 2010 Census data.

- **Obligation of Attributable Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds**

The MPO and ALDOT are encouraged to continue coordinating with project sponsors and monitor the project development process to ensure that the unobligated balances of STP and CMAQ funds are obligated in a timely manner.

Noteworthy Practices

- **Air Quality**

The MPO continues to implement programs and partnership activities aimed at improving air quality levels in the Birmingham area; the Alabama Partners for Clean Air, CommuteSmart Rideshare program and construction of park-and-ride lots are notable examples.

- **Project Development Process**

The MPO's Advanced Planning, Programming and Logical Engineering (APPLE) program 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 is a promising new tool which may prove useful in drawing down the MPO's unobligated balance of STP- attributable funds.

- **Organizational Structure**

The MPO's organizational structure and efficient use of its committees is an effective mechanism for managing the transportation planning process.

- **Public Involvement**

The MPO's use of visualization techniques and other techniques such as electronic voting and touch-table technologies are elements of a proactive and effective public involvement process.

- **Transit Funding**

BJCTA and the City of Birmingham utilize all of the 5307, 5309, 5316 and 5317 funds.

Subsequent FHWA and/or FTA actions on future products of the TMA planning process partially will be based on the progress made by the TMA's planning process partners in addressing the aforementioned review findings.

Ms. Denise Hornbuckle asked about the lack of pulling down transit funding but yet scored well on the Certification. Mr. Howard explained that the funds have been obligated which is why the MPO scored well.

2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Mr. Darrell Howard presented information on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan that included an interactive exercise. Information presented included:

What is a Regional Transportation Plan?

1. Metropolitan Transportation Plan
2. Long Range Transportation Plan
3. Regional Transportation Plan

The Regional Transportation Plan is a long-term blueprint of a region's transportation system that...

- Identifies and analyzes transportation needs of the metropolitan region
- Creates a framework for project priorities
- Considers the reality of future funding availability

Plan Considerations

- Federal Planning Factors
 - Support metropolitan area economic vitality by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
 - Increasing the transportation system's safety for all users
 - Improve the transportation system's ability to support homeland security and safeguard system user security
 - Improve accessibility and mobility for people and freight
 - Make integrating and connecting the transportation system between modes better/easier for people and freight
 - Environmental considerations:
 - Protect and enhance the environment;
 - Promote energy conservation;
 - Improve the quality of life; and,
 - Promote consistency between transportation projects, and
 - Promote consistency between State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
 - Promote efficient operation and management of the system
 - Preserve the existing transportation system
- Livability Principles
 - Provide more transportation choices.
 - Promote equitable, affordable housing.
 - Enhance economic competitiveness.
 - Support existing communities.
 - Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
 - Value communities and neighborhoods.

What Has Already Been Done?

- Birmingham 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Language/Semantic Changes
 - Thoroughness of Analysis
- Birmingham 2035 Regional Transportation Plan
 - Concentrate on six (6) primary themes
 - Policy changes
 - Move towards functional planning
 - Introduced Activity Centers
 - Reprioritized Projects
 - Incorporated Multimodal Considerations
 - Removed Roadway Projects vs. Adding Them
 - In short: A Fundamental Change in How the MPO does Business

What Is Being Done Now?

Functional Area Planning and Programs

- Congestion Management Process
- Travel Demand Model Improvements
- Regional Transit Corridor Plans
- Active Transportation Plan
- Regional Thoroughfare Plan Refinements
- Freight Infrastructure Support Strategy
- Operations and Incident Management Program
- Performance Metrics and Monitoring Program
- Roadway Resurfacing Program
- APPLE Program

What's In the Plan?

Five Major Themes of the Birmingham 2035 RTP

1. Fix It First
 - Emphasis on Maintenance and Preservation
2. Make What We Have Work Better
 - Manage Congestion through Better Technology and Programs
3. Develop Alternative Travel Modes
 - Emphasis on Public Transit, Non-motorized Travel, and Commute Options
4. Prioritization of Resources
 - Focusing Investments
 - Getting the Most “Bang for the Buck”
5. Financing
 - Additional funding sources are needed

Are These Themes Still Valid?*

1. Yes – 75%
2. No – 25%

(*This was an interactive task with the results listed beside the answer.)

Challenges

- Funding
 - Federal Transportation Bill
 - Decreasing federal revenues
 - Increased competition
 - Growing demands
 - Expanding federal requirements
 - State Transportation Resources
 - Additional funding is largely non-existent
 - Shifting focus from expansion to maintenance
 - Local Resources
 - Not all cities are created equal
 - Regional Issues and Needs
 - Expanding Region – Metropolitan Planning Area Growth
 - Fixing Regional Problems with Local Funding
 - Intra-regional Competition for Scarce Resources
 - Linking Transportation, Economic Development, and Land Use
 - Externalities – Volatile Energy Costs

What are the Greatest Challenges to Our Region's Success?*

1. Adequate Funding – 25%
2. Energy Costs – 12%
3. Intra-regional Competition – 12%
4. Lack of Transportation Choices – 12%
5. Development Patterns – 15%
6. Support for Economic Development – 12%
7. Contradictory Laws and Policies – 11%
8. Lack of Interest – 12%

*(*This was an interactive exercise with the results listed beside the challenge. Attendees were instructed to rank their answers in order of importance)*

How Should We Respond to These Challenges?

1. Wait on Federal solution – 4%
2. Try to secure additional State funding – 13%
3. Pursue an appropriate regional solution – 70%
4. Every man for themselves – 9%
5. Ignore the current situation. This is just a cycle. – 4%

*(*This was an interactive exercise with the results listed beside the challenge)*

Plan 2040 Key Outputs

- Regional Transportation Plan
 - Solidifies MPO Policies
 - Functional Area Plans
 - Preservation, Maintenance, and Management Strategy

- Performance Metrics
- Demonstrates Favorable Return on Investment (ROI)
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - Geographically Targeted Recruitment
 - Multimodal Corridor Planning
- Advisory Growth Strategy
 - Visualize Growth
 - Transportation Infrastructure/Service Needs
 - Supporting Infrastructure Needs
 -

Getting There From Here

Start With the End In Mind

- What Does the Success Look Like?

OTHER

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

- MPO Subcommittee, May 24, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, June 13, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Technical Committee Meeting, June 27, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date

GD:cb

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