



August 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)
FROM: Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman /s/
SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2012

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012, 12:00 Noon, RPCGB 3rd Floor Conference Room, 2 Twentieth Street North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman, Shelby County
Mr. Willie Osborne, Vice Chairman, City of Birmingham
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Calvin Rumph, Shelby County
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Robert Smith, City of Birmingham
Mr. Courtney Newton, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Mr. Gilbert Klein, City of Birmingham
Mr. David Russell, City of Birmingham
Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County
Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Nichalaus Sims, West / Southwest Jefferson County
Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham
Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, South / Southeast Jefferson County
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles Ball, 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
Mr. Antoine Hawkins, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Franchesca Taylor, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT
Mr. Paul Godbey, Birmingham
Mr. Richard Goldstein, BJCTA TAC
Ms. Elizabeth Denson, DRR
Mr. Gus Heard-Hughes, CFGB
Mr. Graham Sisson, ADRS, GOOD

Chairman Jackie Dye called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. it was announced that a quorum was not met and no formal votes could be taken on items requiring action. It was noted that with majority consent of those present, action items would be moved forward without a vote to the MPO for consideration with the exception of the TCC June minutes. The meeting then proceeded with the scheduled agenda items.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Attendees introduced themselves. Due to a lack of quorum, the June meeting minutes will be held until the next meeting.

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>SRTS-SR13</u> <u>(906)</u>	100058870	Safe Routes to School 2013 sidewalks along Innsbrook Parkway in the City of Pinson, Rudd Middle School and Pinson Valley High School	9/12/2012	CN	3/29/2013	2013	\$101,710	Exempt	Safety Projects
<u>SRTS-SR13</u> <u>(903)</u>	100058965	Safe Routes to School 2013 sidewalks and associated improvements in Bessemer Abrams Elementary School	9/12/2012	CN	3/29/2013	2013	\$150,000	Exempt	Safety Projects
		TIGER12: Roads to Recovery - complete streets and multimodal transportation system to serve Pratt City, Ensley, Jones Valley, Enon Ridge, Civil Rights District, Western Area Health Center and Red Mountain Park	9/12/2012	PE	9/13/2012	2012	\$1,753,128	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
		TIGER12: Roads to Recovery - complete streets and multimodal transportation system to serve Pratt City, Ensley, Jones Valley, Enon Ridge, Civil Rights District, Western Area Health Center and Red Mountain Park	9/12/2012	RW	9/13/2012	2012	\$650,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
		TIGER12: Roads to Recovery - complete streets and multimodal transportation system to serve Pratt City, Ensley, Jones Valley, Enon Ridge, Civil Rights District, Western Area Health Center and Red Mountain Park	9/12/2012	UT	9/13/2012	2012	\$100,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
		TIGER12: Roads to Recovery - complete streets and multimodal transportation system to serve Pratt City, Ensley, Jones Valley, Enon Ridge, Civil Rights District, Western Area Health Center and Red Mountain Park	9/12/2012	CN	9/13/2012	2012	\$12,684,618	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

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

A question was asked about what TIGER was. TIGER is short for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery and is a discretionary grant program that is used to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects.

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer congratulated Mr. Charles Ball and the RPCGB staff for their assistance on the TIGER 12 project submittal.

JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE / NEW FREEDOM

Ms. Laurel Land presented recommendations for the Jobs Access Reverse Commute / New Freedom funds. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding under the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs was publicized by the RPCGB on June 29, 2012. Responses were due by noon on July 27, 2011. Funding is limited to projects in the urbanized areas of Jefferson and Shelby County. JARC projects must support transportation services to and from jobs and job-related activities. New Freedom projects must provide transportation options for individuals with disabilities.

The RPCGB received ten applications in response to the RFP, four for JARC and six for New Freedom. A summary of the proposals was included in the meeting packet. The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority is responsible for the financial oversight of these grant programs.

Staff met with the Human Service Transportation Committee on August 7 and 8, 2012, who reviewed and discussed each proposal and voted to recommend the following projects for funding:

- Aletheia House - \$386,420 for operating expenses for two years (JARC)
- The Village - \$21,150 for operating expenses for one year (JARC)
- Collat Jewish Family Services - \$22,293 for operating expenses for one year (NF)
- KidOne - \$67,938 for one vehicle and operating expenses for one year (NF)
- Travelers Aid Society - \$204,360 for purchased transportation for three years

Because the JARC and New Freedom grant programs will no longer be funded in their current form, applicants were encouraged to apply for multi-year projects. The RPCGB estimates the balance after funding these projects will be approximately \$500,000 for JARC and \$300,000 for New Freedom. Unspent funds are rolled into future years. All proposals are available at the RPCGB for review.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe tentatively announced a public involvement meeting for September 19, 2012 for the purpose of obtaining public comments on the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Amended/Updated 2035 RTP and Amended/Updated FY 2012-2015 TIP for Jefferson and Shelby Counties. The MPO Subcommittee is officially charged with calling for the Public Involvement meeting.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Franchesca Taylor gave a presentation on the updated Active Transportation Plan. Information presented included:

Background

The last MPO adopted plan was the 1996 Birmingham Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenway Plan. Five goals from the plan were as follows:

- Goal 1: Accessibility and Connectivity
- Goal 2: Routine Accommodation
- Goal 3: Greenways and Open Space
- Goal 4: Active Community Design
- Goal 5: Public Awareness

Process

- Outline Content
 - Compare content with other regional transportation plans
 - Review Birmingham Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenway (1996 Plan) for statement of goals and action plan
 - Create list of programming events to support demand and education efforts
- Collect Data
 - Compile Bike/Pedestrian Safety Data
 - Review Red Rock Ridge and Valley plan for connectivity and feasibility
- Create Policy
 - Create Toolkit for Bike/Pedestrian implementation strategy
 - Create general set of design guidelines

Resource guides from Jefferson County, *The Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System*, and Shelby County, *Bicycling SmartCode Module*, are being used for the Active Transportation Plan.

Programming

Programming activities will provide space and opportunity to hold bicycle safety classes, allow the bicycle community to network, and “test” pedestrian environments through the use of pop-up infrastructure.

- Pop-Up Birmingham - May 4, 2013: 8am-1pm
- National Bike Month
 - Bike to Work Week
 - Bike to Work Day
- Safe Routes to School
 - Walking School Bus
 - Walk to School Day
- Bike Safety and Skills Training
- Bike Share Program

Questions / comments included:

1. Can you access the Red Rock plan?

- a. The plan can be found at www.redrocktrail.org
2. When doing road projects, are bike lanes considered?
 - a. Yes. Pedestrian concerns are addressed on major projects, but not on resurfacing projects.

TCC LETTER TO ALDOT

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer presented the draft letter to the ALDOT on behalf of the TCC. The TCC at the March meeting requested the MPO write a letter to ALDOT requesting information on rescinded funds and potential rescissions to fund allocated in the TIP and Long-Range transportation plan. The MPO Subcommittee denied the request and returned the request back to the TCC stating that they could write the letter themselves. A committee was formed to write the letter. The letter reads as follows:

Mr. Brian Davis
ALDOT 3rd Division

At the March 21, 2012 Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC) Meeting an ALDOT request to modify the FY 2012-2015 TIP was presented for consideration. The request included a change to the funding source for the following three projects:

STPBH-PE120 #100058186 CR-1498 (Ensley Avenue) from SR-269 (20th Street) to Warrior Road-sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services

STBH-PE120 #100058187 19th Street from I-59 to Tuxedo Junction-sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services

STBH-PE120 #100058188 12th Street from SR-7 (US11) to Baptist Princeton Hospital-sidewalks, curb & gutter, storm drain, State Support Services

The explanation for the change provided by the RPC Staff was that the funding source for these projects was a Congressional earmark provided under TEA-21. TEA-21 expired in 2006 and the funding associated with it is no longer available. The associated funding was therefore rescinded because the projects had not advanced and the availability of earmarked funds had expired. The funding source proposed to replace the Congressional earmark was the Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable (STP-BHM). The Estimated Cost for Preliminary Engineering for these projects was \$75,000 each for a total of \$225,000. No information was provided on the estimated construction cost for these projects.

During TCC discussion of the proposed change a number of questions and concerns were raised by TCC members regarding the loss of the Congressionally earmarked funds and the use of limited STP-BHM funds for these projects. Concerns were expressed that other STP-BHM funded projects would be slower to advance because limited funding would now have to be shared for these three projects. Questions were also raised about why these projects were not able to advance in a timely manner and who was responsible - ALDOT,

City of Birmingham, or both. Views were also expressed that there should be some accountability for not advancing the projects which lead to the loss of the Congressionally earmarked funds.

These questions and concerns could not be addressed by either the RPC Staff or the ALDOT representative in attendance at the meeting. Therefore the TCC voted to request the MPO write a letter to ALDOT seeking further explanation for the requested change. Subsequently, the MPO Subcommittee returned the request back to the TCC to write the letter and the TCC developed and reviewed this letter at its August 15, 2012 meeting.

The TCC fully recognizes that there a great many reasons why projects are delayed, including environmental concerns, financial shortfalls, personnel, and these delays are not always attributable to ALDOT. However, the fact remains the questions and concerns expressed by the TCC about the change in the funding source for these projects have not been addressed. Accordingly the TCC respectfully requests ALDOT to provide a full explanation for the requested change, including information on the amount and timing of the Congressional earmark for these projects, the total dollar impact on STP-BHM funding from these three projects, why these projects did not advance in a timely manner, and who was responsible.

You prompt reply to this request before the September 19, 2012 TCC meeting is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

cc: MPO Chairman
MPO SubCommittee Chairman
Mr. Charles Ball
Mr. Randy Kemp

One change was suggested to add the City of Birmingham to the cc's before sending. Mr. Wiedmeyer will send the letter to Cynthia Barton to put on letterhead and send to the ALDOT and cc's.

OTHER

Mr. Darrell Howard previewed a draft map of the new metropolitan planning area based on the 2010 census. The MPO will be tasked with reviewing the map before it can be finalized. Questions / comments included:

1. Could this possibly affect the non-attainment area?
 - a. Staff has asked FHWA and ALDOT for guidance on this issue.
2. Does the area proposed conform to the census area?

- a. The area proposed for the new MPO goes beyond the current census based on guidelines by FHWA requiring areas consider 20 year projected growth.
3. Should Chilton and Walker be included since they are part of the RPCGB region?
 - a. Not at this time. Predicted growth does not show the need to include those counties at this time.

Chairman Jackie Dye reviewed the list of upcoming meetings, including the following:

- Transportation Technical Committee, August 22, 2012, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB
- MPO Subcommittee, August 23, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO, September 12, 2012, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- Citizens Committee Meeting, September 19, 2012, 12:00 noon, RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman
Transportation Citizens Committee

Date

JD:cb

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