



May 15, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)

**FROM:** Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2013**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 12:00 Noon, RPCGB 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
Ms. Joanne Adcock, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Anna Brown, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Peggy Cochran, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Elizabeth Denson, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County  
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Richard Goldstein, South/Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Calvin Rumph, Shelby County  
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County
- Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County
- Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County
- Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham
- Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham

**OTHERS PRESENT**

- Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Ms. Jessica Fadlevich, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Ms. Laurel Land, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Ms. Ruth Wright
- Mr. Nelson Brooke
- Ms. Sarah Stokes
- Ms. Marva Douglas
- Mr. Rob Richardson
- Mr. Paul Godsby
- Mr. David Russell
- Mr. Gus Heard-Hughes

Chairman Jackie Dye called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Peggy Cochran requested a correction to the minutes to include her in attendance at the March meeting. Dr. Peebles moved and Ms. Anna Brown seconded to accept the March 20, 2013 minutes with the correction. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented following requests to amend the FY2013-2015 TIP.

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>ACA6</u> <u>0110-</u> <u>59140</u>	100060110	Resurface CR-47 from CR-49 to SR-25	6/12/2013	CN	12/6/2013	2013	\$1,625,036	Exempt	ATRIPS
<u>BR-</u> <u>0053(5</u> <u>29)</u>	100042918	Bridge replacement on SR-53 (US-231) over Kelly Creek	6/12/2013	UT	6/13/2013	2013	\$52,644	Exempt	Bridge Projects
<u>BR-</u> <u>0053(5</u> <u>29)</u>	100003344	Bridge replacement on SR-53 (US-231) over Kelly Creek	6/12/2013	CN	9/26/2014	2013	\$7,990,130	Exempt	Bridge Projects
<u>IM-</u> <u>10590</u>	100059959	I-59/20 interchange modifications at I-65 and at 31 <sup>st</sup> Street North and 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor reconstruction from I-65 to I-59	6/12/2013	RW	9/1/2013	2013	\$1,000,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge

<u>IM-10590</u>	100059959	I-59/20 interchange modifications at I-65 and at 31 <sup>st</sup> Street North and 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor reconstruction from I-65 to I-59	6/12/2013	UT	9/1/2013	2013	\$500,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>IM-10590</u>	100059959	I-59/20 interchange modifications at I-65 and at 31 <sup>st</sup> Street North and 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor reconstruction from I-65 to I-59	6/12/2013	CN	9/26/2014	2013	\$85,000,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>To be determined</u>	tbd	Birmingham Rideshare Programs for FY2015	6/12/2013	TR	10/1/2014	2015	\$1,200,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program Birmingham Attributable
<u>IM-10650</u>	100060319	Replacement of Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) on I-65 north of CR-17 (Valleydale Road)	6/12/13	CN	7/26/13	2013	\$150,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge

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

The following questions were asked:

1. What is ATRIP? It stands for Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation Improvement Program. This program was initiated by Governor Bentley. It is using Garvey Bonds to leverage future federal dollars to stimulate the economy. There is a 20% match. There is a timeline for the projects to be under construction. There have been 3 rounds of funding with another one due October 2013.
2. Update on Finley Blvd and an update on where we are in future meetings. At the last meeting Sandra Bonner was here and gave an update. It is included in the March 20, 2013 minutes.
3. Replacing sign on Valleydale Road because the sign was removed during the widening project? The sign is on I-65 and ALDOT is responsible. The money is being taken out of ALDOT's money. The reason the Birmingham MPO is taking action to include it in the local TIP is because it is a necessary procedure in order for this project to be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for ALDOT to use their funds to make the repairs. It has no impact on the Birmingham MPO local funding.

Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer moved and Dr. Johnny Peebles seconded to move the amendments to the MPO. Motion passed on a voice vote. Ms. Anna Brown voted no.

**TRANSPORTATION CITIZENS COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented proposed changes to the bylaws. This is the second read and remains the same as those presented at the first read. All issues were corrected and addressed at previous meetings. Dr. Peebles.

The following questions were asked:

1. Older members should have seniority and not be bumped off.
2. New members are necessary to keep the energy flowing and an orientation.

Mr. Bruce Ludwig moved and Dr. Johnny Peebles seconded to adopt the Transportation Citizens Committee bylaws as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

## **COMMUTESMART REPORT**

Ms. Jeniese Hosey, CommuteSmart Birmingham Outreach Coordinator presented highlights from the FY2011/2012 Annual Report.

### GetGreen

- Offers commuters \$1 per day for every day an alternative commute is taken in the first 90 days.  
Due to increase participation the incentive was decreased from \$2/day to \$1/day.
- 1,319 new commuters registered
- Reduced 1,535,160 vehicle miles from roadways
- Program cost for the year was \$80,777 and is an average of \$61.25 incentive per participant

### CommuterClub

- Quarterly program logging a minimum of 20 alternative commutes over a 90 day period.
- Each carpooler eligible to receive a \$25 gift card during the period.
- 1,486 new commuters registered
- Reduced 7,533,860 vehicle miles
- Program cost for the year was \$162,997

### Emergency Ride Home

- If emergency arises while at work, CommuteSmart will set the up with a free ride home.
- Each participant has 5 ERHs to use per year
- Total of 108 ERHs were given
- Program cost was \$4,717 with average cost per ERH \$44

### Vanpool

- vRide works with CommuteSmart and partners with employers to encourage employees to vanpool
- Sustained an average of 32 vanpools each month
- 64,240 cars off highway in 2012
- Reduced 94,668 passenger trips
- Reduced 4,475,894 vehicle miles
- Reduced 177,614 gallons of fuel saving a total of \$603,242 in fuel cost

### Outreach Overview

- Special interest given to social media increasing use of Facebook and Twitter
- Encouraged ownership of program with the Employee Transportation Coordinators at each company
- Hosted annual Bike to Work event
- Growth in bike rack program with installation of 15 bike racks at partner companies
- 6 new partners were added
- Website continued update with interactive features and tools
- Strategies also included radio, television and internet advertising

The following questions were asked:

1. Is there a correlation between this program and crash data? This program's purpose is to remove vehicles and trying to correlate this information is not a part of this program.
2. Motorists don't seem to respect bicyclists. Anything to do to make motorist more aware? There is currently television advertising in partnership with AAA to make motorists more aware but is outside of the CS program.
3. Any training for children? Yes.
4. Need to teach cyclists to respect vehicles. The advertising campaign also addresses this issue.
5. Include in education to remind vehicle drivers to respect walkers at intersections.
6. Park and Ride not down US280? Trying to encourage employers and have had a push in this area. Any help to open doors for park and ride lots in that corridor would be much appreciated.
7. Effort to meet with pastors in that area? Buses that could leave from different churches? We have met with leadership of churches. Money we have has to go toward maintenance of their parking lot to keep it cleaned and stripped. Most of our vanpools utilize these parking lots.

### **U.S. 280 CORRIDOR TRANSIT STUDY**

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski introduced the new website, [www.us280transitstudy.com](http://www.us280transitstudy.com). The Executive Summary can be downloaded from this website. The final report was completed last fall, but the RPCGB wanted to create a video and release both the final report and the video all at once. We hired UAB to produce the video. U.S. 280 has a lot of challenges and a long-term solution should include a premium transit service. The various cities up and down the corridor all agreed that transit does need to be a part of the solutions. No funding is dedicated yet. Mr. Kaczorowski played the video from the project website for the TCC. The purpose of the video is to illustrate the look and feel of a premium transit service. The video was produced by UAB.

Results of the study show that a premium bus in a managed lane or a dedicated bus on a shoulder or guideway could carry 5-10% of U.S. 280's total traffic. The study started off with 40 different service and roadway alternatives, and was narrowed down to 5 alternatives. Stakeholders and consultants didn't want to end up with only one solution.

The following questions were asked:

1. Encourage employers to stagger work hours. RPCGB and a lot of employers in the 280 corridor do encourage this practice.
2. Until we focus on global transit and get away from roads and bridges we will continue as usual.
3. We will not get the legislature to do this but if we could have a nice polished presentation to visit local entities and encourage them to include transit in their budgets so we could start building a transit system with each municipality pooling their money.
4. The figure quoted includes federal funding? At the time we do not have any funding but if it did come to fruition federal funding would be used.

### **CALL TO ACTION**

Mr. Darrell Howard presented the following information. At the last meeting we introduced a new outreach program for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which is a vital component of ThinkForward 2040 which is a 25-year blueprint for the greater Birmingham region that addresses economic growth and development, transportation strategies and infrastructure investments. The new

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outreach program is called the Community Ambassador program. Valton Johnson is the contact/coordinator of this program. The plan is as follows:

Community Ambassadors are part of the process

- Help “Get the Word”
- Facilitators of Community Input
- Advocates of the Plan

Resources

- Website – [www.thinkforward2040.com](http://www.thinkforward2040.com)
- On-line forum – [talk.thinkforward2040.com](http://talk.thinkforward2040.com)
- Community Ambassador Training and Resources using a Conversation in a Box Toolkit which includes a facilitator’s guide; meeting agendas; worksheets’ feedback forms’ post card invitations; flyers.

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Community Ambassador Training Sessions

- June 5<sup>th</sup> Noon til 2pm
- Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, Bob Juster Conference Room

Mr. Howard asked that all those wanting to participate meet with him as this meeting.

**OTHER**

The list of upcoming meetings were reviewed.

With no other business, the committee adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**APPROVED**

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Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman

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Date