



September 18, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2013**

A meeting of the Transportation Citizens Committee was held on Wednesday, September 18, 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. Harry Giddens, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Joel Gilbert, City of Birmingham  
Ms. Judy Gordon, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Dr. Johnny Peebles, III, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Robert Richardson, Shelby County  
Mr. Calvin Rumph, Shelby County  
Dr. John Springer, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer, South / Southeast Jefferson County

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Mr. Lawrence Clark, Shelby County  
Mrs. Nancy Clark, Shelby County  
Ms. Ouida Fritschi, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Jeff Havercroft, Shelby County  
Mr. Bruce Ludwig, South / Southeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Barbara McKenna, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Mr. Pittman Owen, City of Birmingham  
Mr. Thurman Robertson, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
Ms. Sarah Stokes, South/Southeast

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Butch Ferrell, West / Southwest Jefferson County  
 Mr. Richard Goldstein, South/Southeast Jefferson County  
 Ms. Pat Hall, East / Northeast Jefferson County  
 Ms. Ruthie Royster, City of Birmingham

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Charles Ball, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Mr. Darrell Howard, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Mr. Brett Isom, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
 Ms. Ann Davis, Idlewild Hills  
 Ms. Ruth Wright  
 Mr. Paul Godbey  
 Mr. David Russell  
 Ms. Sarah Bettinger, Norwood  
 Mr. Henry Ikwut-Ukwa, BJCTA  
 Mr. Mike Crittenden, BJCTA  
 Mr. Christopher Bryan King  
 Ms. Sandra Bonner, ALDOT

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

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

Attendees introduced themselves. Dr. Peebles moved and Mr. Weidmeyer seconded to accept the July 17, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>IM-00590</u>	10006 0200	ITS devices and infrastructure in support of the CBD bridge replacement project and the 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N corridor reconstruction project	10/9/2013	CN	4/4/2014	2014	\$5,000,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>BR-00380</u>	10006 0860	Bridge widening on SR-38 (US-280) over I-459 from Summit Boulevard to Blue Lake Drive	10/9/2013	CN	4/4/2014	2014	\$300,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>STPAA-01550</u>	10006 0391	SR-155 resurfacing from SR-25 to SR-119 in Montevallo	10/9/2013	CN	2/28/2014	2014	\$600,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area
<u>STPAA-01190</u>	10006 0402	SR-119 resurfacing from Shoal Creek Bridge to 1,300 feet north of	10/9/2013	CN	2/28/2014	2014	\$189,448	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area

		SR-155							
<u>STPAA-0003()</u>	100060380	SR-3 (US-31) resurfacing from Columbiana Road to Shades Crest Road (CR-99) in Vestavia Hills	10/9/2013	CN	4/25/2014	2014	\$1,106,205	Exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Any Area
<u>TCSP-08AL(02)</u>	100061291	Red Mountain Park pedestrian facility, north of Lakeshore Parkway near Wenonah	10/9/2013	PE	10/10/2014	2014	\$25,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects
<u>TCSP-1292(02)</u>	100061292	Red Mountain Park pedestrian facility, north of Lakeshore Parkway near Wenonah	10/9/2013	CN	6/15/2014	2014	\$500,000	Exempt	Other Federal and State Aid Projects

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

**ALDOT Requests**

<u>STPBH-0119()</u>	100061285	Additional Lanes on SR-119 from CR-80 to CR-26	10/9/2013	PE	11/1/2014	2014	\$532,125	Non-exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable
<u>STPBH-0119()</u>	100061286	Additional Lanes on SR-119 from CR-80 to CR-26	10/9/2013	RW	11/1/2015	2014	\$532,125	Non-exempt	Surface Transportation Program – Birmingham Attributable

**This project will be included in the Air Quality Conformity analysis to be performed in February 2014.**

The following are comments/questions:

1. For projects 1285 and 1286 your explanation concerning using funding that was previously allotted to another project that will not happens and using it for this project is keeping money viable so we do not lose it? Yes.
2. For same projects, we are not using additional money but splitting the \$1 million plus between two projects? Yes. Not sure the exact amount
3. In resurfacing US 31 can ALDOT make the intersection at Canyon Road safer? Ms. Bonner responded that it is not a geometrics problem but an enforcement problem that needs to be addressed with the municipality.
4. U.S. 280 terminology in description does not make it a capacity project does it? Staff asked ALDOT and it is not a capacity.
5. Project 1285 and 1286 these are capacity projects and regs require conformity analysis be done before any action is taken to amend the TIP. They are deferring to 2014 because that is when we are doing our next analysis. This was addressed with Mr. Cooper and told him we cannot add until conformity done. He said because it is not a major project, only about 2 miles, ALDOT and FHWA is allowing us to move forward with design with anticipation the conformity will be done before going to construction. We will get documentation from FHWA confirming their position. Ultimately, the feds will have to authorize the dollars.
6. The concern is approving prior to conformity is subjecting the MPO to legal challenge that could hold up progress on this project. This presents risk by not following regulations. The reason for moving forward is that it is an ATRIPS project having a timeline attached to it.
7. If this is an ATRIPS project, why are we using STP Bham dollars? Even though this is an ATRIPS project, you must spend other dollars on PE and ROW. ATRIPS can only fund construction. Since they had this other pot of money that they could not move forward with,

instead of losing it, they would use for PE and ROW for this project. We covered this with Mr. Cooper also and he said this was not a problem.

8. There is a typo on the PE date. Should be 2013 not 2014.
9. Concern is that this project could risk holding up other projects. Need to get more information before MPO action.

Mr. Weidmeyer moved and Dr. Peebles seconded to adopt the TIP with the provision of requesting additional information with respect to the two projects on SR119 in regard to what impact that would have on compliance with Air Quality Conformity Analysis requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The following information was presented concerning the Plan.

Meetings of the Transportation Citizens Committee Public Involvement Subcommittee were held Wednesday, August 7 and September 4, 2013, 10:00 a.m. RPCGB Conference Room A, 2 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Birmingham, AL 35203.

Members of the committee are: Mr. Willie Osborne, Ms. Peggy Cochran, Ms. Pat Hall, Mr. Calvin Rumph, Ms. Joanne Adcock and Mr. Butch Ferrell. TCC Chairman, Jackie Dye, is ex-officio to the committee.

The purpose of the meetings was to review the draft Public Participation Plan that includes requirements based on the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) and the expansion of the MPA. The committee reviewed and discussed the following changes:

- Performance measures are included in Section 2.0 Public Participation Process. This includes goals, strategies relating to each goal and effectiveness of the process relating to each strategy.
- Under Section 4.0 An amendment to the Long Range Plan, TIP, and STIP documents may take one of two forms:
  1. An **Administrative Modification** is a minor change to project costs, funding sources, or project/phase start dates. Such minor changes or adjustments do not require public involvement activities, reestablishment of financial constraint, or, in areas of air quality non-conformity, confirmation of conformity determination. Amendments of this nature are generally conducted through coordination of ALDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning and Modal Programs staff and MPO staff to minimize plan modification and documentation activities and costs.
  2. The **Formal Amendment** Process is a major change to project costs, design scope, funding amounts, project/phase start dates, or a revision approved and required in the MPO plans by the State as an adjunct to the its Public Involvement process. This process requires public notice, addition to MPO monthly meeting agendas, review by the public and MPO advisory committees, reviews by federal agencies, a vote by the MPO Policy Board, and an

executed Resolution of adoption. The process criteria then, under which a formal amendment occurs, is when a plan or document:

- a. Adds a project
- b. Deletes a project
- c. Project costs exceed 20% of the original projected costs
- d. Changes a project start or completion date
- e. Changes the project design scope or termini description

Amendments to Congestion Management Plans (TMAs only) and Bicycle Pedestrian Plans (now a formal plan in Alabama) are subject to the same processes as above. However, ALDOT will generally work with MPOs to make adjustments to these documents on a more informal basis in order to accommodate public involvement meetings and advisory committee scheduling.

- Under 5.0 Public Involvement Meetings the guidelines, it states “Flyers are given to members of the TCC to be distributed through their networks.” It was determined that the TCC will receive Flyers electronically to be distributed in their Districts. If a member of the TCC wishes to receive hard copies for distribution, those will be provided.
- Included is Appendix D: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan to address the Birmingham MPO’s responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance as they relate to the needs of individuals with limited English proficiency language skills. In order to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities, the MPO used the information obtained in the Four Factor Analysis to determine the specific language services that are appropriate to provide.
  1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the MPO.
  2. The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the programs.
  3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided by the MPO to the LEP population
  4. The resources available to the MPO for outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.

Based on the estimates of all non-English speaking residents, a total of 5.8% of residents speak a language other than English while 2.8% are estimated as having limited English proficiency. Spanish is the number one language. The Plan will address providing assistance to this population based on budget allowance.

The Subcommittee concurred to send the Draft Public Participation Plan to all the Committees for recommendation to adopt the Draft Public Participation Plan and schedule a public involvement meeting and open the 45 day comment period. They further concurred that the public involvement meeting will consist of a presentation of all the many methods used by the MPO to engage the public in participation.

At the close of the comment period, the Committees will have the opportunity to review the prepared comments and responses.

The following are comments/questions:

1. Are changes an effort to comply to MAP-21? Yes.
2. We will have a lot more public involvement if you look at Administrative Modification and Formal Amendments? That is not the intent but will clarify the intent with ALDOT.
3. What does the Limited English Proficiency inclusion require us to do differently? We already do this. We always include in announcements that if anyone needs assistance they can notify us so many days in advance of meetings. If a translator is required primarily for the Spanish speaking population, we are working with other agencies to assist us.
4. Is notice done in English only? There will be a notice published in Spanish on website and in reception area on the procedures to request assistance once this Plan is adopted.

### **WEST HOMEWOOD PLAN**

Mr. Mikhail Alert, Community Planner, with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham presented the West Homewood Plan.

The West Homewood Plan was initiated by the City of Homewood – on behalf of the citizens, property owners and business owners of the City – to create a sense of place and identity for the West Homewood over the next 15-20 years. The plan called for a walkable neighborhood center to be created near the recently renovated Patriot Park. In order to achieve this, the plan also recommended that the City adopt a Form-Based Code. The Form-Based Code provided the regulatory tools the City needed to create the sense of place and neighborhood center envisioned by citizens, since it focused more on addressing the built environment and less on the separation of uses. Both the plan and the Form-Based Code have been adopted by the City. The Committee also viewed the video.

The following are comments/questions:

1. Where is this area in Homewood? Patriot Park is located on the corner of Oak Grove Road and Raleigh Avenue in the West Homewood Area.
2. Will it affect where the buses go? No, it will actually enhance service by having development close to street.
3. Street will remain wide enough. Yes. Trying to promote more walking and act as a traffic calming place.

### **COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Mr. Darrell Howard provided an update on the Community Ambassador program. The Ambassadors held several meetings. A summary of the comments are as follows:

#### **Assets and Opportunities**

- **Assets**
  - Physical Beauty/Geography
  - Number of Activities and
  - Culture
- **Opportunities**
  - Transportation Corridors
  - Natural Resources
  - UAB



**Transportation**

- **Transportation Assets**
  - Roads (lots of them)
- **Opportunities for Change**
  - Roadways
    - ❖ Safety
    - ❖ Traveler Information
    - ❖ More Connections
  - Public Transit
    - ❖ Simpler System
    - ❖ Smaller Vehicles
    - ❖ More Accessible for All Users
    - ❖

Documenting activities from the meeting will be included in the Think Forward PI report.

Mr. Howard thanked those who put so much effort into coordinating and providing valuable input into the Plan.

**OTHER**

The list of upcoming meetings was reviewed.

With no other business, the committee adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

**APPROVED**

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Ms. Jackie Dye, Chairman

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Date