



March 27, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Technical Committee

FROM: Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman /s/

**SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2013**

A meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB 3rd Floor Conference Room, 2 Twentieth Street 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. Richard Abel, CLASTRAN
Mr. Chris Brady, City of Vestavia Hills Representative
Mr. Richard Caudle, At-Large
Ms. Sheila Chaffin, UAB Exec. Dir. Campus Planning and Facilities Programming
Mr. Matthew Cobb, City of Homewood Engineer
Mr. Richard Darden, At-Large
Mr. Al Folcher, At-Large
Mr. Doug Hale, Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
Mr. Fred Hawkins, At-Large
Mr. Scott Holladay, Shelby County Highway Department Representative
Ms. Denise Horn buckle, Traffic Safety Representative
Mr. Jason Howanitz, Jeff. County Dept. of Health Chief Meteorologist - Air Division
Mr. David Hunke, At-Large
Mr. Chris Leffert, BJCTA Representative
Mr. Tom Magee, City of Birmingham Chief Planner
Mr. Blair Perry, At-Large
Mr. Robert Portera, At-Large
Mr. Chris Reeves, At-Large
Mr. Keith Strickland, At-Large
Mr. Eric Womack, Shelby County Development Services Representative

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY PROXY

Mr. George Henry, At-Large
 Represented by Brett Tucker
Mr. Charles Malone, ALDOT Maintenance Representative-Birmingham
 Represented by Mr. Jesse Miller
Ms. Alicia Rudolph, At-Large
 Represented by Rob Vermillion
Mr. Lance Taylor, ALDOT Preconstruction Engineer – Birmingham
 Represented by Cynthia Hill

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Ms. Alfredo Acoff, ALDOT Environmental Coordinator – Montgomery
Ms. Nan Baldwin, Birmingham Business Alliance (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Ken Boozer, Jefferson County Dept. of Roads and Transportation Representative
Mr. Fenn Church, Trucking Representative
Mr. Scott Cothron, Sain Associates
Mr. Ron Gore, ADEM (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Chris Hatcher, Operation New Birmingham
Elizabeth Lawlor, Railroad Representative
Mr. Wallace McCord, At-Large
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Metropolitan Planning Engineer – Montgomery
Ms. Abigail Riviera, FTA (Non-Voting Member)
Mr. Andrew Sullivan, At-Large
Mr. Dave Harris, FHWA (Non-Voting Member)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Mike Smith, Al.com/the Birmingham News
Mr. Willie Osborne, TCC
Mr. Winston Sitton, Blount County Engineer
Ms. Samantha St. John, CLASTRAN
Dr. Steven Jones, University of Alabama
Mr. Zak Robertson, EDT
Ms. Selena Rodgers, SARCOR
Mr. John Gordon, Wiser
Mr. Blake Phillips, St. Clair County
Mr. Jim Meads, Sain Associates
Mr. Scott Tillman, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Ms. Cissy Edwards Crowe, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Mr. Mike Kaczorowski, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

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. Mr. Tom Magee made a motion to approve the January 23, 2013 minutes. Mr. David Hunke seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

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

ALDOT Requests

<u>IM-00590</u>	100059905	Concrete pavement rehabilitation on I-59 from I-459 to .75 miles south of CR-10 (Chalkville Mountain Road)	4/10/2013	PE	4/11/2013	2013	\$300,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>IM-00590</u>	100059906	Concrete pavement rehabilitation on I-59 from I-459 to .75 miles south of CR-10 (Chalkville Mountain Road)	4/10/2013	CN	4/11/2013	2013	\$3,000,000	Exempt	National Highway / Interstate Maintenance / NHS Bridge
<u>RHCH-CN130</u>	100059834	Railroad crossing improvement Norfolk Southern Line at CR-10 near City of Montevallo/Ref#1247 (XIII-R)/DOT #727894B	4/10/2013	CN	6/15/2013	2013	\$4,553	Exempt	Safety Projects
<u>tbd</u>	<u>tbd</u>	McCalla Road safety and roadway improvements from Eastern Valley Road to County Road 20	4/10/2013	PE	6/1/2013	2013	\$250,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Birmingham Attributable
<u>tbd</u>	<u>tbd</u>	McCalla Road safety and roadway improvements from Eastern Valley Road to County Road 20	4/10/2013	RW	6/1/2014	2014	\$25,000	Exempt	Surface Transportation Birmingham Attributable

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

<u>STPBH-71730</u>	100059888	Finley Boulevard extension from 26 th Street (US-31) to SR-79 in the vicinity of East Lake Boulevard	4/10/2013	UT	1/1/2015	2015	\$3,655,254	Non-Exempt	Surface Transportation Birmingham Attributable
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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.

The following questions were asked:

1. Do these projects include bike/ped facilities? Finley Boulevard Extension may have them. McCalla Road does not have them in the PE. We will ask and let you know.

Mr. Chris Reeves made a motion to approve the TIP amendments. Mr. Fred Hawkins seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Ms. Cissy Crowe presented the proposed amended bylaws. This is the second read and a vote will be taken at this meeting. The primary reason changes are necessary is due to expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area to include Blount County and St. Clair County representation.

Administrative changes were recommended to be consistent with the other MPO committee bylaws. Following are the most significant changes for consideration. The changes also include title changes from ALDOT for their representatives and adding City of Alabaster as a voting member which was considered after the first read and is presented by the Bylaws Committee:

Article 3, Membership
Section 1 By Organization

- A. Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority Representative
- B. City of Birmingham
 - Chief Planner Representative
 - Birmingham Traffic Engineer Representative
- C. Jefferson County
 - Department of Roads and Transportation County Representative
- D. Alabama Department of Transportation
 - ~~Multimodal Transportation Engineer, Montgomery~~
 - Metropolitan Transportation Planning Administration Representative
 - Preconstruction Engineer Representative, Birmingham 3rd Division
 - Environmental Coordinator (Design Bureau) Representative,
- Montgomery
 - Maintenance Representative, Birmingham 3rd Division
 - Preconstruction Engineer 1st Division Representative
- E.. Shelby County
 - Shelby County Highway Department Representative
 - Shelby County Development Services Representative
- F. Jefferson County Department of Health Representative
- G. Railroad Representative
- H. Trucking Representative
- I. Bicycle / Pedestrian Representative
- J. City of Homewood Representative
- K. City of Hoover Representative
- L. City of Vestavia Hills Representative
- M. City of Alabaster Representative

- M. N. University of Alabama at Birmingham
~~Executive Director of Campus Planning Representative~~
~~Parking and Transportation Services Director – Auxiliary Services~~
Parking and Transportation Services Representative
- N. O. CLASTRAN Transportation Mobility Manager Representative
- O. P. Traffic Safety Representative
- P. Q. ~~Operation New Birmingham~~ REV Birmingham Representative
- Q. R. Blount County Engineer Representative
- R. S St. Clair County Engineer Representative

Section 2 At-Large

- A. Technical and Professional personnel who are not members by organization are eligible for At-Large membership.
- B. There is a maximum of 20 At-Large members.

Section 3 Non-Voting Members

- A. Federal Highway Administration Representative
- B. Federal Transit Administration Representative
- C. Alabama Department of Environmental Management Air Division Chief
- D. ~~Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce~~ Birmingham Business Alliance Representative

Article 4 Membership Proxy

Section 1 ~~Written notice is required for members represented by proxy. Any member can designate any other member or non-member as a permanent proxy eligible to vote. The designation of a permanent proxy must be made by the member in writing. The term of a permanent proxy cannot exceed the term of the appointing member.~~

Section 2 ~~A letter can also authorize a permanent proxy for a member. In addition to a permanent proxy, a proxy for an individual meeting can be designated. A written request may be submitted in advance of the meeting. The TTC Chair may appoint a temporary proxy for an individual meeting pursuant to a voting member's verbal request followed by a confirmation in writing.~~

Section 3 A person can be designated as only one proxy vote per meeting.

Article 5 **Membership Attendance**

Section 1 At-Large membership ~~shall~~ may be terminated upon absence of a voting member or their proxy from 50 percent or more of the regularly scheduled meetings during any twelve (12) month period. Reinstatement shall be at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Doug Hale made a motion to accept the proposed amended bylaws. Ms. Denise Hornbuckle seconded the motion that passed on a unanimous voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (TAP) AND SELECTION PROCESS

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented an overview of the Transportation Alternative Program and Selection Process. The first step is to have the MPO Policy Committee adopt the application to request funding for the projects. The application is identical to ALDOT's application to simplify the process so if an entity wants to submit an application to RPCGB and to ALDOT they only have to complete it once. The amount of money available is \$1.2 million a year for 2 years in the RPCGB region and ALDOT has \$7.5 million for state. ALDOT and RPCGB have capped each proposed project cost at \$500,000. There are a few differences between applications. ALDOT requires 4 hardcopies to be submitted and RPCGB requires 1 electronic copy (pdf) emailed. ALDOT's due date is June 28 and RPCGB is July 8. ALDOT is asking for a public involvement meeting and we will get more clarification on what constitutes a public involvement meeting. There is a 20% match required from the project sponsor for construction and right of way and the project sponsor is required to pay for PE. If it is a pedestrian project include information on where it is part of an existing plan. Do not include the plan. The Active Transportation Committee will review applications. ALDOT is rigid in how long you have to construct the facility. Must get to construction in two years they will rescind the funding. RPCGB is asking to show progress then we have right to shift funding. Once it is adopted by the MPO Policy Committee, the application will be posted on the website and a copy of the application will be sent to all mayors. The Active Transportation Committee will be involved in the review of applications along with the RPCGB staff to make recommendations to the MPO. However, the MPO Policy Committee may decide to form their own subcommittee.

Eligible activities include: other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian lighting, streetscape (combination of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and landscaping), and other transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.

Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas. Community improvement activities, including inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising; historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under Title 23. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff; reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity.

1. There is a minimum amount or a certain threshold? Thought about using \$250,000 but realized that some eligible activities might be lower that are good projects. Will determine on a case by case.

U.S. 280 PRESENTATION

Mr. Mike Kaczorowski presented the study. Completed the study in fall and worked with UAB to produce a video to sell the idea of transit. We want to give the public visual tools to understand transit. The technical analysis and public stakeholder input agreed on two options. One option is to build additional lanes as managed lanes with as much as four lanes. The other option is a bus only lane to provide for bus rapid transit service and have 5 stations between SR119 and downtown. It is an express service with differently built busses with more frequency. Study shows that light rail is not economically feasible at this time but could build towards that. All information can be found at www.us280transitstudy.com.

1. Is this in conflict with what ALDOT is doing? We are not in conflict. We are all using every resource possible to increase capacity in concert with ALDOT's work. They are a near-term project and this would in no way rip up what is being done now.
2. Any idea of how many vehicles would be taken off the road? Attract 5-10% which is about 7,000-10,000 vehicles/riders could be attracted to the system. If number grows then go after extending the system. Need 15,000-20,000 riders to justify the cost of light rail.

OTHER

Dr. Steven Jones encouraged the committee to participate in the ITS survey. At this time, he had just a few participants.

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

- MPO Advisory Committee, March 28, 2013, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- MPO Policy Committee, April 10, 2013, 1:30 p.m., RPCGB
- RPCGB Annual Meeting, April 17, 2013, 8:30 a.m., The Club
- MPO Citizens Committee Meeting, April 24, 2013, 12:00 noon, RPCGB
- MPO Transportation Technical Committee, April 25, 2013, 10:00 a.m., RPCGB

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

Mr. Greg Dawkins, Chairman
Transportation Technical Committee

Date