

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting - March 28, 2018 - 3:30 p.m**

**City Council Chambers, Municipal Building  
Huntsville, Alabama**

**Committee Members Present:**

Mr. Dennis Madsen	City of Huntsville, Director of Urban and Long-Range Planning
Ms. Connie Graham	City of Huntsville Planning Division
Mr. James Moore	City of Huntsville Planning Division
Mr. Shane Davis	City of Huntsville, Director of Urban and Economic Development
Ms. Kathy Martin	City of Huntsville, Director of Engineering
Mr. Nicholas Nene	City of Huntsville, Traffic Engineering
Ms. Brandi Quick	City of Huntsville, Executive Director, Ditto Landing
Mr. Dan Sanders	City of Huntsville, Director of Traffic Engineering
Ms. Mary Beth Broeren	City of Madison
Ms. Ruth Ghoja (Proxy for Anne Burkett)	Madison County Planning and Economic Development
Mr. Houston Matthews	Madison County Engineering
Mr. Les Hopson	Alabama Department of Transportation
Mr. Allen Teague	Alabama Department of Transportation

**Staff Members Present:**

Ms. Paige Colburn	MPO Staff
Mr. Steve Dinges	MPO Staff

---

The meeting was called to order by Mr. James Moore at the time and place noted above.

Mr. Moore stated that the first item on the agenda was Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of August 30, 2017.

Mr. Matthews moved for approval of the minutes of the meeting on August 30, 2017.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Moore called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Mr. Moore stated that the next item on the agenda was Amendment to the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Resolution No. 01-18, amending the FY 2018 UPWP to add carryover funds from FY 2016 for a Regional Commuter Study to support the Congestion Management Process.

Mr. Moore recognized Ms. Paige Colburn of the MPO staff.

Ms. Colburn made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Colburn stated that Resolution No. 01-18 was an amendment to the UPWP. She stated that the MPO staff had recognized a need for a Regional Commuter Study, noting that this determined where commuters were coming from throughout the region and where they were commuting to. She stated that this was more accurate for the region than the Journey to Work numbers, which did not include Federal employees, noting that Redstone Arsenal's Federal employees were one of the largest commuter groups.

Ms. Colburn stated that this Commuter Study would inform the MPO's Congestion Management Process and their next Transportation Improvement Program, TIP, which she noted was due in August of 2019. She continued that they needed to start preparing for that at this time, and also their next Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Year 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which she noted was due in March of 2020.

Ms. Colburn stated that as they were discussing this desire for a Regional Commuter Study with ALDOT, ALDOT had informed them that there were rollover

funds from FY 2016 that could be used within three years. She continued that they had become available in October of 2016, so they needed to be used by October of 2019, and they could be used to fund the Regional Commuter Study.

Ms. Graham moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 01-18, amending the FY 2018 UPWP to add carryover funds from FY 2016 for a Regional Commuter Study to support the Congestion Management Process.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Moore asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Mr. Moore called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Mr. Moore stated that the next item on the agenda was an Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 02-18, amending the National Highway System Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add an interchange project at I-565 and Greenbrier Road.

Mr. Moore recognized Ms. Colburn.

Ms. Colburn made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Colburn stated that what was displayed was the interchange, noting that it would not be a new interchange but simply an upgrade to the current interchange, to create a better free flow of traffic than what currently existed. She stated that this was a project that was in a prior TIP, and that the Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Utility Relocation were done in the prior TIP, and that at this time the construction would be added to the current TIP. She stated this was a Federal project that would be funded with \$10,350,000 in Federal funds and a State match of \$1.1 million, and there would be no local or MPO money.

Ms. Colburn stated that as one could see on the display, this interchange would

help support the megasite and the Toyota-Mazda project.

Mr. Davis moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 02-18, amending the National Highway System Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add an interchange project at I-565 and Greenbrier Road.

Said motion was duly seconded by Ms. Martin.

Mr. Moore asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Mr. Moore called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Mr. Moore stated that the next item on the agenda was an Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 TIP, Resolution No. 03-18, amending the Transit Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a project for Alabama A&M University.

Mr. Moore recognized Ms. Colburn.

Ms. Colburn made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Colburn stated that in the prior year, she believed in August, the MPO staff had come before this Committee with a letter that the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board had signed in support of this grant. She stated that the letter basically said if Alabama A&M University were to win this grant, their project funded by the grant would be added to the FY 2016-2019 TIP. She continued that, fortunately, Alabama A&M had won this grant. She stated that the total amount was \$1 million, and it would be used for electric buses, bus batteries, and other things necessary for the operation of the buses, as well as charging stations for each of the buses. She stated that one could see on the display that the Federal distribution was \$800,000, and Alabama A&M would be matching it with \$200,000. She stated that this was a Fiscal Year 2017 project. She continued that even though that was the prior year, this year was the year of the grant, that they had won the grant in September of

2017, and they were at this time adding it to the TIP, that that was where they were in their grant process.

Ms. Colburn stated that they had had questions from the Citizens Advisory Committee at their meeting on Monday evening, that they had asked if the charging stations that were part of this grant would be open to the public, similar to the electric charging station across from City Hall. She stated that the answer to that question was "No," that the charging stations were specific to the types of batteries that would be used by the buses.

Mr. Matthews moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 03-18, amending the Transit Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a project for Alabama A&M University.

Said motion was duly seconded by Ms. Graham.

Mr. Moore asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Mr. Moore called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Mr. Moore stated that the next item on the agenda was Review of Administrative Modifications to MPO documents since the last MPO Meeting.

Mr. Moore recognized Ms. Colburn.

Ms. Colburn made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Colburn stated that she would remind the Committee that an "Administrative Modification" was a routine edit to an MPO document, noting that by ALDOT practice, this also included Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project additions. She stated that the staff would report these changes, modifications, to the CAC, TCC, and MPO every quarter. She stated that this was something they had started in 2017. She continued that periodically she would just remind everyone

what an Administrative Modification was.

Ms. Colburn stated that the first Administrative Modification was concerning that most of the membership of the TCC, with representatives from all the jurisdictions except Owens Cross Roads and Triana, had attended a meeting in January to learn about and discuss the Safety Performance Measures. She stated that they had had engineers from each of the major jurisdictions that would be affected by the Performance Measures listen to a presentation from ALDOT. She stated that one could see on the screen the Performance Measures that had been adopted by ALDOT. She continued that the blue column on the far right was the target for the current year's Safety Performance Measures. She stated that after the TCC had met in January and February, Chairman Strong, the Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, had sent a letter on behalf of the Metropolitan Planning Organization to ALDOT, stating that the Huntsville Area MPO had chosen to support these Performance Measure targets, ALDOT's Performance Measure targets.

Ms. Colburn stated that the MPO had a choice whether to support ALDOT's targets or to adopt their own. She stated that the CAC had asked a lot of questions about this Administrative Modification. She continued that they had asked if there was an opportunity for the MPO to support Vision Zero, which was a Safety Performance Measurement program that had been adopted by, for example, the Florida DOT statewide. She stated that Vision Zero was a concept of going toward zero fatalities on roads within a jurisdiction.

Ms. Colburn stated that they had learned at the TCC meeting in January that that was an option, that they could choose to modify their targets, create their own targets for the MPO area rather than supporting the State targets. She continued that even if they created their own targets, they would still need to fall within the State targets, hopefully, and support the State targets in that way.

Ms. Colburn stated that there was a lot of opportunity for cooperation with the State in these Performance Measures. She stated that Safety Performance Measures were not the only performance measures the Committee members would be seeing in the current year, that they would actually be hearing a lot about performance measures. She stated that they had the Freight Reliability Performance Measures coming up later in the year, as well as the Highway System Reliability. She continued that at the May CAC, TCC, and MPO meetings, they would be discussing the Performance Measures agreements, which she noted was another type of planning agreement that was required between the State and the MPO. She stated that they would have to sign that by the next meeting, so there would be conversations about that between this time and May, and, also, they would be learning more about the different types of performance measures throughout the year.

Ms. Colburn stated that the next Administrative Modification concerned the Public Participation Plan (PPP), which this body had not seen since December of 2016. She stated that they had put out the PPP for 45 days of public review in November of 2016, and the draft PPP was adopted by the MPO in December of 2016. She continued that then they had had the TMA Certification Review by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration that had recommended some changes to their draft PPP before it would be adopted as final.

Ms. Colburn stated that they had made some routine edits to the Committee officers and membership lists on the frontage pages, prior to the Table of Contents, and they had added the TMA Certification Review recommended Appendix F, which was a Special Interest Groups appendix, which included all the different types of special interest groups that would be contacted over the course of MPO public participation activities.

Ms. Colburn stated that what was shown on the display was just two rows

there, that it was just an example of a couple of the rows that were added. She stated that United Way was on that list, as well as a lot of other organizations, that it was just the organization, the name of the contact, and what their roles and responsibilities were, for the information of the public.

Ms. Colburn stated that that was all the Administrative Modifications.

Mr. Moore stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Comment. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Committee.

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, appeared before the Committee, stating that she would like to ask two questions concerning the display that Ms. Colburn had just shown. She asked who the public Special Interest Groups were, concerning the Public Participation Plan. She asked who did all that.

Ms. Colburn stated that the Public Participation Plan was drafted by the MPO staff, and that it had to do with public participation in review of MPO documents and public participation in MPO projects.

Ms. Reed stated that she did not understand how the public got involved.

Ms. Colburn stated that that was what was in the plan, that the plan literally listed all the different things the MPO did, for example, keeping up the MPO website and putting out the colorful Transportation Quarterly Newsletters that went to senior centers, libraries, YMCAs, and several other locations where persons who might not have access to the MPO website would have the opportunity to read about all these activities. She stated that the Special Interest Groups Appendix to the plan was a request from the Feds, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Authority. She stated that they had asked that they include, for information purposes, in this document a list of Special Interest Groups that were involved in transportation planning, or who might want to be involved in transportation planning, specifically, mostly for seniors and persons with disabilities, to make sure



they had them listed in their Public Participation Plan. She continued that, also, the Public Participation Plan included the Limited English Proficiency Plan as a required document. She stated that the Special Interest Groups also included their outreach groups, such as HIBANA, the Hispanic Business Alliance of North Alabama, and HLAC, the Hispanic Latino Advisory Council, for the purpose of contacting those organizations when major public review of MPO policies and products was necessary.

Ms. Reed thanked Ms. Colburn for the explanation.

Mr. Moore asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee.

Mr. Moore stated that hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

**(Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)**