

Montgomery Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Voting Members

Dr. Jon Broadway
Mr. James Brown
Mr. Roger Burnette
Ms. Valeria Harman
Ms. Ruth Ott
Mr. Blair Rehnberg
Ms. Gracie Stroud
Mr. David Sikes, Chairman
Mr. Augustus Townes, Jr.

Guests

Mr. David Bollie, ALDOT
Mr. Jamel Brown, Citizen
Mr. Dwight Davis, ALDOT
Ms. Jennifer King, Jacobs Engineering Consulting
Ms. Debra Pelt, ALDOT
Mr. Rod Wilburn, JRWA Consulting

MPO Staff

Mr. Kindell Anderson
Mr. James Askew
Ms. April Delchamps
Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS
Mr. Robert Smith

At the regular scheduled meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on June 14, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the City of Montgomery Intermodal Facility Conference Room in Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

Mr. Robert Smith began the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and announced that a quorum was reached. Mr. Smith requested a change to the Agenda to include the Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting. Chairman Sikes asked for a vote on the change and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Sikes moved to Agenda Item 3: Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting of March 23, 2010.

Mr. Broadway referenced Page 2 of the previous Minutes and commented on item 5 concerning sign rehabilitation projects on the interstates. He stated that the minutes did not reflect that a first motion and a second motion were made to combine the items on pages 4 and 5 of the Proposed Amendments to the FY2008-2011 TIP. The Minutes should reflect that the two pages were combined by proper motions. Additionally, the Minutes should also show that the CAC requested in the motion that the MPO NOT approve those items.

The Minutes should also reflect that a motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Proposed TIP Amendment items as a whole including the amendment to combine pages 4 and 5 as stated above.

Mr. Broadway also pointed out the phrase “a no action required motion...” in item 9-13 on Page 2 of the Minutes. He stated that he did not recall a motion of this type and it should probably be reworded or deleted.

Mr. Smith agreed and also commented that the MPO was told that the CAC requested the MPO not approve the sign rehabilitation projects on pages 4 and 5. Also, consider that the CAC didn't approve of the funds being spent on sign rehabilitation, but instead actual roadway improvements such as resurfacing or roadways or fixing potholes.

Mr. Sikes confirmed that Mr. Broadway was making a motion to have the previous meeting minutes amended and corrected and clarified as was discussed. A second was also made. Mr. Sikes asked for any further discussion but there was none. Mr. Sikes asked for a vote to accept the minutes with the corrections made. The minutes passed unanimously with corrections mentioned by Mr. Broadway.

Mr. Sikes commented that the report from the nominating committee would be moved to later in the meeting.

Mr. Sikes moved to Agenda Item 3: Introduction of Guests.

Mr. Wilburn introduced himself as an MPO Staff contractor and Ms. Jennifer King as a consultant with Jacobs Engineering Group.

Mr. Jamel Brown, former candidate for Mayor of Montgomery and community activist, introduced himself.

Ms. Debra Pelt from ALDOT introduced herself.

Mr. Sikes moved on the Agenda Item 4: FY-2008-2011 TIP Amendments.

Mr. Smith reviewed the projects.

Page 1) This is a City of Prattville project for the widening and resurfacing of CR-75 (McQueen Smith Rd.) from SR-3 (US-31, S. Memorial Drive) to CR-2 (Cobbs Ford Rd.) The cost is \$999,829 and is 100% congressional earmark funds. This will use Demonstration funds for ROW purchase. No stimulus money will be used. As with any widening project, the bicycle and pedestrian considerations will be done also. Mr. Burnett asked about the speed limit along the widened road. Mr. Bollie stated that ALDOT will determine that by traffic counts and alignments. There is an 8 foot wide trail planned for at least a portion of the route.

Page 2) This State of Alabama project in Prattville for resurfacing on SR-14 from SR-6 (US-82) to SR-3 (US-31). This will use NHS funds in the amount of \$1,191,899. The state will pay the matching portion.

Page 3) This State project will use \$250,000 in TE funds for Gateway Landscaping all around the Clay and Herron Street area. The state will pay the matching money.

Page 4) This project is for PE work on I-85 for additional lanes and median widening from .4 miles east of SR-271 (Taylor Rd) to Jenkins Creek. Total NHS funds for this State of Alabama project will be \$1,000,000.

Page 5) this is for SR-108 (Outer Loop) for ROW purchase. It will run from west of SR-9 (US-331) to west of CR-39 (Woodley Rd) and includes the interchange at US-331. The projects total cost is \$300,000 and will use NHS funds. This is a State of Alabama project.

Page 6) this project is an existing one programmed in the TIP right now. It is sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission not the State as it is listed. This will be to resurface CR-40 (Meriweather Rd) from SR-6 (US-231) to CR-85 (Pike Rd). The project is proposed to increase by \$148,548 to result in a total of \$754,245. The project is

strictly for resurfacing 4.3 miles. The county is making the signs for the Bicycle Roadways from 100% gas tax money, though. We are still financially constrained. It has a start date of 7-1-2010. This project is for resurface only. Mr. Bollie stated that Pike Road will be adding a trail in the area. Mr. Smith added that the county will be adding signage along some of the preferred bicycle routes in southeast Montgomery County.

Page 7) This is a State of Alabama project involving Landscape Improvements on Dexter Avenue and Bainbridge Street. This streetscape work will use TE funds totaling \$5,000,000. The start date is set for 12-15-2010.

There was no further discussion pertaining to the TIP Amendments. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amendments and they passed unanimously.

Mr. Sikes continued to Agenda Item #5. Consider Draft FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Smith stated that he would not go over the entire document but did prepare a summary highlight document and reviewed that page. The document details the activities and work the MPO staff will do over the fiscal year.

This year's funding allocation is \$350,318 in Federal planning funds from FHWA and FTA. This is only about \$12,000 less than last year.

The total FY 2011 Draft UPWP budget is \$437,898 with a local match of \$87,850. This is about \$140,000 less than last year.

FHWA and FTA funds will be combined again this year just as they were for the past few years. This is being done for better management purposes. The budget pays for five staff salaries, all the planning and programming work related to all the required documents that we have to prepare, public hearings, and many others. We will not have any funds set aside in this new budget for consulting work; all work will be done by the MPO staff. The key document we'll prepare in 2011 will be the FY 2012-2015 TIP. We will also perform the annual rebalancing of the TIP. After we finish adopting the 2035 LRTP we plan to start the Montgomery Study Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update. We'll hope to finish it by the first or second quarter of next fiscal year.

Air quality monitoring will be new this year. We have started air quality modeling training in anticipation of going into a non-attainment status for air quality at the direction of ALDOT, ADEM and EPA.

Mr. Smith said that MPO Staff would put the Draft UPWP document out for the normal 14 day review and public comment period at various sites. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Draft FY-2011 UPWP and it passed unanimously without further discussion.

Mr. Sikes moved to Agenda Item 6: Draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Review.

Mr. Smith commented that we are now at the review point and we have a tentative adoption date of June 30. Mr. Rod Wilburn reviewed the document briefly with a PowerPoint presentation. He mentioned that we will have another round of public comment meetings for the document and its requirements. A new LRTP is required every 5 years in order to continue receiving federal funds. Following the review, Mr. Smith reminded everyone that the document is available on the MPO website at www.montgomerympo.org then click on the link button for 2035 LRTP. The Public comment period will begin on Wednesday June 16 and last for 14 days. We'll then have our public meetings.

Mr. Sikes asked if a motion was needed. Mr. Smith replied that we would only be asking for action on the Draft form pending further public review and comment. That would be the same action that the MPO would take tomorrow.

Mr. Broadway wanted to make a comment for the record to show that on pages 3-55 thru 3-57 there are several important topics addressed, namely, Transportation Conformity. SAFETEA-LU not only requires financial constraint but requires conformity constraint. He stated he was not sure he heard "conformity constraint" in the presentation. He did notice that on page 3-56 it says it is essential that immediate steps are taken by the MPO to begin the air quality conformity determination process. He said he believes there is a weakness there. He said he would go ahead and vote for it but would vote for it with reservation. He also wanted to point out that in paragraph 3.11 (Transportation Demand

Management) on page 3-56 there is the same problem. Transportation Demand Management is one of the primary strategies by which you reach the conformity and a more efficient system overall. This is given about one half of a page and he feels like these should be beefed up and given proper consideration.

Mr. Smith commented that air quality conformity is a brand new topic for us. The FHWA representative said all MPO's in the state will be in non-attainment when the new rules come out in August. Mr. Smith stated that currently the MPO area was in attainment and that conformity is not required. He further said that right now there is only one area in the state that is in non-attainment, and that is Jefferson and Shelby counties. He also said that air quality rules would require that if we add any projects from a capacity standpoint that we would have to demonstrate air quality conformity and that if we could then we would not be able to do the project due to its negative impact on air quality.

Mr. Wilburn said he believes the state is correct to go ahead and start grappling with air quality. Mr. Smith said ALDOT required us to put this in the document just as a starter. We'll have our first formal training on the air quality modeling software on July 28, 2010.

Mr. Sikes asked for a vote since a motion had already been made and seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

Mr. Smith moved on to Agenda Item # 7 Transportation Projects Status Report. Mr. David Bollie commented that he is the city and county guy for the area. He has 19 stimulus projects and 8 of those are in the MPO area. All but a few of them are finished. He gave a brief report on current projects.

Mr. Sikes proceeded to Agenda Item 8: Other issues/ business/ concerns. He asked for the report from the nominating committee.

Dr. Broadway reported four names for consideration to fill the Montgomery vacancies. Mr. James Bates, Mr. Crews Reaves, Ms. Greta Duckett and Ms. Karla Kruger. There are a total of 7 open positions so we are still looking for people in Autauga County.

Mr. Broadway asked for some possible evening meetings since many people have conflicts during the day and cannot get to the meetings.

Mr. Sikes asked for a vote to have Mr. Smith present the nominating committee's choices to the MPO board for their consideration. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Kelvin Miller (MATS) reported that ridership is steady as summertime is always a tough time of year. Our 8 new Hybrid-Electric buses are on order. They are scheduled to be delivered in July of 2011. Security cameras have been installed on almost all of our vehicles. We are having new Fare Boxes installed on the busses which should help the riders. The new Fare Boxes will allow riders to purchase passes at anytime and they will be good for 30 or 31 days. Current passes must be purchased at the end of the month. The next project will be to remodel some of the transfer center on Fairview Ave and improve the facility. All of these are stimulus projects.

Mr. Brown commented that the new schedules posted on corners in certain neighborhoods look very good in the glass frames. However, they've been destroyed in my community, he said. This is in the Twin Gates community at Piedmont and Gateway Drive. You need a more secure system because they would just tear it down again.

Mr. Miller said he would get it fixed. Mr. Smith asked everyone to report vandalism to MATS or the city's 311 call center.

Finally, there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.