

Montgomery Area Citizen's Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2007

Voting Members

Mr. David Sikes, CAC Chairman
Mr. James Brown
Ms. Valeria Harman
Mr. Johnny Jackson
Mr. Blair Rehnberg
Ms. Mary Stephens
Mr. Edward Stevens
Ms. Gracie Stroud
Mr. Augustus Townes, Jr.
Mr. Theodore White

Guests:

Ms. Barbara Hendricks, ALDOT

MPO Staff

Mr. Robert Smith
Mr. James Askew
Ms. Diana Drummond
Ms. Allison Settles
Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on February 13, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the Montgomery City/County Personnel Board Room, Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. David Sikes, CAC Chairman. Mr. Sikes recognized guests who were in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2006 meeting and the minutes were adopted.

Mr. Sikes mentioned grammatical errors made in the minutes from the December 12, 2006 meeting and the errors were noted. Mr. Robert Smith (MPO Staff) said that he would correct the minutes with based on errors reported and would place them on the MPO website for members that wanted to view them.

Mr. Sikes referenced the proposed amendment projects to the FY 2006-2008 TIP and asked Mr. Robert Smith of the MPO staff to present each amendment.

EC-10-AM (CR-153-Coosada Pkwy from CR-23-Coosada Rd to SR-14)

EC-11-AM (CR-29-Titus Rd at Wewoka Creek)

TE-3-AM (Governor's Mansion located at 1141 South Perry Street Phase 2)

TR-7-AM (Central Alabama Easter Seals on South Blvd.)

TR-8-AM (Montgomery Area Council on Aging)

MPO Resolution Attached

Mr. Sikes asked about the procedures to qualify for enhancement grants and Mr. Smith explained that a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant application had a cycle and must be submitted before the September 30th deadline since October 1st was the beginning of the fiscal year. He said that the TE grants notice goes out in the spring of every year and that projects have to meet certain criteria and all has to be documented and explained in the application. He further said that the City of Montgomery had as well as other MPO municipalities have been successful in getting funded in the past when they submitted TE grant applications. He also said that the TE grants are very competitive.

Mr. Smith explained that the Fiscal Constraint Table to CAC members that asked about it and said that it was basically table that showed what projects that the MPO has planned with description information, sponsors, project costs and balance of funds.

Mr. Sikes referenced project STPOA-7714 (to widen and resurface Zelda Road) and wanted to know how wide Zelda Road would be widened. Mr .Smith stated that Zelda Road was currently four lanes undivided and a minor arterial and that the city proposed to

include a center universal turn lane from Ann Street to Carter Hill Road on Zelda Road. Mr. Smith stated that the widening would include some of the right of way acquisition. He said that it was a needed project that the residents as well as people that pass through the area have requested.

Mr. Sikes then referenced project STPOA-CN03 (install overhead street signs at intersections/City of Montgomery) and asked about the locations of the street signs. Mr. Smith replied that he was not aware of the exact locations of the street signs but would supply a map with the locations of the signs. Mr. Smith also stated to the committee that in the travel throughout the city, it had been noted that there were not enough overhead signs at major and minor intersections to make known the location of the area traveled for visitors and citizens of the city.

Mr. Sikes stated that he belonged to an advocacy group who felt that power lines should be placed underground because these wires were so unattractive to the community. Mr. Sikes also stated that he felt that the installation of overhead street signs would be unattractive to the community as well. It was stated by Mr. Roger Burnett and other CAC members that the overhead street signs would make directions to locations easier to find.

Next, Mr. Sikes referenced project STPMT-2600 (widen and resurface of Fort Toulouse Rd-US-231) and wanted to know if a bike lane was included. Mr. Smith said that the roadway was being widening enough to accommodate a bicycle on the shoulder of the roadway from US-231 to inside Fort Toulouse, but said that it wouldn't be stripped. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed amendment projects to the FY 2006-2008 TIP. Mr. Smith stated that there were no new updates to the projects around the MPO study area.

In general session Mr. James Brown and Mr. Edward Stevens reminded Ms. Carol Hall of ALDOT of a previously mentioned concern regarding the condition of the ditch on US-Hwy 80 in front of Martin Luther King School and asked if this item would be fixed or addressed in the future. Ms. Hall stated that she had passed the information along to the proper personnel but had not received a response to share with the committee at that

time. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Brown shared the concern that it was a possibility that snakes were in the ditch and school children could be snake bitten, that there was an accumulation of water in the ditch and children could be drowned or seriously hurt if the situation was not taken care of.

It was mentioned by Ms Gracie Stroud that the bus bench on Troy Hwy at Regency Park was placed in the wrong location, at the turning lane on the highway when turning into Regency Park. She said that no one ever sat at or used the bus stop. Mr. Sikes suggested that maybe MATS personnel could provide data as to the frequent use of the bus stop to determine future use of the stop. Mr. Kelvin Miller of MATS said that he would look into the situation and report back to the CAC at the next meeting.

The project to resurface and replace the bridge on Woodley Road (CR-33) from Spring Valley Road to McInnis Road (CR-33), Phase II was questioned. The concern was that it was thought that Woodley Road would be widened in addition to being resurfaced. Mr. Smith and Ms. Hall explained that the project was to resurface and replace the bridge on Woodley Road which would necessitate the widening of the road for the purpose of the bridge replacement but not for the purpose of additional lanes. Mr. Smith said that the roadway was proposed to be resurfaced and each existing lane be widened from the current 10 foot wide lane to 12 foot wide lanes in each direction for safety reasons. He said that the project was a much needed project. Mr. Smith also stated that he felt that the PE had been authorized on this project but not started yet.

Mr. Sikes mentioned the project regarding the landscape improvements on Dexter Avenue and Brainbridge Street West in downtown Montgomery with the PE for \$700,000. Mr. Sikes asked if the \$700,000 was for PE only or if construction was included in the cost because \$700,000 was somewhat of a high cost for PE only. Mr. Smith explained that a light rail feasibility study was included in the cost for the project. He also stated that consultants and sub-consultants had been hired for this project since this project was a part of the overall Downtown Master Plan. He said that the project included landscape/streetscape improvements to Dexter Ave and a light rail feasibility study.

Mr. Sikes suggested that any information regarding the committee meetings should be placed on the MPO website for the convenience of the citizens as well as for the committee, to make the upcoming meetings more productive. Mr. Smith stated that this procedure was already in place and directed the committee to the MPO web page where the information could be accessed on the website at <http://www.montgomerympo.org> . He said once there just click on the MPO meetings tab and look to the right for a box that has MPO, TCC and CAC meeting materials before each meeting.

Since there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.