

Citizen Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2007

Voting Members

Mr. David Sikes, Chairman
Mr. Rodger Burnette
Mr. Jon Broadway
Mr. James Brown
Mr. Blair Rehnberg
Ms. Ruth Ott
Mr. Edward Stevens
Mr. Augustus Townes, Jr.

Guests

Mr. Chris Conway, City of Montgomery
Mr. David Bollie, ALDOT
Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS
Ms. Barbara Hendricks, ALDOT
Ms. Carla Kruger, Citizen
Mr. Bill Chappell, Citizen

MPO Staff

Mr. Robert Smith
Ms. April Delchamps
Mr. Kindell Anderson
Mr. James Askew

At the regular scheduled meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on September 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room #7 at the ALDOT building in Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

Mr. David Sikes, Chairman, announced that a quorum had not been reached and no official business would be conducted. Several people expressed interest in meeting anyway since they had taken the time to be present. Mr. Townes asked that they meet as a committee and present their comments to the entire CAC when they meet again. Mr.

Sikes agreed with the idea. Mr. Sikes recognized guests who were in attendance. He indicated that Ms. Carla Kruger had asked to address and speak to the committee about the Perry Hill Road project.

Ms. Kruger asked the members to carefully consider all of the comments, not just the summary, in opposition to the Perry Hill Road widening project from Harrison Road to the Atlanta Highway. There have been 39 comments submitted in opposition to the project. It is our request and plea that you would recommend to the MPO to remove the project from the TIP.

Mr. Stevens asked if anyone would have to be displaced for the project. Ms. Kruger stated that they had been told no but possibly one house.

Ms. Ott asked if a smaller enlargement of the road had been considered instead of the full plan. Ms. Kruger said she had only heard of it being five lanes. It is three lanes now with a turn lane in the middle. Four lanes may be worse because there would be turn lane in the center to make it easier to get out on the road. Four lanes would take less property but five lanes would be easier for everyone. It is our contention that once the I-85 loop project at Perry Hill and then Perry Hill Road from I-85 to Harrison Road would relieve most of the congestion. There isn't much congestion north of Harrison Road.

Mr. Smith said the Right of Way (ROW) would only be taken from the east side of the road; the VA side of the road. Ms. Kruger and her neighbor, Mr. Chappell, and Ms. Ott said they had been told it would come from both sides. Ms. Kruger also stated they had heard the project was accepted by the VA but they may change their mind. She stated the plan shows two feet of additional ROW. Currently the power lines are in the middle of her yard and Mr. Chappell's.

Mr. Chappell commented that on behalf of the other homeowners that they are concerned about how the project may lower their property value.

Mr. Sikes then moved around the room and called on each person for any comments they may have.

Mr. Stevens said he had drafted a proposal as part of the maintenance for the streets and corporate limits of the city. It states: "That all thoroughfare streets within the city limits of Montgomery be marked and maintained with clearly visible center lane stripes, and that certain maintenance personnel be accountable for this responsibility.

That interstate highways within the corporate limits of the city be maintained and clearly striped at all times and that embedded reflective markers clearly reveal the traffic lanes".

Mr. Stevens asked to have the minutes reveal this concern and remedy as a means of lowering the accident rate within the city/corporate limits of Montgomery. He asked for well marked lanes which the average driver can see to provide a reasonable amount of safety.

Mr. Burnett asked what the progress was on the bike route from Vaughn Road Park down McGehee Road and then to downtown.

Mr. Smith replied that we aren't anywhere with that. But, in addition to that, we have been presented with another project with a pedestrian trail and bike path in the Grove Park, Carriage Hills, and over to the Shakespeare Park area.

Mr. Townes commented that one of the original plans for the Intermodal facility included a restaurant and he would still like to see one or more put in. He stated that he was impressed with the Intermodal facility and he liked it. Mr. Smith replied that a restaurant was not really in the plans and the downtown area has a number of restaurants available.

Mr. Townes then asked about the pollution problem at I-65 and I-85. Mr. Bollie said he did not know about anything in that location unless it had to do with the congestion management. Mr. Broadway commented that about five years ago the area was borderline on Ozone attainment. The state had turned down a request for an extra monitor in the MPO area.

Mr. Sikes stated that the CAC has eight current vacancies and he will ask the MPO to give him some names as possible members. Additionally, the Chair and Vice Chair terms will expire in January 2008 so replacements will be needed for them. Five vacancies are

in Montgomery and the others are in Prattville and Autauga County. The next meeting date will be October 16th but we may not have that meeting, stated Mr. Sikes.

Mr. Bollie stated that he was going to make his presentation since he came all the way back to Montgomery from a conference in Pointe Clear.

>We have finally selected a preferred alignment for the project at SR 143 and SR 14. The public hearing will be held as soon as the environmental assessment is done.

> The survey is complete on the Tallapoosa River bridge widening.

> The Perry Hill Road project from I-85 to Harrison Road only, lets just make sure of that, is about to have the 30% plan review done on it.

> Madison Avenue will be having a 30% review also.

> The Coosada Parkway project in Elmore County is about to get started. It will be widened and repaved.

> The Fort Toulouse Road project is under construction and they are adding bike lanes on both sides of it.

Kelvin Miller commented that the city transit system has expanded from 261,000 riders to one million riders in seven years. The Intermodal Center had a “soft” opening on April 10, 2007 and today our parking garage opened. The bicycle police will also have an office in the center. We do have some more work to do but we are proud to have a place to call home for our passengers. Ms. Ott asked Mr. Miller to ask Winn Dixie on Atlanta Highway for one parking space to place a bench. She said the present bench is too close to the road. Mr. Smith commented that Tim Omick had asked but Winn Dixie and Bellsouth about placing a bench and shelter but both turned him down when he was previously here. Ms. Ott commented that she may just have to write a letter to Winn Dixie.

Finally, there being no further discussion, the chairman adjourned the informal meeting at 3:00 p.m.