

**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**August 30, 2007**

**Voting Members**

Mayor Bobby Bright, **MPO Chairman**  
Mr. Ken Groves, Secretary  
Councilor Janet May, City of Montgomery  
Mr. Randall Estes, ALDOT Sixth Division  
Commissioner Todd Strange, County Commission  
Councilor Charles Jinright, City of Montgomery  
Mayor Jo Glenn, City of Wetumpka  
Mayor Frank Houston, City of Coosada  
Mayor Jim Byard, City of Prattville, **MPO Vice Chairman**  
Commissioner Joe Faulk, County Commission  
Mayor Al Kelley, City of Millbrook

**Non-Voting Members**

Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS

**Guests**

Mr. Jerry Peters, City of Millbrook  
Ms. Barbara Hendricks, ALDOT  
Mr. Stuart Manson, City of Montgomery  
Mr. Bubba Bowden, City of Montgomery  
Mr. Joel Duke, City of Prattville  
Mr. David Bollie, ALDOT  
Mr. Greg Clark, CARPDC  
Mr. Joe Meads, SAIN Associates  
Ms. Carla Kruger, City of Montgomery, Citizen  
Ms. Gretta Duckett, City of Montgomery, Citizen  
Mr. Quentin Crommelin, City of Wetumpka Citizen

**MPO Staff**

Mr. Robert Smith  
Ms. April Delchamps  
Mr. Kindell Anderson  
Ms. Dianna Drummond  
Ms. Tiffany Phillips  
Mr. James Askew

At the special called meeting of the Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on August 30, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Bright, Chairman. Mayor Bright asked Mr. Ken Groves if a quorum was present, Mr. Groves replied that a quorum was present. He then asked if there were any guests to introduce or any guests that want to be introduced. Ms. Kruger introduced herself. Mr. Crommelin then introduced himself. Mayor Bright commented that Mr. Crommelin wants to address the meeting at sometime. Mayor Bright said he was glad to have the guests.

Mayor Bright asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2007 meeting. Mayor Frank Houston said Mr. Bill Tucker's name was misspelled in the minutes and asked that it be corrected. Mayor Bright asked that it be corrected. There was a motion to adopt the corrected version, seconded, and the minutes were adopted.

Mayor Bright asked to add something to the Agenda. He commented that the MPO had a motion, coming from the floor during the last meeting, that we appoint or nominate Mayor Byard as Vice Chairman to the MPO. He said he'd like to take that up at this time. Mayor Bright asked for a motion and one was made and seconded. The Mayor also asked for any other nominations to be made at that time. I'm not sure if that is correct procedure, he stated. Mr. Groves said it was fine. The Chairman then asked if we needed to send Mayor Byard out of the room while voting occurred. Jokingly, Mayor Byard said that he wanted to stay to see what Mr. Jinright would do. Mr. Groves said we can just do it by acclamation. Mayor Bright asked for a vote on the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Bright offered his congratulations and commented that Mayor Byard now has all the rights and responsibilities of the position. Mayor Byard thanked the other MPO members.

Mayor Bright moved on to Agenda Item No. 5. Mr. Groves explained that this is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This is the program that defines what staff will be working on your behalf throughout the next year. This has been recommended for your approval by the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and your Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). Someone asked if the Summary Document goes with the UPWP. Mr. Smith confirmed that the

Summary Document of Public Involvement does go with the UPWP and is part of it. It just tells what MPO Staff did to involve the public in the process to develop the UPWP.

Mayor Houston asked if we have plans to update the Operations Plan. Could this be part of it since it's been an awful long time, maybe 20 years, since it's been updated? Mr. Groves said it is not specifically called out in this document. Can we include it and maybe get that updated since it's been about 20 years since it's been updated, Mayor Houston asked. Mr. Groves said that would be fine. Mayor Bright asked if any action was needed on that on the FY-2008 UPWP. Mr. Groves said we need to approve the FY-2008 UPWP. We need to put it on the table and amend it as recommended to include an update of our Operations Plan and then pass it. Mayor Byard made a motion to approve the document then we can amend it, he said. A second motion was made and the document passed. Mayor Houston then proposed an amendment to update the Operations Manual. The Chairman then asked for a vote and the UPWP and the amendment to the Operations Plan of the UPWP passed unanimously.

Mayor Bright moved on to Agenda item No. 6. Mr. Groves said this is for the Environmental Justice Report and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor Bright asked if there was any discussion about these. Mayor Al Kelley commented that on Page 26 of the TIP, Elmore County has a project (STPOA-7906). He said that his City Engineers had talked to the Elmore County Engineers and that project stops at our city limits. It starts at Cobbs Ford Road and comes down to our city limits. For about another half mile of work on that project that would get all the way down to our Main Street. It adds about another \$100,000 to the project according to our City Engineer and Richie Beyer. I would like to amend that particular project to include that little bit of extra work right there and take it all the way down to State Route 143. Mayor Bright asked if there were any further discussion or objections to the amendment. Mayor Houston seconded the motion. The Chairman asked Mr. Groves if the committee could do that. Mr. Groves stated that they could do it and it fits, after conferring with Mr. Robert Smith. Before we get to the general document, however, I would like to give everybody some alerts and cautions about how we are going to be going forward with our ability to add additional projects. Mr. Groves said it was fine to go ahead and vote on amending the document to include the extra piece for the Millbrook project, but said that it is going to be harder and harder over time to add additional money to projects because of not having enough funds to cover them.

Mayor Bright asked for a motion to adopt the draft FY 2008-2011 TIP as amended by Mayor Kelley. Mr. Groves clarified that it was to amend one project in the TIP. Actually, Mayor Houston has already seconded the motion, stated Mayor Bright. He then called for a vote on the amendment or for any more discussion about this item or any other item in this document. Mr. Groves said the vote will be on the amendment to that particular project. For clarification, Mayor Bright repeated that they were voting on the amendment to the TIP document. The amendment to project STPOA-7906 in the TIP document passed unanimously.

Mr. Groves then commented that we had passed out the highlights of our 2008-2011 TIP. We amended one project now we are going to consider the entire document. Mayor Bright asked if the committee needed to discuss it further or go ahead and ask for a motion. Mr. Groves stated that he wanted to give the group some information. ALDOT is now trying to account for the cost of inflation. They have put in a 4% compound inflationary factor in the project cost. Everything that is done this year is at the current cost estimate. Everything that is in 2008, 2009, and 2010 all get a compound 4% add-on and that does affect the amount of money we have for programming. Mr. Smith commented that does mean a 4% increase in 2008, 4% plus 4% in 2009, 4% plus 4% plus 4% in 2010, and 4% times 4 in 2011. Mayor Bright asked what the State was trying to do to us. Mr. Groves replied that they are trying to get ahead of the cost increase factors. He said you know material costs are going up and things of that nature and it's a pretty realistic approach. Mr. Estes commented that all of these are in current, today's dollars. The software then calculates this and adds it onto whatever year is in the program and then as we move from year to year it continues to increase these amounts. We believe this is reasonable, we believe it is justified and can be defended because this acts as what's happening in most cases. Mr. Groves added that what it does is give us some protection because a lot of our business here is amending projects to add more money because the actual bids come in over. This will help a lot by putting in a factor that pre-plans for cost changes over time. Now the consequences of that are it reduces the amount of money at the end of the period. We have normal carryover at the end of 2011 of, say, a couple of million dollars. Now, because of this, it goes to practically zero or a lot less. It also suggests a strategy for the participating jurisdictions. The more projects you can do in the near term, the more money you are going to save and that we'll have available for programming to meet other needs. In other words, if we can move some 2010-2011 projects up into 2008 or 2009 then we would end up with more money available for programming. What the MPO Staff will be doing at the next meeting will be proposing a resolution that will allow staff to make

administrative changes provided that it does not kick anybody's project out but to allow each of the participating jurisdictions to bring a project forward if they can to help us realize this cost savings. That way we can, more effectively, manage our projects and money. Also, as David Bollie pointed out to the TCC, try to get your projects ready to go as early in the fiscal year as possible. Our success at being able to bring things forward depends on having money available and it just depends on what ALDOT has done in any given year as to how much additional money they have to authorize projects for construction. So, that's kind of going to be the strategy we recommend to everybody is try to move up to an earlier date anything that can be moved up in the TIP cycle. Mr. Smith stated that it would have a cost savings of almost one million dollars so we can either move a couple up and save a million or lose it. Ms. May asked what time period they were talking about for the million dollars. Mr. Groves stated that it would be from 2008 to 2011. You are just getting them up earlier before the inflation occurs but, of course, all that's speculative because actual conditions could change all of that. They may have an annual, 4% compound interest rate increase in cost but since ALDOT is anticipating that we can work accordingly then plan our strategy to take maximum advantage of it. Mayor Bright asked what the committee needed to do at that point. Mr. Groves said we need a motion to adopt the draft 2008-2011 TIP.

Commissioner Strange said he wanted to ask a couple of questions since he did not have time to study his materials. What are the two Montgomery County projects that are estimated at \$1.379 million, he asked. Mr. Smith referred to the two Montgomery County resurfacing projects as listed in his documents under the year 2010. He said the top two are Montgomery County projects and they are to resurface East Old Hayneville Road from US 331 to Hobbie Road (STPOA-5105) and to resurface Meriwether Road from US 231 to Pike Road (STPOA 7901). Commissioner Strange asked if the funds that would do that are exterior to county controlled funds that we have or if this is the match to that. Mr. Smith said this is coming out of the MPO pot. Okay, said Commissioner Strange, so every dollar I can get out of the MPO pot we can save to do that. I just need to get more projects in, right? Mr. Groves said that was correct. But the problem is that the Highway Trust Fund goes into the red in 2009-2010 and, you know, we may just be speculating here that we'll even have the resources to do this much work. That's something we can't control. It depends on congressional action and appropriations.

Mayor Bright asked if there was any more discussion. Mayor Glenn said the City of Wetumpka has \$2.4 million in here and I thought we only had two projects and they're small projects. One of them shows a sponsorship by the City of Montgomery which is an error on page 2, Coosa River Parkway from Coosa River Bridge to relief bridge. That's simply a turn lane. Mr. Smith said she was right and it is a City of Wetumpka project and that he would correct that for the final. Your actual agreement says City of Wetumpka. Mayor Glenn asked where the others are that come up to that total, what am I missing. Those are the only two I knew we had. Mr. Smith commented that on the first page there is SR 9 (US 231) from Charles Avenue to Knight Street. Mayor Glen said okay, that's the other part, I understand, said Mayor Glenn. Mr. Smith added that the State is paying the match money because it is a State Route.

Mayor Bright asked if there were any other issues or discussions. Do we need a motion to adopt this document? Mr. Groves said that it did need a motion and, by the way, the CAC and TCC recommended it for approval. Mayor Byard made the first motion and Mayor Glenn seconded the motion. The Draft FY 2008-2011 TIP was unanimously passed with amendments.

Mayor Bright moved on to Agenda item No. 7. Mr. Groves then asked Mr. David Bollie (ALDOT) to give an update of the current projects in progress. Mr. Bollie said he had given a pretty long list of projects at the last meeting so this time he would just give an update.

The first project is the I-65 dual project that we let for \$79 million. Everyone should know barricades are already there and they are starting to work and widen some of the roadway out there. It has been going on for a little over one month and is less than 5% complete. We do have a website which you can go to and check the work at anytime. The website is

[www.progress65.com](http://www.progress65.com) . Those projects are scheduled to be completed in October 2009.

The next project I wanted to talk about since we last met was I-85 rehab from I-65 to near Hall Street. The projects contract was let on June 29, 2007. It is supposed to be completed by July, 2008. The contract was awarded to a Minnesota company. It was an early award project which means we tried to get them to award it quickly so they could get out there and work quickly.

However, now we have to wait on them to get a State of Alabama license to do work so they got held up a little bit. The low bid was \$5,041,000. The next project is the I-85 extension of the southbound outside acceleration lane from the Eastern Boulevard to Perry Hill Road. That one is coming along very nicely. The last time I was here construction was at about 25% complete with an expected completion date in late 2007 or early 2008. I talked to my people this morning and

construction is now about 90% complete. All that is lacking is lighting, seeding, mulching, and striping and they expect completion in October of this year.

The next project is I-85 at the Mitylene interchange. The actual federal project has not changed and it is still in the concept stage but we did have a small state project to add turn lanes westbound on US-80 to get onto southbound I-85. It also adds lanes on US-80 eastbound to get on Chantilly Parkway. Right now that is less than 10% complete but it has 60 working days. It was also let in June and the low bid was \$937,837 by Wiregrass Construction. We have had a change on the Vaughn Road five lane. Originally, it was from Chantilly Parkway to the proposed Outer Loop interchange. It is now changed to end at Bridlebrook Farm and that has occurred due to a county project to improve Pike and Vaughn Road right there. We are going to shorten this project and add another project from Bridlebrook Farm to the Outer Loop.

The next project is the Bell Street project, which goes from Washington Ferry Road to the CSX Bridge and, right now, it is scheduled for the November, 2007 letting. There have been some environmental clearances they are trying to clear out. Mr. Groves stated the latest calculation is sixty days to complete that. The City of Montgomery is working on the right-of-way and they are waiting for the environmental report.

The next project is US-231 six lanes from Charles Avenue to Main Street and relocating Old Montgomery Highway to River Oaks Boulevard. This is right there at the casino where we are, basically, making it six-lanes; three lanes each direction. The right-of-way acquisition is complete and the utilities are being relocated. Some of the utilities are actually in the contract to build the road. The archeological process we had to go through is currently about one month from being done. Plans are 99% complete and they are just waiting on a few small, little things. It is on schedule for the November, 2007 letting. Those are really the projects that have changed since the last meeting.

Commissioner Strange commented that he may have not seen it officially but there was some conversation about some small resignalization or realigning the lighting at Chantilly Parkway and I-85. Has that been completed or is that still under study? Mr. Bollie said he believed that is part of the Mitylene/I-85 interchange project and that entire part is under the concept phase. Commissioner Strange said he thought that piece was going to get done first or early-on. Mr.

Estes stated that it was not being done in this small project we are doing now. It is the responsibility of the consultant to do the traffic study to change our signalization but that would be in the next project. Commissioner Strange asked that it would not be in the turn lane project but in the next project other than the conceptual project. Mr. Estes said the conceptual project will consider it and it wind up in the design phase. Mr. Strange asked if that means in, what, two years. "Never", stated Mr. Estes, to rounds of laughter. Mr. Strange commented that he had a very smart guy tell him that the best pay plan was 30, 60, never. Mr. Estes commented that it is being considered in the concept and design and evaluation stage and will move into the next step. Yes, the signals will be included in the next construction but not in the small job we are doing now.

Mr. Strange said that he also did not hear any comment about the Waugh/I-85 interchange and he wanted to know where we are with that. Mr. Estes replied that it was still in the concept phase and those at the division are not involved with that right now. That is being given serious consideration in the central office. They know the need, growth is moving in that direction and something will have to happen there.

Mayor Bright asked if there were any further comments or questions. Mr. Groves said there is a question we have about some proposal that is in the State's plan to widen I-65. Mr. Smith said that it is on Page 58 in the TIP and says it is to widen, to eight lanes, I-65 from the Alabama River to SR-14. Mr Smith said the question is doesn't that recreate the bottleneck which we are trying to solve now with the current construction on I-65 from the Alabama River to US-80? He said that it would just seem that should not be as far up in the system as a priority. The project is listed on Page 58 and the Project Family ID numbers are 512 and 514. Mr. Groves asked Mr. Estes if he had any insight about it. Mr. Estes said he did not have any more information than what you have here. These are the preliminary projects that are proposed. In other words the PE, the study on it and the survey is planned to begin in 2011. Mr. Estes said that he would check into and report back at the next meeting.

Mayor Bright asked for any further questions. Mayor Kelley commented that he had a question for Mr. Estes. Mayor Kelley stated that he and Mayor Byard had talked about the possibilities of lighting the SR-14 and I-65 intersection and some of your folks said if we agreed to pay the power bills and all that kind of stuff then you all would take care of that. So, I think Mayor

Byard and I are in agreement that he'll pay for his side and most of my side, joked Mayor Kelley. Mayor Byard said he had already paid for the signals on your side at the other intersection. Mr. Estes said they would be delighted to talk about it with the Mayor.

There were no more comments so the Chairman moved on to Agenda item No. 8, the General Session. Mayor Bright commented that Mr. Quentin Crommelin had asked to be heard and, if you would, sir, now is the time to do it.

Mr. Crommelin said thank you Mr. Chairman. I was here before the committee some time ago discussing Fort Toulouse Road and I wanted to give a quick update. The last time I was here I raised the issue of taking property without compensation. That has become rather clear that that's in the works. The issue is a very precisely described road that my father gave to the county that was tied to engineering drawings and very precisely talked about. The deed references the drawings. The drawings have specific slopes in them. The former county attorney gave the commission an opinion that they could not take that land. They had to either acquire it by negotiation or take it. An outside attorney, I understand, was hired who gave a different opinion. My information is the current county attorney, Patrick Nixon, has probably not given an opinion. So, what I'm saying is, there are serious grounds for the position I'm taking. Not long after I attended the meeting that I did, I can't remember the date and I'm sorry, work started on Fort Toulouse Road that consisted of poisoning the right-of-way, killing the grass, ruining the slope structure, and generally making it hideous. It's been in that condition for about four months. I invite any member, while on the way to the lake or whatever, to just drive down Fort Toulouse Road to confirm what I'm telling you. Several of the other landowners I have gotten involved with this have contacted Barry Mask and, I believe, he is conducting an investigation of what's going on. I think the gist of what I'm trying to say very briefly is that there either needs to be negotiations as required of them in the main code or the code needs to be used to condemn the property. And I think the budget should reflect that, the TIP should reflect that.

I also wanted to bring up, very briefly, this 691 mile project for having a trail from the Georgia border, along the Coosa River and then along the Alabama River to Mobile. I don't know if this committee will be involved with that one way or another but I would like to alert the committee to the fact that virtually every landowner on the river is banding together to oppose that and I am one of them. Thank you.

Mayor Byard asked if the last project Mr. Crommelin talked about was the proposed Recreational River Trail project. Mr. Crommelin replied affirmatively.

Mayor Byard asked if they were opposed to the trail. Mr. Crommelin said “absolutely”. You are opposed to it; you can’t speak for every landowner, stated Mayor Byard. Mr. Crommelin said that he could in some sense because every landowner he had talked to in Wetumpka was opposed to it. Mayor Byard stated that the City of Prattville owns some land along the river and would probably be for it. Mr. Crommelin said that would be fine. Mr. Mayor, what it would do is put us entirely out of the cattle business. It would subject us to, frankly, dangerous elements that would use it and have access to a back entrance along three miles of river without even having to get in a boat. It would deny access, unless, I’m sure somebody would come up with a special provision, but generally would deny access to the river for our cattle which you has become a very serious issue and will be again next year. There is also that particular stretch of river, mine, is endangered habitat as so reported by ADEM. It’s just ugly. I think the mere appearance of that newspaper article devalued our property by a good 25%.

I appreciate it, I had not heard that, said Mayor Byard.

Mayor Bright expressed his thanks to Mr. Crommelin for addressing the MPO. I’m not sure how we can help but we’ve got that piece of information recorded, Mayor Bright added.

Ms. Carla Kruger asked to speak and was recognized by the Chairman. Ms. Kruger stated that she is a Montgomery citizen and has some concerns with the Public Involvement issues. I’ve looked at the UPWP and the PIP, she said, and I just don’t think the provisions are either sufficient or followed. I signed up to receive e-mail notices for the MPO; I have not received a one at my address. We attended the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) the other day. There are only 10 of 15 slots. I don’t feel that the citizens are represented sufficiently. My area, there was no one to represent us.

Mayor Bright asked Ms. Carla Kruger if she would like to serve. She announced that she would love to serve. Mayor Bright said we would love for you to serve. Ms. Greta Duckett stood and said that she would serve as well.

Ms. Duckett asked whether she could ask Mr. Smith a question regarding that. Ms. Kruger asked if she could finish first. Mayor Bright said, yes, let her (Ms. Kruger) finish. Ms. Duckett said it’s about representation. Ms. Duckett continued and asked Mr. Smith if he found out who

represents her on that committee. Mr. Smith replied that he had not. Ms. Duckett stated that she had requested that on Tuesday. Ms. Kruger said she believes they have no one in their area. Also, the Citizens Advisory Committee did not receive or a lot of them did not receive, their packages until the day before or the week before and it's a lot of material to look at. So, I don't think they were sufficiently prepared and I'm not sure that, judging by Commissioner Strange's comment, you all have had sufficient time to really review this material. One other thing, the UPWP says something about the MPO Planning staff receiving numerous publications and books on Public Involvement to keep up to date on methods. But they don't do anything; they don't change what they do. I submit that the newspaper advertisements and having the materials in the library are not enough. Citizens do not go there to those places. There were no comments received on the TIP from the citizens, I believe, because no one knows about it. Nobody knows what the MPO is, they don't understand how it impacts their lives, and I just think there needs to be a lot more done. Thank you, Ms. Kruger concluded.

Commissioner Strange announced that he wanted to correct the fact that he had not seen his materials because he had been out of the city for the past two weeks.

Mr. Groves also wanted to add a comment. He stated that we are driven by ALDOT's time lines and their changes as needed and have to comply with what they want and work cooperatively together. They're adding a 4% cost constraint just pushed us up against a deadline, along with them not being financially constrained and having to shift lots of projects into out years. We got the documents out to the CAC and all of you as early as it was possible to do. Unfortunately, we just ended up out of time and a lot of it was due to things that ALDOT found it necessary to do. We do try to get things out with plenty of time for consideration. Also, as you get into this and you participate more, you'll see that a lot of these projects have a very long history. Many of them go back farther than all of us at this table. It takes a long time to do things so there's a certain set of projects that just kind of migrate through by time and, as you get more familiar with this, you'll begin to see how the process works. Basically, from the time it's first put into a plan it can take ten years for a project to even get close to being considered for construction. It's very detailed and very involved. Mr. Groves further said that they have a group of people who want to have a presentation on the process; we have one that we would be happy to provide so that you will be thoroughly informed about how it works and have a better understanding of the difficulties this body deals with on a regular basis.

Mayor Bright said that if any citizen who wants to know what we're doing, all you have to do is leave your name and number and we will call you back. We welcome public input. Ms. Kruger said that she understands that but the public doesn't know about it and something more needed to be done to get the word out. Mayor Bright stated that we give notices pursuant to the legal requirements. We can't go out there and bring them (people) in. They have to take on some responsibility like check the newspaper or they can also call us if they want to know more about what we are doing. We welcome anybody's involvement, we really do. Ms. Kruger said she did not believe public notices pursuant to the legal requirements were sufficient.

There were no further comments. Mayor Bright asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made and the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.