

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2008

Voting Members

Mayor Bobby Bright, City of Montgomery, MPO Chairman
Mayor Al Kelley, City of Millbrook
Mayor Frank Houston, Town of Coosada
Mayor Jim Byard, City of Prattville, MPO Vice Chairman
Mr. Todd Strange, Montgomery County Commission
Mr. Ken Groves, City of Montgomery
Mr. Charles Jinright, City of Montgomery

Non-Voting Members

Mr. Bill Tucker, CARPDC
Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS

Guests

Mr. Clint Andrews, FHWA
Mr. David Bollie, ALDOT
Mr. Reginald Franklin, CARPDC
Mr. Jerry Peters, City of Millbrook
Mr. Stuart Peters, City of Millbrook
Ms. Barbara Hendricks, ALDOT
Ms. Phyllis Kennedy, Consultant
Mr. Richie Beyer, Elmore County

MPO Staff

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

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Montgomery Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on September 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Mayor's Conference Room, Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Bright, MPO, Chairman at 2:00 pm. Mayor Bright stated that he had assessed a quorum after confirmation by Ken Groves, MPO Secretary. Guests were then recognized.

Mayor Bright asked if everyone had read the previous minutes and if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2008 meeting. There was a motion to adopt, seconded, and the minutes were adopted.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #5- Consideration of the Final FY 2009 UPWP document. Mr. Groves explained that this was the FY-2009 Unified Planning Work Program. This is the set of directions we will use during the course of the next year to guide the Transportation Planning staff and all the activities they will be performing including an updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and other required activities. Mr. Jinright moved to adopt, it was seconded and passed.

Mr. Strange asked the Chairman about the sub-committee that had formed and what that committee was supposed to do. Mayor Byard stated that they were to study the Revised MPO Operations Manual and that one person from each county was on the committee. They were Councilman Jinright, Mayor Byard, and Commissioner Faulk.

Agenda Item #6- Consider Proposal to Amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Smith stated that Page 2 covers the project to widen and Re-align Ann Street with Federal Drive. The cost has increased from \$100,000 to \$334,913 for PE. This is an increase of \$187,930 in Federal funds and \$46,983 in local matching funds. The project has been started.

Mr. Smith explained that Page 3 contains an Elmore County project which also has a cost increase. The project is to resurface CR-23 (Edgewood Rd) from CR-2 (Cobbs Ford Rd.) to SR-143. The cost has increased from \$385,500 to \$452,000 for construction. This is an increase of \$53,200 in Federal funds and \$13,800 in local matching funds. Mr. Groves commented that the Trust Fund will negative this month. Mr. Smith then stated that Congress had added another \$8 billion to keep it going until after the election. The money was loaned from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund.

Page 4 contains a State of Alabama Right-of-Way project on SR-14 at SR-143 in the Town of Elmore. The total cost is \$2 million and it is ALDOT money.

The last project is on page 5 and it is an Autauga County Transit Non Vehicle Capital (Computer and Printer) project. The cost is \$2,000.

There was no further discussion on these projects. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #7- Consider Final Rebalanced/Updated FY 2008-2011 TIP document. Mr. Smith explained that each year we have to update and rebalance our TIP just to make sure we don't have more projects programmed than we can afford. We have done that in concurrence with the State and Federal folks. Nothing really changed for us but that doesn't mean that it won't in the years to come. One change it does contain is on Page 10. It is an administrative modification so that we won't have to call any special meetings for small cost increases. As long as the change results in an increase of 20% or \$1 million, whichever is less, and then we can make the change as your staff. Up to \$1 million. We only had two extra meetings this year.

Mr. Smith added that on page 13, project #2 is an Autauga County project. That is the Authorized Projects list. There was no more discussion on the topic. A motion was made to adopt and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #8- Consider Final Public Involvement Plan. Mr. Smith explained that the document was updated at the request of the Federal Government and the State to reflect the new Federal legislation, SAFETEA-LU. It's basically our plan on how we try to involve the public in this process.

Mr. Strange asked if SAFETEA-LU was going to be reauthorized in 2010. He stated that the Chamber had talked to him about getting together to start thinking about what priority projects we, as a community, wanted to take forward to our Congressional representatives and may need another funding source.

Mr. Groves explained that after doing an analysis of our 2030 LRTP constrained list of projects, it appears that if we follow the normal process we'll need to cut out about \$62 million worth of projects that were already planned. Certainly those would be good candidates for additional

funding to request. We've also got to do a cost increase correction of all our project cost estimates. We may have to cut out \$62 million of funding and that could actually come out to be \$1 billion or more. Mr. Smith confirmed that the dollar amount was 1 billion due to updated costs compared to \$862 million.

Mayor Byard commented that he is on the Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee for the National League of Cities and they are reminding the congressional representatives that the National League does not want SAFETEA-LU reauthorized. It has some issues and we want a new bill.

The Chairman asked for a motion on the Public Involvement Plan. A motion was made, seconded and passed without further discussion.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #9- Discussion of Requested 2030 LRTP Amendment. Mr. Smith stated that the City of Millbrook and the Elmore County Commission made a request to amend the 2030 LRTP to include their two needed projects. Mr. Smith explained that every category in the Constraint Table is at a deficit when looked at in "today's cost" for projects which is what FHWA requested. A motion was made by Mayor Byard, seconded and passed to put the projects on the "Needs List" for the present time. At a later date the committee will need to remove some other projects in order for these two to be placed on the LRTP list if that was desired or wanted to be done.

Agenda Item #10- Mr. Groves commented that Dr. Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Congestion Management System Plan even though there was no quorum at the last meeting. The analysis showed where a lot of our congestion is located and that it is basically caused by signalization and access issues with the exception of locations where actual capacity improvements needed to be. No action was needed on the item.

Agenda Item #11- The Revised MPO Operations Manual. Mr. Smith stated that this was handled at the last meeting and no action was needed today and that it was just sent out for review.

Mayor Bright moved on to Agenda Item #12- Transportation Projects Status Report from ALDOT.

Mr. Bollie with ALDOT said they are working on a 6th division-wide turn lane project going on at various locations where turn lanes are needed. They will be done all over the 6th Division. He also said that the Oliver Creek bridge replacement project on Atlanta Hwy/US-80 is about to be let so you should see some action on it in 3-5 months. Also, I-85 @ Eastern Boulevard interchange is about to be let to construction to fix the bottleneck that occurs there daily. The bridge will be widened to add an additional lane where needed so that traffic doesn't back up at peaks times.

Mr. Strange asked if everything was ready for the Bell Street widening project to Maxwell AFB. Mr. Bollie said they have everything they need, but he has not heard if it was approved by FHWA. He also said the last information he was waiting for from the City of Montgomery has been turned in to the Right-of-Way section. Everything else is fine and ready to go. He commented that the letting is most likely set up for November right now. They have been moving month to month up to this point and that it had not been put on any scheduling list to date.

Mayor Byard asked about the letting for Old Farm Lane project. Mr. Bollie stated that he believes it is still set for February or March but would have to look to make sure. He also believes the SR-206 bridge is set for January also.

Mr. Strange asked about the I-85 overlay work. Mr. Bollie replied that they wanted to go back and do some more guard rail and shoulder work before they installed the overlay pavement around July or August 2008.

There was no further business or discussion. The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.