

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2007

Voting Members

Mayor Bobby Bright, Chairman, City of Montgomery
Mr. Randall Estes, ALDOT Sixth Division
Mayor Frank Houston, City of Coosada
Mayor Jim Byard, Vice Chairman, City of Prattville
Mr. Joe Faulk, Elmore County Commission
Mr. Ken Groves, City of Montgomery, Secretary
Mr. Charles Jinright, City of Montgomery
Mr. Cornelius Calhoun, City of Montgomery

Non-Voting Members

Mr. Bill Tucker, CARPDC

Guests

Mr. Kelvin Miller, MATS
Mr. David Bollie, ALDOT
Mr. Greg Clark, CARPDC
Mr. Randy Sain, SAIN Associates
Mr. Roger Collier, Johnson & Associates
Mr. Chris Conway, City of Montgomery

MPO Staff

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

At the special called meeting of the Montgomery Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on November 29, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the MATS Intermodal Facility Conference Room, Montgomery, Alabama, the aforementioned members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Bright, Chairman. Mayor Bright stated that he had assessed a quorum and if there were any introductions of guests. There were no guests but Mayor Bright introduced Mr. C.C. Calhoun as the new council person on the MPO as he was replacing Ms. Janet May.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #4 and asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2007 meeting. There was a motion to adopt, seconded, and the minutes were adopted.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda item #5 – Proposals to Amend FY 2008-2011 TIP. Mr. Smith detailed the projects as follows:

Page 1: State of Alabama: interchange modification adding loop ramp on I-85 at Perry Hill Road. Only adding construction to this project, total cost of this project with PE and construction is \$2,100,000.

Page 2: City of Montgomery project not a State of Alabama as currently shown for further construction of the Riverwalk in downtown Montgomery. High Priority project and an earmark from Congress for the City of Montgomery. Total cost allocated is \$1.5 million.

Page 3: New scope of the first phase Perry Hill Road (from I-85 off ramp to Harrison road) project adding Right of Way. Mayor Bright added that this project has been in the TIP before he was Mayor. Total Cost: \$250,000.

Mr. Smith began to explain the next set of projects (pages 5-11) were information only. Mayor Bright asked what was the difference in between the first set and the informational projects. Mr. Smith explained that these projects are state allocated and automatically added into the TIP and they are provided for the review of the MPO. Mr. Smith added that most of these projects are safety related with the exception of a few. Mr. Smith reviewed the informational projects. Mayor Byard asked the question of the project on page 5 for Autauga County traffic striping why is Autauga counties in this amendment and not Elmore and Montgomery counties? Mr. Smith answered that both Elmore and Montgomery were both included in the TIP and that all 67 counties received the allocation for traffic striping. Mr. Bollie explained that some have already been let. Mayor Byard motioned that this amendment be approved after the appropriate corrections. Motion was seconded and approved.

Mayor Bright moved to Agenda Item #6 Proposals to Amend 2030 LRTP. Mr. Groves stated that at the request of several members of the MPO it has been suggested that this item be carried over to the February meeting agenda, due to a meeting about I-85 at Wares Ferry Road at ALDOT and the other two projects are not quite ready to proceed at this time. The projects can be reviewed but the TCC did vote to continue carry it over. Mayor Bright asked if there were

any concerns with the carry over of this document. There was a motion to carry over and approved to carry the amendment of the 2030 LRTP over to the February meeting.

Mayor Bright stated that he is concerned from a City standpoint about the Wares Ferry Road project in the LRTP amendment, because why is this amount of money being spent on an interchange on Wares Ferry Road at I-85 when the Outer Loop is having problems. Much time and discussion has gone into the Outer Loop and why is this project (Wares Ferry) being prioritized over the Outer Loop. Mr. Estes of ALDOT stated that the question was perfectly legitimate, but he did not have the answer, but did know that the idea for the interchange started from concerns with development in the direction of Wares Ferry and traffic on US-80 and a number of other reasons, but it is not finalized but is on the board and being looked into. Mr. Estes continued to state it must be understood that with a \$25 million project, a \$60 million project and a \$300 million project, one can see which one could see which project could be done first. Also, few people may see the Outer Loop project completed so it then becomes a question for ALDOT of what can get done. This is one that may be doable but this is still up for debate and it is understandable that the MPO has questions and those questions will be answered. Mayor Bright stated that he is not displeased with this project but thinks that more information and time is needed. Mr. Jinright asked the progress on Chantilly Pkwy at the Mitylene exit of I85. Mr. Bollie and Mr. Estes stated that they did not have the information for that particular project with them at the time. Mr. Estes stated that the Outer Loop may be answer for the congestion on Wares Ferry and Mr. Groves stated that several business owners in the City of Montgomery were concerned about the plan for the Outer Loop. Mr. Estes stated that with this carry over to the next meeting that will give time for the questions of the MPO to be answered.

Mayor Bright moved Agenda Item #7 Transportation Project Status reports. Mr. Bollie of ALDOT stated the I-65 bridge project was basically done but there have been some changes. They are looking to add a 3rd lane from the northern bypass to I-85 using the shoulder of the road and adding it on to the bridge project. Mayor Bright asked was it on the outside. Mr. Estes stated that there would be no construction only striping and they were currently in discussion with FHWA about what could be used due to it currently being safety shoulder.

- Mr. Bollie continued that the rest of I-65 down to US-80, they are roughly 25% done and that it is scheduled to be complete in Oct. of 2009.

- Intersection of SR-143 and SR-14 the alternate #2 was the one chosen as there were questions at the last meeting about which alternate was chosen.
- US-231 –Casino project; project was ready to let but there is a hill with a moundish shape that needs to be investigated before that project can proceed.
- Tallapoosa River widening has not changed, scope of work is complete ready to begin design phase.
- I-85 from Perry Hill to Eastern Blvd on the north side/south bound is 98% complete but there are some lights that have been added and thus the small delay.
- I-85 from the interchange to Hall Street has been going on for 3 weeks and not much has been done.
- Madison Ave and Perry Hill Rd have both gone thru 30% review and both are on track
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Mayor Byard asked the question about the Alabama River widening. He thought it had already been widened? Mr. Estes stated that it was and currently only line striping and attempting to move as far on the inside and use minimum lane width to add a lane and capacity. FHWA is looking at the safety aspect but a good effort is being made, this in a Southern direction only. Mr Smith then said that they were looking at widening I-65 to 6 lanes from the Alabama River bridge to the North Blvd where the other 6 lanes pick up going to Prattville and Millbrook. He said that it would give 6 lanes of continuous flow instead of a bottleneck situation.

Mayor Bright moved to the Agenda Item #8 - General Session. Mayor Byard stated that the new Intermodal facility was beautiful and that he knows this has been an MPO project for some time. Mayor Bright stated that this is a much better facility for transit customers and further explained the features of the facility. With no further business, motion was made to adjourn and meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.