

**Mobile Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization and
Technical Citizens Committee Meeting
February 4, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
SARPC Boardroom**

MPO Members Present

Mr. Russell J. Wimberly (Rep Norman Walton)
Mr. Vince Calametti
Comm. Mike Dean
Mayor Sam Jones
Mr. Tyrone Parker
Comm. Mike Dean
Ms. Betty Donald (Rep. Mayor Ken Williams)
Mr. Joe Ruffer
Mayor Byron Pittman

TCC Members Present

Mr. George Crozier
Mr. Jackie Glasgow
Mr. Randy Delchamps
Ms. Betty Donald
Mr. Steve Perry
Ms. Lindsay Hutchisson
Mr. Nick Amberger
Ms. Margie Wilcox
Mr. John Bell
Ms. Jennifer White
Ms. Casi Callaway
Mr. John Murphy
Mr. Bill Metzger
Mr. David Yarbrough Rep. Mr. Thomas Hughes
Mr. Russell J. Wimberly

Guests:

Mr. Chris Miller
Mr. Mark Barlow
Mr. Don Powell

Staff:

Mr. Kevin Harrison
Ms. Monica Williamson
Mr. Tom Piper
Mr. Thomas Michie

MPO Members Absent

Mayor Don Nelson
Mayor Stan Wright
Mayor William Stewart
Councilman Reggie Copeland
Mr. Mark Bartlett
Mr. Robert Jilla
Councilman Troy Ephriam
Mayor Ron Davis
Councilman William Carroll

TCC Members Absent

Ms. Sandra Forbus
Mr. Donald Watson
Mr. Joseph Threadcraft
Ms. Ginny Russell
Mr. Bert Hoffman
Mr. Ricky Mitchell
Mr. James Foster
Mr. Bryan Kegley
Mr. James Jacobs
Mr. Janic Terry
Mr. Gerald Alfred
Ms. Jennifer Denson
Ms. Tywanda Jackson

Advisory Members Absent

Ms. Alfredo Acoff
Mr. Craig Thomas
Mr. Cornell L. Tatum
Mr. Dave Harris

MPO 2/4/2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sam Jones.

The second order of business was to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 10, 2008. Motion was made by John Bell with a second from Joe Ruffer. Minutes were approved.

The third order of business was to approve the minutes from the TCC/CAC meeting on January 21, 2009 with one correction being the last name of Nick Amberger. It was originally written as Nick Hamburger. Motion was made by Ms. Margie Wilcox with corrections and seconded by Mr. John Murphy. Minutes were approved.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for FTA 5316, FTA 5317 and FTA 5310 funds.

Mr. Harrison said this is the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. Just like our long range plan, certain federal funds have to be from a locally derived plan. I want Tom Piper to discuss the plan with ya'll.

Mr. Piper said this in your folder. It is the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. This is a federally required plan we have to do. Basically, it is a needs assessment for transit for projects eligible for funding under three specific pots of money: that's 5310 which is elderly and disabled; 5316 which is job access reverse commute that's work related trips; and 5317 which is New Freedom that's for projects for disabled that go above and beyond ADA requirements.

Mr. Piper continued 5310 is capital only and it is for elderly and disabled. 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute, that's capital and operating and there are two pots. There are urban area funds and there are rural area funds. The urban area funds are administered by the Wave Transit for the urban area. They are considered our designated recipient. For the rural area, it is the Department of Transportation, but it is soon to be the Alabama Department of Senior Services. New Freedom is the same as JARC; there are urban area funds and rural area funds. The urban area funds are administered by the Wave and the rural area funds are administered by the state.

Both JARC and New Freedom is capital and operating, Capital is funded at 80% federal. Operating is funded at 50% federal.

Mr. Harrison said if you turn to page 73 in your plan. This is the future applications of these federal funds. The first thing FTA is going to do if they get an application is there are going to look and see if it is part of this plan.

Mr. Piper said right, in order to apply for any of this money, your project has to be derived from this Coordinated Human Services Plan in order to be eligible.

Mr. Harrison said for those three pots of transit money.

Mayor Jones asked is it 80/20?

Mr. Harrison replied it is 80/20 capital and 50/50 operating.

Mr. Piper said but now, 5310 is only capital. It is not for operating.

Ms. Wilcox said is 5310 limited to nonprofits.

Mr. Piper said yes, 5310 is limited to municipalities, government agencies and nonprofits. The other two are available to for profits.

Mr. Wimberly said and this is updated every year.

Mr. Piper said yes, it is updated every year. This one is for 2008, but we haven't had an MPO meeting to adopt it. We will be updating it this year and at the end of fiscal year 2009, we'll have to do it again. Does anybody have any questions?

Mr. Piper said also for each of these pots of money, there is a Program Management Plan. At the urban area level it is called the Program Management Plan and it is developed by the Wave. This basically says how the funds will be distributed. It's a competitive process and it spells out all those steps. The State level funds of JARC and New Freedom have a plan called the State Transit Plan and it does the same thing. They have those plans. If you want to apply for that money, you have to follow the process that is spelled out in their management plan. We have the contact information available so you can get that. It's also available on our website.

Ms. Wilcox said I want to thank ya'll for your hard work. I know that ya'll have been working on this pretty steadily and it's a detailed document. So thank you staff for all that they've done on it.

Mr. Piper said does anybody have any questions about Coordinated Human Services.

A motion was made for a resolution to approve the plan. Motion made by Vince Calametti with a second by John Bell. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was to consider modification to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program as Proposed by ALDOT for Interstate Maintenance Funds.

Mr. Harrison said the next several items in your folder pertain to the Transportation Improvement Program, the five year schedule of funds. Every federal transportation dollar that comes into the study area has to be voted on by the MPO. That's why we are here today.

This is a right of way project for interchange improvements of I-65 and 43 South of Creola, \$156,000 on the schedule this year. The state is requesting it using Interstate Maintenance Funds and enter it into the schedule this month.

There being no discussion on this, motion was made by Joe Ruffer with a second by Commissioner Mike Dean to approve the modifications. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to consider modification to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program as Proposed by ALDOT for Bridge Funds.

Mr. Harrison said again this is the same type deal. ALDOT is requesting that these projects be included into the schedule of funds. It is to be funded with Bridge Funds. The first one is for replacing the bridge for US 90 over Franklin Creek which is down in St. Elmo. Also with bridge funds, two bridges to be replaced I-10 at US 90 interchange and widen the bridge at I-10 over Halls Mill Creek. That project is a \$6 million project.

Commissioner Dean made a motion that the modifications be approved with a second by Joe Ruffer. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was to consider modification to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program as Proposed by ALDOT for National Highway System Funds.

Mr. Harrison said, again, this is just a third category of federal funds, National Highway System. We have several projects here that's actually 5 different projects. First project is partial base and pave from Walter Tanner Road, this is for the new US 98, Walter Tanner Road to ½ mile east of Glennwood Road to be let in April, \$5.3 million. The second one is the preliminary engineering for the same road, the new US 98 from the Mississippi state line to ½ mile east of Glennwood Road. The next two projects are PE and Construction for the same project. To construct bridges at Georgetown Wilmer Road and Glennwood Road. It has a PE of a million dollars and construction is \$8.75 million. The next two projects, PE and Construction for the 158 extension for the new US 98, construct bridges at McRary Road and Lott Road and those are the same cost estimates for that project. 1 million for PE and \$8.75 million for construction. The last project that the state is requesting to be funded with National Highway System Funds is add lanes to I-10 from Carol Plantation to Halls Mill Creek, \$19.8 million. That project is a project in the long range plan. There are members from ALDOT here if anybody has any questions about these projects.

Ms. Callaway said I have questions about these projects. They are both, the majority of these projects are under two lawsuits right now involved with Highway 98 issues. I think it is premature to make a motion to start base and pave when we don't know the outcome of that lawsuit.

Mr. Calametti said the first project, the base and pave, is a partial base and pave. It's very similar, almost exact to what we are doing on the, it will just complete the partial base and pave on what is being constructed now. For of course, erosion reasons we want to try to get everything covered and stable as quick as possible and that is what that partial base and pave will do.

Ms. Callaway said so it's not stable now.

Mr. Calametti said well yes it is, but this will just continue, it will add another layer of stability, another layer of cover.

Ms. Callaway said again, I think it's premature to move forward on this when the lawsuits are in place and we don't know what the outcome of those are going to be. I think we are very close to resolution at least that's my hope and I believe MAWSS is as well although I can't speak for them. I think in another month we might know a whole lot more what will happen, and we might be very secure in making this decision.

Mayor Jones said we don't have a plan to meet in another month.

Ms. Callaway said we didn't have a plan to meet a month ago either.

Mayor Jones said because there's a lawsuit filed, does not have a bearing on rather we approve the modification for funding on these projects. If a lawsuit stops the projects, then fine, but I don't think we are in a position not to act.

Ms. Callaway said Mayor Jones if I may disagree with you on that.

Mayor Jones said you may do that. You have a right to do that. People do that all the time.

Ms. Callaway said on this issue, the majority of our argument with this project, especially at the beginning of this project became because we were not vocal and we were not clear about our intentions and concerns. I think it is very important for this commission as a whole to look at this project and find good, productive ways to work together and be committed to finding the right projects and the best way to move forward. To call a meeting or to do this again will take five minutes of people's schedules and it would be smarter and more responsible for all of us if we knew we weren't spending very critical transportation dollars on a project that may need to be changed dramatically.

Mayor Jones said what would you suggest we do with the dollars.

Ms. Callaway said I think you have lots of other road projects you want to do. I have heard many projects that wants to be done in this group alone.

Mayor Jones said I will make sure the minutes lists your objections. As far as the MPO is concerned, the MPO is in a position to vote it up or down as far as the modification is concerned.

Joe Ruffer moved for the approval of the modification with a second by Commissioner Dean. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda is consider modification to FY2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program as proposed by the Mobile MPO TCC/CAC for STP Attributable Funds.

Mr. Harrison said as most of you know the Technical Coordinating/Citizens Advisory Committee met on January 21st. We hashed out a new schedule for attributable funds. It

was out of balance and has been out of balance since the fall of '08. The schedule is in your folder. The only recommendation that requires a resolution from the MPO would be to move Project 6, Zeigler Blvd from Cody to Schillinger. That construction would have to be moved out to 2011 to 2012. There were some other modifications which you see in italics. Those do not require a resolution from the MPO. Only a project moved in or out requires a resolution. At the end of that meeting on the 21st, we had a balanced schedule of funds by moving that project out.

Since that time which has been a little over two weeks, several things have happened. Old Shell Road from Hillcrest to Schillinger, last week, that cost estimate went up by almost about \$2 million. That's project 1. As you see there, it is Fiscal Year 2009. The state also has money tied to that project so the total cost for that project is about \$15 million. Also since last week, Zeigler Boulevard, Forest Hill to Cody Road has been moved back a year to 2010 and that cost estimate for construction is \$10,134,000. And, the carryover from 2008 dropped some so we've had three things happen since our last TCC meeting. So if I might make a recommendation to the board, to table this resolution, because what's going to happen is that Old Shell Road from Hillcrest to Schillinger is supposed to be let February 27th a different or lower cost estimate might come in after that date so I recommend that the TCC meet after that and table this resolution for now because the TCC might have to meet sometime in March and do a whole new schedule.

Mayor Jones asked what was the rationale for moving Zeigler Boulevard back.

Mr. Harrison said in order to have a bottom line positive balance in all four years, 2008, 9, 10, 11, we couldn't do that without moving a project out.

Mayor Jones said yes, I understand that. I'm talking about how did you arrive at a project.

Mr. Piper said you are talking about number 3 right?

Mr. Harrison said number 3 was pushed back a year, it was threatened. Number 6 was recommended to be pushed from 2011 to 2012.

Mr. Ruffer said Mayor, they are having to use cost estimates supplied the state. That's the requirement. It has to balance; federal law requires that it be balanced so we're just going through the paperwork shuffle. I think Kevin is exactly right, when Old Shell project bids I think we are going to see it come in 3 or 4 or 5 million dollars under the state's estimate and then we go back and redo all this stuff.

Mayor Jones said that's the reason for tabling.

Mr. Harrison said yes, we don't want to move the project to the outer year.

Mayor Jones said yes, I just don't want to see it in one of those dream years.

Mr. Harrison said that's why I'm recommending that we table it. And we don't know what is going to happen with the stimulus package.

Mr. Ruffer made a motion to table the resolution for modification of attributable funds with a second by Vince Calametti. Motion to table resolution passed.

The next item on the agenda was Old Business.

Mayor Jones said will someone talk to us a little bit about the status of 98.

Mr. Calametti said the current project is from just east of the Mississippi line to just east of Glenwood Street. The project is moving forward. We have crews working in all areas. Contractors are probably 80% complete. The grade and drain should be completed in April/May, somewhere in that time frame. There is partial base and pave that is ongoing. It will go from the western most end of the project all the way to Walter Tanner. The project that was voted on today will pick up at Walter Tanner and will continue through the limits of the current contract. We are currently looking at the 158 Extension Project that will connect current project to the Schillinger Road project. We are looking at all the issues that we have learned from on this existing contract. The redesign is ongoing. Some of the projects to be included in this are part of the PE budgets to start those plans. We are looking at and surveying the Snow Road Connector from the existing project over to 98. As Ms. Callaway said there is litigation going on and there has been some movement, but they are not solved. Everybody is working really hard for a resolution.

Mayor Jones said and what is ALDOT's official status of the bridge project.

Mr. Calametti said I'm sorry which one.

Mayor Jones said I-10.

Mr. Calametti said the Mobile River Crossing.

Mayor Jones said yes.

Mr. Calametti said the decision to eliminate the northern route has come out. The EIS process is continuing. I'm not sure of the time table of it right now.

Mayor Jones said so you are officially listing it as the EIS being completed.

Mr. Calametti said no, the process is continuing.

Mayor Jones said the EIS portion.

Mr. Calametti said yes. I don't know the time table of that. I would hope that within the next few months.

Mayor Jones said but even with the EIS, if the EIS was complete today, there's no dedicated funding for it, is that correct.

Mr. Calametti said that's correct.

Mayor Jones said any questions on old business.

Mr. Bell said in regards to the EIS, will it determine the specific route?

Mr. Calametti said eventually that's what the process is, to recommend a specific route.

Mayor Jones said there will be another occasion for some local input in that.

Mr. Calametti said yes.

There being no other old business, Mayor Jones called for new business.

Mr. Harrison said I have several items under new business. As everyone knows the stimulus package, I'll give you a brief update as far as what I know about it. The House passed an \$819 Billion Bill that's \$30 Billion for Highway, 12 for Transit, 3 for airports and 1.1 for inner city rail. What that means for Alabama is about \$560 million for Alabama, 25% of that is to be determined by the MPO's and that translates to about \$110 million for MPO's. If they use formula funds, it will be about \$18 million for Mobile MPO.

Someone said excuse me, how much is that for Mobile.

Mr. Harrison said about \$18 million for Mobile. That is the House version. The Senate version has about 27 Billion for highways, 45% of that is to be determined locally. 8.4 for transit, 3.1 for inner city, 1.31 for airports. Now there is also the 5.5 Billion discretionary funds for projects between 20 million and 500 million. I think those discretionary funds are going to go the state. It changes and I'll try to keep everybody up to date.

Commissioner Dean said well the County Commission has list their wish list for the lack of a better term. We will be working with the state DOT and the one thing that concerns me is that this is a stimulus package and we need to get as much road work because we've got approximately \$50 million worth of road projects ready to go. We want to let you know that when the money comes we're ready to get it going.

Mayor Jones said there is some discussion between the Administration and the House and the Senate. The House is of the opinion that most of the money should be handled locally. The Senate is of the opinion that they should send it through the state. There's a lot of discussion in conference committee about that because they totally disagree on that should take place. That is some of the discussion that is taking place up there and what they want to do, the idea was to get it on the street as soon as possible and they think the process of going through this lengthy process would really cause it not to reach the goal of what they really put the stimulus package together for. I know the US Conference of Mayors and the League of Cities are really pushing for as much local control of the money as possible. Something very similar to the Community Development Block Grant and those grants that come directly to communities. Then they were saying that what should go to the state should go to the state, but the local shouldn't have to go to the state to get back local is what they are pushing. So that's some of the discussion that we've seen up there. Then there's a lot of discussion of how much should go for infrastructure

and how much should go for other areas so I expect that is going to go on for a little while at this point.

Mr. Ruffer asked the 18 million was attributable funds.

Mr. Harrison said if 25% is to be determined by the MPO and Mr. ____ said yesterday that \$110 million to the state was to be spent by MPOs so that 110 million would be the same formula as urban areas would translate to about 18 million.

Mr. Ruffer said but that would be like attributable funds then which would be handled through...

Mr. Harrison not necessarily have to be spent on what's in the attributable now.

Mr. Ruffer said but it would be handled through the MPO.

Mr. Harrison said right.

Mr. Ruffer said okay, initially the MPO would make that decision. That's what I was trying to understand. \$18 million is not something we can negotiate for. It is to be handled through the MPO.

Mr. Harrison said right.

Mayor Jones asked anything further under new business.

Mr. Harrison said yes, I have a couple of things. I am going to recommend to the MPO in our next budget, the UPWP which we will start working on here in the next couple of months that we do a ITS Study with carryover money that we had from 2008. It would be about \$150,000 and what the project is going to do is. It will be a rerouting study so if there's a crash or accident on the interstate system in Mobile, every link will have a reroute feature laid out. It will be using ITS for the state. It will be about \$150,000 that I'm going to include in the next budget.

Mr. Wimberley said ITS stands for...

Mr. Harrison said Intelligent Transportation System. Also, we are in the middle of our Long Range Plan right now. We've collected our socio-economic data. We've collected building permits for new residences from the county and the cities. We compiled that data and added it to the 2000 Census. So the county in 2000 had about 150,000 households and our study area which is the green area over here on the map, had 141,000 households. After our data collection, the county had 162,600 households and our study area had about 155,000 households. So right now we are doing projections for both households and socioeconomic data employees. It's estimated that in the year 2035, which will be the horizon date for our next long range plan, the base year is going to be 2007, there will be anywhere between 200 and 205,000 households will be in the county and the study area will have about 190,000 households. That's based on not only household linear regression trend analysis, but Alabama Power provided me with the customers and I can do a trend analysis with Alabama Power customers which matched

the households. We are doing the same for retail. In 2007 there were 183,500 employees in the study area. Right now we are working on projections for that. We are meeting with all the cities and county. We have already met with Satsuma and we're meeting with Chickasaw tomorrow. I have a worksheet and aerial photographs and I want from each of the municipalities and building inspectors what they think their projection would be for their jurisdictions. In the past when we did these projections it was always upstairs in a vacuum. Now, I want some accountability from each city of where you think your projections are going to be.

Mayor Jones asked are you going to communicate that.

Mr. Harrison said yes, so that's going to be

Mr. Piper said regarding the stimulus package, last week we received a letter and all the county and cities should be receiving one regarding transportation enhancements which are bike/pedestrian trails, downtown beautification projects, things like that. The Transportation Enhancement Program has been around for years, but they are now asking for projects to be submitted again like a wish list but for transportation enhancements. The state is asking for this. They want a project description, a location map and an estimated cost. This 100% federally funded and they don't state how much money is going to be available. I guess they don't know, but 50% of the funds will be awarded to projects that can be bid within 150 days and the remaining 50% will be awarded to projects that can be bid by July 1, 2010. If you want to do some sort of project, pedestrian trail, you need to let Alabama Department of Transportation Multimodal Montgomery know about it. If you haven't received one of these, let me know, and I'll get you a copy. I just wanted to call that to your attention.

Mayor Jones said can we change the terminology from wish list to priority projects. I think we might do a little better calling it priority projects. Anything further.

Mayor Jones said let me welcome Mayor Pittman who is a new member of the MPO. We also have Mayor Stewart who is not here today is going to be a new member of the MPO. Chickasaw and Satsuma. Mayor Pittman is from Chickasaw so welcome, nice to have you.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Chairman, TCC

Chairman, MPO