

**Mobile Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization and
Technical/Citizens Committee Meeting
June 14th 2006, 10:00 a.m.
SARPC Boardroom**

MPO Members Present

Mr. John Bell (Rep. Mayor Sam Jones)
Mr. Russell J. Wimberly (Acting Chairman)
Mr. Norman Walton
Commissioner Mike Dean
Councilman William Carroll
Mr. Bob Williams
Ms. Betty Donald (Rep. Mayor Ken Williams)
Mr. Ron Poiroux
Ms. Shayla Jones Beaco (Rep. Mayor Ron Davis)
Mr. Bill Couch (Rep. Mr. Joe Wilkerson)

TCC Members Present

Mr. Kevin Harrison
Ms. April Delchamps
Ms. Betty Donald
Mr. Tom Piper
Mr. Russell J. Wimberly
Mr. Craig Thomas
Ms. Margie Wilcox
Mr. Joseph Threadcraft
Ms. Deborah Byrd
Mr. Larry Cook
Mr. John Bell
Mr. Bill Metzger
Mr. John Murphy
Mr. Donald Watson
Mr. Jackie Glasgow
Ms. Shayla Jones Beaco
Ms. Sandra Forbus

Guests:

Mr. Bill Couch, ALDOT
Mr. Donald C. Powell, ALDOT
Mr. Bert Eichold, MCHD
Ms. Casi Callaway, Mobile Baykeepers
Mr. James Foster, Mobile County
Ms. Lindsay Hutchisson, Mobile Association of Retarded Citizens
Mr. Ronald Adler, ASPA
Mr. Chris Miller, SARPC

MPO Members Absent

Mayor William Bush
Mayor Sam Jones
Mayor Stan Wright
Mayor Jim Trout
Mr. Robert Jilla
Mayor Don Nelson
Councilman Reggie Copeland

TCC Members Absent

Ms. Alfredo Acoff
Mr. Dave Harris
Mr. Bay Haas
Dr. Emmanuel Oranika
Mr. Len Lacour
Mr. Bay Haas
Mr. Joe Ruffer
Mr. Cornell L. Tatum
Mr. Bob Vogtner
Mr. Bill Sisson
Mr. Bert Hoffman

Ms. Jennifer White, City of Mobile

Mr. Russell Wimberly was acting chairman at the June 16, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Russell Wimberly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., June 16, 2006. Motion was made by Mr. Norman Walton to approve the Minutes of the March 30, 2005 MPO/TCC meeting as mailed, second by Mr. Ronnie Poiroux. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wimberly called to order the the third item on the agenda, Consider Modifying the Composition of the MPO the Voting Membership to include the Mobile County Engineer as a Voting Member (Resolution).

Mr. Kevin Harrison said the first resolution you will find in your folder is to revise the voting membership of the MPO. Right now we have thirteen members on the voting board of the MPO. The City of Mobile has the three representatives, Mayor Jones, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Copeland, the County has one representative, Commissioner Dean, and we have the mayors of Prichard, Chickasaw, Saraland, Satsuma, Creola, and Bayou La Batre, a Regional Planning Commission member, the general manager of the Wave Transit and the ninth division Engineer. This resolution is actually just a request to Director McInnes, which will constitute as the Governor's approval. Once you get approval from Director McInnes to include the County Engineer as a 14th voting member, then the county engineer will have his seat on the voting board and get the coveted blue folder.

Mr. Wimberly said anyone from Mobile County want to add some things, John.

Commission Mike Dean said I would especially like to ask you to approve this resolution on behalf of the Commission because the engineer needs to have a seat at this table. Because there are times I may not be here, and this is such an important seat to be on, and our engineer needs to be here to help interject what is happening throughout the County not just one or two particular districts or one commissioners viewpoint even, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Ruffer have been involved for so many years, and I hope that they can continue to be here.

Mr. Wimberly said would you like to structure that little talk as a formal motion.

Mr. John Bell said I just have a question regarding quorum going from 13 to 14. Doesn't that leave the possibility of a tie?

Mr. Harrison said it does. If we have 14 members show up that would be a good thing, but you are absolutely right and I have thought of that and we will cross that bridge when we get there.

Mr. Donald Watson what is the extent of the County's representation at this time?

Mr. Wimberly said Kevin.

Mr. Harrison said right now Commissioner Dean is on our board as a voting member.

Councilman William Carroll said what constitutes the need for growth for county to get more representation? The number of people?

Mr. Harrison said it is number of people. Right now the City of Mobile in the STP Attributable funds. The money that the MPO actually votes on. There is about 8.5 million dollars worth of projects that the city is providing the match for it, but there is about 50 million dollars worth of projects in that schedule that the county is providing a match for it.

Councilman Carroll said does the county want those, on those projects distributed to other than just unincorporated areas and aren't those other municipalities represented wholeheartedly on this board?

Mr. Harrison said yes.

Councilman Carroll said so it would be safe to say that the unincorporated areas do not give 50 million dollars of that money and there should have been money laid out to supercede the need for...

Mr. Wimberly said what moneys. Do you know what moneys the unincorporated county gets?

Mr. Harrison said no. I would have to go thru the TIP.

Councilman Carroll said I think that is the type of information that we need to even consider adding a second seat for the county. If they are representing unincorporated areas and you have representation throughout the county... representing their individual municipalities then I think the county is well represented.

Mr. Ronnie Poiroux said just thinking of the projects we got in, it's probably the majority of the....is out in the unincorporated areas.

Councilman Carroll said I just want to justify it. Show me the numbers.

Mr. Wimberly said we can do that councilman. We can get the numbers to you.

Mr. Murphy said as far as the numbers I think we should look at how much representation Mobile has for the number of projects on there.

Councilman Carroll said there are three of us from the city. I know that very well. I just want to make sure that what we are doing is constituted that's all.

There were no further discussions, motion to approve Consider Modifying the Composition of the MPO the Voting Membership to include the Mobile County Engineer as a Voting Member (Resolution) was made by Commissioner Mike Dean, second by Mr. Ronnie Poiroux. Motion passed with Councilman William Carroll abstaining.

RESOLUTION

**MOBILE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MATS)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

Revising the Voting Membership of the MPO

WHEREAS, 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 1607 require that each urbanized area, as a condition of receiving Federal capital assistance for transportation projects, have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process (“3-C process”) that results in plans and programs which consider all transportation modes and are consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in the federal codes cited above, the Metropolitan Planning Organization in each urban area is responsible for policy decisions guiding the transportation planning process for that area; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Mobile Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization is designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama in an Agreement dated March 3, 1995, and revised on June 30th, 1999 and April 9th, 2003, by and between Mobile County, the municipalities of Mobile, Prichard, Chickasaw, Saraland, Satsuma, Creola, and Bayou la Batre, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the Wave Transit, and the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Mobile County Commission requests to include the position of Mobile County Engineer as a voting member to the Metropolitan Planning Organization ; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization, in session this 14th day of June, 2006, hereby revises, in accordance with Article 3.3 of the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization By-laws, the voting membership of the Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization by including the position of Mobile County Engineer as a voting Member to the MPO, resulting in fourteen (14) voting MPO members, and requests the concurrence of the State of Alabama in same.

Mr. Wimberly called to order the fourth item on the agenda, Consider Revisions to FY 2006 Transportation Improvement Program as Proposed by ALDOT (Resolution).

Mr. Harrison said the second resolution in your folder is the States Any Area funds. This is for the construction of a bridge over the CSX Railroad to connect I-10 and Virginia Street to the new Choctaw Point Terminal. Construction is this year for 10 million dollars. I think there are representatives from the State Docks here if anybody has any questions.

Mr. Harrison asked who did the engineering on that and I just want to make sure bridge when it comes into Virginia Street if that happens, where it happens. Is there any correlation to.

Mr. Joseph Threadcraft said yes HDR is our engineer on record for the Virginia Street access and in regards to the temporary improvements that we will need at the I-10 interchange. The design is

not counterproductive to what as been have laid out. As a matter of fact we met last week with ALDOT and we are 35% finished.

Mr. Harrison said okay.

Mr. Ronnie Piroix said note on the I-10 bridge, we have not finalized the alignment so it's all preliminary. To design this new bridge which will provide grade access into Choctaw Point without being hit by the railroads.

There were no further discussions, motion to approve Consider Revisions to FY 2006 Transportation Improvement Program as Proposed by ALDOT (Resolution) was made by Mr. Norman Walton, second by Commissioner Mike Dean. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION

MOBILE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MATS) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Modifying the FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program

WHEREAS, certain provisions of Title 23 USC and provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century governing urban transportation planning under the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration require the preparation and adoption of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which sets forth the types and amounts of funds to be used for transportation projects in the study area; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the criteria enumerated therein, the MATS MPO did adopt on September 7, 2005, and revise on November 30th, 2005, and April 26, 2006, an FY 2006 - 2010 TIP which details funding for proposed transportation projects in the MATS area; and,

WHEREAS, since that time, the Alabama Department of Transportation has requested that the TIP be amended to include funding for additional projects as described below:

FHWA STP ANY AREA FUNDS

**100048640 new bridge construction over CSXT
Railroad to connect I-10 @ Virginia Street to Ezra
Trice Blvd leading to Choctaw Point Terminal CNFY2006 \$ 10,000,000**

now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after review and evaluation, the MATS Metropolitan Planning Organization in session this 14th day of June, 2006, does hereby modify the FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program as summarized above.

Mr. Wimberly called to order the fifth item on the agenda, Consider Revisions to FY 2006 Unified

Planning Work Program to include the CommuteSmart Program (Resolution).

Mr. Harrison said if you remember the last MPO meeting April gave a brief presentation on our Rideshare program, which we are about to launch. It is a little more in depth than we thought. Originally I intended for it to be an internet carpool matching program which turns out we are going to need some assistance from a consultant to do that. We are taking \$18,750 dollars out of the Task 1.5 Computer Assistance, because that's where Rideshare was and we created a new Task Rideshare Program to handle that in order to hire a consultant to help with that program. We just got approval from the State and we will be advertising that probably this week.

There were no further discussions, motion to approve Consider Revisions to FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program to include the CommuteSmart Program (Resolution) was made by Mr. Ronnie Poiroux, second by Mr. Bob Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION

MOBILE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MATS) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Modifying the Unified Planning Work Program, FY 2006

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation requires all urbanized areas, as established by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, doing areawide urban transportation planning that involves more than one Department of Transportation operating administration to submit a Unified Planning Work Program as a condition for meeting the provisions of Title 23, U. S. Code, Section 134; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the declaration of these provisions and pursuant to its duties, functions, and responsibilities, the Mobile Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted the FY2006 Unified Planning Work Program on September 7, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, since that time, The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) has incurred the need to hire a consultant and has requested the approval of the Alabama Department of Transportation to hire a consultant to assist with the Mobile CommuteSmart Program ; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget revisions have been advertised for public comment for over three weeks and no adverse comments have been received; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the MATS MPO in session this 14th day of June, 2006, that after review and evaluation, the same does hereby revise the adopted FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program budget as follows:

- Creation of Task 6.3 *Rideshare Program* with total funding being \$18,750, to hire a consultant to assist with Mobile CommuteSmart.
- Decrease funding for Task 1.5 *Computer Assistance* to \$16,750 a decrease of \$18,750.

Mr. Wimberly called to order the sixth item on the agenda, Review of the Draft FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Harrison said in your second MPO notice everybody should have received a draft copy of the UPWP, this is our planning budget for FY2007. Does everybody have a copy? We have a couple extra if somebody does not have a copy. There was a couple of changes. We got an additional \$33,000 for next years budget, which was absorbed throughout the task. The planning money that comes from the state, FTA 5303 money was combined, which is different, so the numbers may not match up if you look at and compare this years budget to last years budget. This is just a draft. The MPO will adopt this in September, and we will have it out for public review for 30 days. Then we will have to adopt by October 1st. We will put it out to 50 different places around the county. The two other major changes. 6.3 which we just included into the UPWP for this year, and it is carried over to next year. It not only includes the consultant, and for those of you looking it is on pages 13 and 14, but we also, the total amount for that is \$63,500 because this is going to be one of April's main tasks, the CommuteSmart commute program. The emergency ride home, if you do sign up to carpool and you live in west Mobile and work in Pascagoula or one of the chemical plants, you prove that you carpooled that day and you get stuck at work, we are going to pay for you to come home and that will be funded with Job Access Reverse Commute money. Another major change in the budget is task number 7, Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Planning. Because of SAFETEA-LU, we now have to do a coordinated public transit human services transportation plan, which between now and October 1st, we will basically have a needs assessment. We will find pockets of underserved population for the elderly and handicapped for transit and we will find pockets that overlap in service. We will need the help of anyone that receives 5310, Job Access Reverse Commute money, or New Freedom money in order to do this plan that is due October 1st. We are going to do that inside the Mobile Study Area with MPO funds and outside of the study area will be the regional commission boundaries and we will receive extra money to do that. In FY07, we are going to have to come up with a way to coordinate those services that use all those different federal pots of money. That is about the only changes between the budget.

Mr. Tom Piper said on the Coordinated Public Transportation Human Services Transportation Plan, Federal Transit Authority said that from now on if you want that transit money, you want FTA dollars, then that project has to be in this plan in order to qualify. It is not eligible if it is not in this plan, so if you want that money, it has got to be there. That is why we need to know.

Mr. Wimberly said let me just add also. Kevin briefly mentioned that we are going to do, we being the regional planning commissions, and the other 11 regional planning commissions in the State of Alabama are going to be doing this Coordinated Human Services Plan for the whole state, outside of MPO boundaries, so what Tom has said that even outside if you want, if the agencies that have these needs for disabled and elderly in order to qualify for future funding or future opportunities, they are going to have to be in this plan. There are two plans from our region, if you will, actually three if you count the Lillian or Pensacola MPO, but that is over in Florida. Two plans, one for the MPO area which is the urbanized area and the rest of the three county regions who are not in the MPO. We are in the process of negotiating a contract with the multimodal part of ALDOT to do that. We have agreed, we being the 12 regional planning commissions, are being provided \$150,000 to do all of the state of Alabama outside of the MPO area. The South Alabama Regional Planning portion of the \$150,000 is \$10,878. We are going to make best use of that money as we can to try

to get that done. Knowing full well that we have got to touch all of the service providers whether they are public service providers, BRATS, in Escambia County the ECATS or whether it is private providers as well, or other agencies like MARC and so on. So there are going to be two plans provided to ALDOT to meet the SAFETEA-LU needs One from the MPO side and the other from the multimodal/rural side if you want to call it that. There is no action on this item other than just information right.

Mr. Harrison said correct. We are submitting this UPWP to ALDOT tomorrow.

Mr. Wimberly said Margie.

Ms. Margie Wilcox said I would like to invite everybody, I did work with the state of Florida and I coordinated, I am the community transportation coordinator in Escambia and Santa Rosa County. While we are doing this, I would invite us to go over there and look at that as an example. I would host the whole group.

Mr. Wimberly said that is a good point. Thank you. I appreciate that. Again there is no action on this. Bill you got something.

Mr. Bill Metzger said I wanted to ask. I am trying to find \$300,000 in planning money to do signal improvements in the city. With gas prices the way they are, we need to coordinate our traffic signals better. We need to tie some signals together that are isolated and I am looking for funding. I need about \$300,000. A good portion of that could be planning money. Last time we retimed our traffic signals, we did it with planning money. I did not know if this was the place where we could.

Mr. Wimberly said Bill let's have that under new business. Any further discussion about the proposed draft UPWP.

Old Business.

New Business.

Mr. Wimberly said now Bill you may go.

Mr. Metzger said like I said with the gas prices going out of sight. People complaining about signal timing all over. Every so often we need to go in and retime all of our signals. But our staff, we do not have the number of people to do that. What we have done in the past is hire a consultant. We did it last time with planning funds. We have a couple of intersections on Airport that are not coordinated. They run totally isolated. I would like to tie those together in the system also look for funding to do that whatever it takes. I know this might not be the appropriate time of the year to bring this up, but it needs to be done as quick as we can do it.

Mr. Harrison said you are right we did do a signal timing study with planning funds and I do not know what has changed at ALDOT, but we are not allowed to use those funds anymore for signal timing studies, that is considered operations and as far as the TIP budget, we really do not have any extra money. If you look at your schedule, it may look like we have extra money. We have in fiscal

year '06 we have \$400,000 extra dollars in '06 but that's not extra because I am sure in the past couple of weeks or past couple of months, we have had several projects skyrocket in price and there are some projects that are still left unauthorized that may again skyrocket in price that is going to eat up that extra \$400,000. So what I suggest is next time we have a TCC meeting whether it be in the next several months or a year from now, when we have to develop a new TIP. We get together and include that project with attributable funds.

Mr. Metzger said if that is as quick as we can do it, then we will go that route. I mean it is a possibility with everything overrunning that you may have quite a bit of money left over because another project overrun so much that you got enough money you cannot do anything with there is still a considerable amount of money. Sometime during the year.

Mr. Wimberly said I think you know what we can do. The way to do it by the book is to bring the project to the TCC and have them review it before we add it to the TIP. However, if there is any surplus money we could put that on our radar screen at this point and go from there for this fiscal year, maybe perhaps into the next.

Mr. Harrison said well I would suggest we wait. This fiscal year has three more months. I would suggest we wait until the next fiscal year to look at.

Mr. Wimberly said anything else Bill.

Mr. Metzger said could they clarify why you cannot use planning money now.

Mr. Harrison said no. Mr. Couch I do not know.

Mr. Bill Couch said I do not know if our planning money has been used before.

Mr. Metzger said we can show you in the budget where it was.

Mr. Couch said what kind of planning money was it?

Mr. Harrison said it was PL funds. Because it was planning funds that came out of the UPWP that did a signal timing study.

Mr. Couch said I don't know how it was done.

Ms. Wilcox said I thought you tied it in when the Airport Boulevard exit was done. If I recall correctly you did tie it into the mall area to the new intersection. ?

Mr. Metzger said it is a totally separate project to do it. It has got the biggest bang for your buck. Retiming moving traffic.

Mr. Wimberly said when was that timing study last done.

Mr. Metzger said about 4 years ago.

Mr. Harrison said we can certainly bring it up the next time the TCC meets.

Mr. Wimberly said any other new business.

Mr. Harrison said I have one quick item. I would like to appoint Jennifer White of the City of Mobile and James Foster of Mobile County as official members of our technical coordinating committee and reflected so in the minutes.

Mr. Wimberly said does that require a motion. Any discussion on those two individuals joining the TCC. Okay, so recorded in the minutes. Bob you had some new business.

Mr. Bob Williams said yes I just wanted to officially use this forum as one of the ways to announce that we are going to be increasing our fares in the month of August, so that it is on the record in hte community and actually City Council. The Wave Transit announces that effective August 1st, 2006, fare increases will be put in place for fixed route and the brokered transportation departments which is the elderly and senior services, elderly assistance program or MAP. Fixed route will be increased to a dollar and a quarter from it's current dollar fare and brokered will be increased to \$2.50 from it current 2 dollar fare. Public Hearing will be held during the month of July to address any concerns the riders and stakeholders have and we will announce those later on. Also wanted to report what is going on not just public transportation or transportation in general is trying to educate the community. The Coastal Alabama, the Envision Coastal Alabama group has had a number of transit conferences over the last year and half now are working on another conference. They are going to call this a legislative conference for later on this summer. Sometime in August. They do not have a date yet but the focus of ths one is to get all of the legislators together in one group and hear from one or two communities about the success of putting together a regional system and how activity and the economic growth that comes with that. It is very positive and then also there is a larger effort going on the state of Alabama in Montgomery to bring together a state transit summit later on this year that will have, not just public transit but roads as well the roads are building up faster than ever these days and facing a difficult time and growing Alabama's economy if we don;t start looking at that more closely. So that is going on also. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for sometime in November, we don't have dates yet.

Mr. Wimberly said let me add a little bit about Bob's second comment, not about your fare, but the first part about the regional transit thing. Envision Coastal Alabama had a meeting over in Robertsdale at which time there were representative from our counties in the south Alabama region as well as the counties north of us, Washington, Clarke and those counties. It was questioned and Congressman Joe Bonner was there. He was more or less the host of the meeting. It was questioned whether we, whoever we are, need to look at some sort of regional transit coalition for want of a better word. The consensus in the audience and the agreement at the podium was yes we do and Joe Bonner came down the stage and grabbed me and said I would like the regional commission on as an issue in a study and we met with Joe last week and talked to him about it. I have made some coordination efforts with my counterpart the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission which has the 10 counties north of us, but what we are looking is just the four counties north of us. We are looking at doing some sort of assessment and coordination between whatever systems are out there whether they be private or public to see how to better meet the needs, the transit needs in our lower Alabama region, so it is not just the Wave. It's the BRATS, the ECATS, its whatever Washington,

Clark, Conecuh, and Monroe have and whatever private ones are out there like Margie's and others to look at getting people, the primary thing is economic development, getting people to and from work and on the other side, the social side, getting people to and from doctors, pharmacy and so on. So as things unfold with that in the future, we will certainly communicate that to the MPO as well as our member governments.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

ATTEST:

Chairman, TCC

Chairman, MPO