

MINUTES OF THE  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING  
HELD JUNE 12, 2013  
3:45 p.m.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization met on June 12, 2013, at 3:15 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, there being present:

Metropolitan Planning Organization Members Present:

Mayor Tommy Battle	City of Huntsville
Mayor Troy Trulock	City of Madison
Chairman Dale Strong	Madison County Commission
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads
Mr. Johnny L. Harris	ALDOT/Guntersville
Councilman John Olshefski	Huntsville City Council

Members Absent:

Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
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Non-Voting Members Present:

Ms. Nancy Robertson	TARCOG
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Staff Members Present:

Ms. Tanjia Kling  
Mr. James Moore  
Mr. Dennis Madsen  
Ms. Connie Graham  
Mr. James Vandiver

Mayor Battle called the meeting to order. He stated that the first item on the agenda was the adoption of the minutes of the prior meeting.

The minutes of the MPO meeting on February 27, 2013, were approved as submitted.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mayor Battle asked for an explanation of the above resolution.

Mr. James Moore, City of Huntsville Planning Department, stated that this was the Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Unified Planning Work Program, which he noted was due at ALDOT by Friday of the current week. He continued that the final version would be due by September 23, 2013. He stated that, basically, this was their work program, showing what they did and the tasks performed in the Planning Office, such as reports, collecting data, and things of that nature.

Mayor Battle asked if it was correct that this was, in essence, a work plan showing what they did and what their processes were to do everything they had to do for the Federal programs.

Mr. Moore stated that it was the priorities and activities they had planned for the coming year.

Mayor Trulock read and introduced a resolution adopting the Draft Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2014,

as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 8-13)

Mayor Trulock moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution concerning the Transportation Improvement Program, amending the FY 2012-2015 Transit Section to add grant funds for Ability Plus.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Tanjie Kling of the MPO staff for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that Ability Plus was a non-profit organization that had received FTA funds previously. She stated that they were to receive \$235,327 in Federal monies, to be matched by them in the amount of \$58,832, providing them a total available amount of \$294,159. She stated that Ability Plus wanted to use this funding to replace six vehicles, three of the vehicles being wheelchair-lift equipped.

Ms. Kling stated that Mr. Keith Bedsole was present from Ability Plus, if the MPO members would have any questions for him concerning this matter.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Bedsole to come to the microphone and tell the MPO members something about this program.

Mr. Keith Bedsole appeared before the MPO, stating that he was the Executive Director of Ability Plus, which he noted was

a non-profit charged with the care of persons with disabilities. He stated that they were currently servicing 105 individuals residentially and 60-plus in their day rehabilitation program. He stated that they were in the process of moving forward with newer vehicles and retiring older vehicles that were beginning to be not safe. He stated that that was the reason they were moving forward with these grant funds.

Mayor Battle inquired as to what type vehicles these were, noting that they appeared to be expensive.

Mr. Bedsole stated that they were Fords, modified by Goshen, for the wheelchair lifts, et cetera. He stated that they would be similar to the TRAM that persons saw in the city.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Bedsole.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong read and introduced a resolution amending the Transit Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add funds for Ability Plus, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 9-13)

Chairman Strong moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Other Surface

Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted TIP to add a curb and ramp installation project for the State of Alabama.

Mayor Trulock read and introduced a resolution amending the Other Service Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add funds for the Preliminary Engineering Design and Construction of Curb and Ramp Installation on State routes at various locations in Madison County, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 10-13)

Mayor Trulock moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mr. Harris.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the State of Alabama had asked them to put in the Transportation Improvement Program this allocation so that they could commence with the design and installation of ADA-accessible curb ramps on sidewalks on the State Routes at various locations in Madison County. She stated that the cost for design was \$44,000, with the State of Alabama paying a 20 per cent match, and that this for FY 2013. She continued that the construction cost for 2014 was \$450,000, with the State paying a 20 per cent match for this, as well.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions or comments concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted Transportation Improvement Program, to transfer ATRIP funds from Martin Road on Redstone Arsenal, Zierdt Road to Rideout Road, to Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road, for the City of Huntsville.

Chairman Strong read and introduced a resolution amending the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to add funds for the construction of Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 11-13)

Chairman Strong moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the MPO members might recall that at the prior MPO meeting, the City of Huntsville had been awarded an ATRIP grant for the construction of Martin Road on Redstone Arsenal, from Zierdt Road to Rideout Road, in the amount of \$12 million. She continued that due to funding eligibility issues, these funds could not be awarded, and that the City of Huntsville had requested that these funds be transferred for

the construction of Martin Road from Zierdt Road to Old Jim Williams Road, since this was adjacent to Redstone Arsenal and the plans were almost completed. She stated that the cost share would remain as originally intended, with the Federal amount being \$9.6 million and the City of Huntsville amount being \$2.4 million, for the \$12 million project. She stated that for the portion of Martin Road that was located on Redstone Arsenal, the City of Huntsville was reverting back to its original plan of using its Capital money for this construction.

Mayor Battle asked if it was correct that the City of Huntsville would be using its cash for that portion of the road.

Ms. Kling replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Olshefski asked if the displayed map was depicting from the gate or just short of the gate at Redstone.

Ms. Kling stated that it should be right at the gate, at Zierdt.

Councilman Olshefski inquired as to where it would then go.

Ms. Kling stated that it would go to Old Jim Williams Road.

Councilman Olshefski asked where it would go from Old Jim Williams Road.

Ms. Kling stated that it would go to Laracy Drive. She stated that they already had the funding in place for that,

that it was already within the TIP.

Councilman Olshefski stated that the bottom line for this would be that many, many people would be able to drive, coming from that direction, onto Redstone, with four lanes, like it was at this time in coming from Martin Road on the other side of the Arsenal.

Ms. Kling stated that that was correct.

Councilman Olshefski stated that he was certainly glad that this was happening, that they were finally there. He stated that that would take some pressure off Gate 9 at Redstone.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any further questions or comments concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted TIP to add ATRIP funds for the City of Madison to improve County Line Road from Madison Boulevard to U.S. 72, Phase II.

Mayor Trulock read and introduced a resolution amending the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add the following project: Additional lanes on CR-3, County Line Road, from CR-1036, Madison Boulevard, to SR-2, U.S. 72,



Phase II, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 12-13)

Mayor Trulock moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Olshefski.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the City of Madison had recently received ATRIP funds for Phase II of this project, for County Line Road from Madison Boulevard to U.S. 72. She continued that the total allocation was \$5.26 million, with the Federal amount being \$4,208,000 and the City of Madison paying \$1,052,000. She stated that the project was scheduled for bidding in 2014.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions or comments concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section in the adopted TIP to add funds for Utility Relocation for the Holmes Avenue Bridge Replacement at Pinhook Creek for the City of Huntsville.

Mayor Craig read and introduced a resolution amending the High Priority and Congressional Earmark Projects Section in the

adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to add the Utility Relocation phase of the following project: Bridge replacement on CR-77, Holmes Avenue, at Pinhook Creek, BIN #15230, in Huntsville, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 13-13)

Mayor Craig moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Chairman Strong.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that several years prior the City of Huntsville had received a Congressional Earmark of \$975,000 for the replacement of the Holmes Avenue Bridge at Pinhook Creek, noting that this was needed for flood mitigation efforts. She stated that this was basically to widen the creek and build a new bridge over it. She stated that these funds were directed toward preliminary engineering design, with any remaining funds being directed toward construction. She stated that during the first round of ATRIP, the City of Huntsville had been notified that it had received funding to construct the bridge but noted that no funding had been allocated in the past for utility relocation. She stated that this amendment would basically take some of the remaining Congressional Earmark and allocate it to the Utility Relocation phase of the project. She stated that this was not any new funding, that it was old Federal funds, that it was 100 percent Federal monies, and that this was just adding a line item for the project.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Surface Transportation Attributable Projects Section in the adopted TIP, to add funds for Utility Relocation for the Church Street Phase I Widening and Realignment Project for the City of Huntsville.

Councilman Olshefski read and introduced a resolution amending the Surface Transportation Attributable Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add the following project phase for Fiscal Year 2013: Project No. 100059924, Utility Relocation, Widening and Realignment of Church Street, Phase I, from Monroe Street to Oakwood Avenue, and Realignment of Pratt Avenue, including Bridge Replacement at Pinhook Creek, BIN 008429, in the City of Huntsville, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-13)

Councilman Olshefski moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the Church Street, Phase I, Project had been in process for quite some time. She stated that in

the past utility relocation had never been formally designated as a separate phase for a project. She continued that in recent years, the Alabama Department of Transportation had required that a separate phase for utility relocation be added for each project. She stated that this addition would allow the Church Street Widening and Realignment Project to commence on schedule. She stated that the total cost for Utility Relocation was \$2,338,000, with the Federal amount being \$1,870,400 and the City of Huntsville's cost share being \$467,600.

Mayor Battle asked if there was any discussion concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Transit Projects Section in the adopted TIP, to add Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 Operating, Capital, and Enhancement Grant Funds for Huntsville Public Transit.

Councilman Olshefski read and introduced a resolution amending the Transit Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add funds for Huntsville Public Transit, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-13)

Councilman Olshefski moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Chairman Strong.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the resolution added Huntsville Public Transit's grant allocations for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 to the Transportation Improvement Program. She stated that it was expected that Huntsville Public Transit would receive more than \$4 million for FY 2014 and \$4.3 million during FY 2015 for buses, improvements, maintenance, support facilities, enhancements, and operating assistance. She stated that these were Federal Transit Administration funds that were matched with local dollars from the City of Huntsville.

Mayor Battle asked if there was any discussion concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Transit Projects Section in the adopted TIP, to amend Fiscal Year 2014 Operating, Capital, and Administration Assistance Grant Funds for Madison County Transit.

Chairman Strong read and introduced a resolution amending the Transit Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add funding for Madison County Transit for Fiscal Year 2014, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-13)

Chairman Strong moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that this amendment would solidify Madison County's Fiscal Year 2014 Grant Request for its TRAM program. She stated that the County received rural transportation funds through the State of Alabama for its operation, administration, and capital expenditures. She continued that the total amount expected to be received by the County for Operating Assistance was \$320,712; for Administrative Assistance, \$64,313; and for Capital Budget, \$120,000. She stated that the County matched these funds.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions concerning this resolution.

Chairman Strong asked Ms. Phyllis Seymore, Community Development Manager, Madison County Commission, how many persons the TRAM program currently served.

Ms. Seymore stated that 230 individuals were currently being served.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Transit Program Projects Section in the adopted TIP to add the Fiscal Year 2011 Federal

Transit Administration Apportionments pertaining to the JARC and New Freedom Programs for the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments.

Mayor Trulock read and introduced a resolution amending the Transit Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to add Section 5316 JARC Future Projects (Level of Effort) for Fiscal Year 2011, and to add Section 5317 NF New Freedom Future Projects (Level of Effort) for Fiscal Year 2011, for the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 17-13)

Mayor Trulock moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Chairman Strong.

Ms. Kling stated that this resolution would take care of some housekeeping for TARCOG by adding the FY 2011 Apportionment for the JARC Program and the New Freedom Transit Program. She stated that TARCOG administered these programs and would be administering these grant awards. She stated that the total allocation for the JARC Program for 2011 that they could award was \$233,152 and the total allocation for the New Freedom Program was \$137,536. She stated that both of these grants were 50-50 matches, with the local agencies that were awarded the grants paying 50 percent of the costs.

Mayor Battle stated that Ms. Nancy Robertson, the new Executive Director of TARCOG, was present. He asked if she would like to comment on this program.

Ms. Robertson stated that Ms. Falguni Patel had been working on this and asked her to comment on it.

Ms. Patel appeared before the MPO, stating that she was a Transportation Planner with TARCOCG and that they administered JARC and New Freedom grants. She stated that these were Federal Transit Administration grants and that they administered them for the MPO area. She stated that "JARC" was "Jobs Access Reverse Commute", which she noted was mainly transit for job-related activities for low-income individuals. She stated that this could be awarded to any agency, non-profit, government, or for-profit, that provided transportation for low-income persons. She stated that these programs were geared toward filling the gaps, noting that there was transit in the MPO area but that there was always a problem with after-hours transit and week-end transit.

Ms. Patel stated that the New Freedom Program was for persons with disabilities and that this was also a program for filling in the gaps, and that if there was an after-hours program they could fund through this grant, they could do so.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions or comments concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution amending the FY 2012-2015 Surface Transportation



Attributable Projects Section in the adopted TIP, to increase funds for Right-of-Way for Winchester Road, from Naugher Road to Bell Factory Road, for Madison County.

Chairman Strong read and introduced a resolution amending the Surface Transportation Attributable Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, to increase Project No. 100009202, Winchester Road, from Naugher Road to Bell Factory Road, Right-of-Way, from \$500,000 to \$655,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 18-13)

Chairman Strong moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

Mayor Battle asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the above resolution.

Ms. Kling stated that the resolution would increase the right-of-way acquisition for Winchester Road, from Naugher Road to Bell Factory Road, from \$500,000 to \$655,000. She stated that Madison County had received ATRIP grants for the improvement of several sections of Winchester Road within this stretch of roadway and that currently right-of-way acquisition was in the process of being authorized for the section at the Flint River Bridge. She stated that the cost share for the right-of-way was \$524,000 of Federal funds and \$131,000 of Madison County funds.

Mayor Battle asked if it was correct that this would allow for the construction of the Flint River Bridge.

Ms. Kling replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Battle asked if there were any questions or comments concerning this resolution.

There was no response.

Mayor Battle called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle stated that Mr. James Vandiver had a presentation to make at this time.

Mr. Vandiver appeared before the MPO, stating that he was a planner with the City of Huntsville, in the Long-Range Planning Division.

Mr. Vandiver stated that he would like to go over some of the projects they were working on to enhance public involvement with the MPO.

Mr. Vandiver stated that during the recent Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review, the Huntsville MPO staff had been encouraged to expand outreach to the general public. He continued that one way the staff was working to meet that need was by creating a new website and designing a logo for the MPO. He stated that the website would provide convenient access to meeting notices, transportation plans, demographics, and more, and that the logo would assist in increasing the public's knowledge of the MPO and its purpose.

Mr. Vandiver stated that the logo was a simple representation of the diverse transportation modes that were utilized in the Huntsville metro area, noting that the means by

which persons in the area traveled were characterized by five symbols: Car, Bus, Train, Walking, and Biking. He continued that the sixth symbol, a Saturn V Rocket, might not be a viable commuting option but that thousands of residents in the MPO area had been involved in its development, and that because of this, the Saturn V might be the most important transportation vehicle in the area's history. He stated that the logo reflected the MPO's primary purpose: To plan a comprehensive transportation system for the study area.

Mr. Vandiver stated that the new MPO website was currently under construction and stated that what was being displayed was one of 12 possible designs. He stated that their goal was to have a simple, yet elegant, interface that was straightforward and would make it easy to find information. He stated that the home page, as being displayed, would have links to meeting agendas and recently unveiled plans, as well as links on the side bar to the websites of each of the MPO entities.

Mr. Vandiver stated that some of the proposed features of the site included a Meetings and Events page, which he noted would include notices for public hearings on transportation projects; a staff directory; a library of past and present transportation plans; a page with demographic information; and a Transportation Planning 101 site, where the public could learn more about what the MPO staff did on a daily basis.

Mr. Vandiver stated that they hoped to have the website, with the new logo and domain name, [huntsvillempo.org](http://huntsvillempo.org), up and

running by the end of the summer. He stated that in the meantime, persons could view the website as it was being built by going to [cityofhuntsville.wordpress.com](http://cityofhuntsville.wordpress.com).

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Vandiver if they were receiving input on this from citizens.

Mr. Vandiver replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Battle stated that persons should contact Mr. Vandiver concerning any input they might have.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Vandiver for his phone number.

Mr. Vandiver stated that it was 427-5160.

Mayor Battle stated that any input that persons had, they would be glad to incorporate into this, to make sure that it was a website for the Huntsville, Madison County, and Madison Area MPO, to make sure it was inclusive of everyone in the area.

Mayor Battle asked if anyone had any further business to bring before the MPO.

There was no response.

Upon motion, properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chairman,  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

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Secretary,  
Metropolitan Planning Organization