

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Monday, January 13, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 2:30pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Devlin  
Mr. Nichols  
Kathy Martin  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Holderer  
Ms. Miernik

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tanjie Kling  
James Vandiver  
Tracy Meshberg  
James Moore  
Connie Graham

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Devlin. Upon call for the adoption of minutes from September 9, 2014, Ms. Mernik made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nicolas and approved by all.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 1-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add the Huntsville Commuter Route Traffic Operations Study for the State of Alabama. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that the resolution amends the Other Surface Transportation Program Project Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 to add the Huntsville Commuter Route Traffic Operations Study for the State of Alabama. This project was requested to be added to the TIP by ALDOT in fiscal year 2014 with a total cost of \$151,590. The federal amount is \$121,272 and the State amount is \$30,318. She further stated that the project will develop and assess improvements that can be reasonably made to major commuter corridors in the MPO Study Area to improve capacity, reduce congestion, and improve safety. She continued that other outcomes from the study are to provide ALDOT and other local jurisdictions with information for project prioritization, budgeting, and scheduling; develop an access management plan for applicable corridors; and determine interim improvements that can be done to provide relief until original or previously planned projects can be started. The engineering firm selected is Skipper Consulting and the estimated completion date is as soon as possible.

Ms. Kling stated that approximately 60 miles of Roadways are to be studied. These are I-565 from Interstate 65 to East of US Highway 72 (22 miles), Alabama Highway 255 (Research Park

Blvd) from I-565 to north of Alabama Highway 53 Interchange (approximately 6 miles), Alabama Highway 53 (Jordan Lane) from I-565 to north of Research Park Blvd (approximately 5.8 miles), US Highway 72 West from County Line Road to US Highway 231 (Memorial Parkway) (approximately 10.8 miles), US Highway East from terminus of I-565 to Ryland Pike (approximately 3.5 miles), US Highway 431 from Dug Hill Road to Taylor Lane (approximately 2 miles), US Highway 231 South (Memorial Parkway) from north of Whitesburg Rd to Martin Rd (approximately 1.3 miles), and US Highway 231 North (Memorial Parkway) from Mastin Lake Rd to Bob Wade Lane (approximately 2.25 miles).

Ms. Miernik inquired if the area at University Drive/US Highway 72 between Memorial Parkway and Jordan Lane was to be studied. She stated that there have been many pedestrian fatalities and accidents in that area. Ms. Kling remarked that since the State listed that as one of the corridors to be studied on US Highway 72 from County Line Road to Memorial Parkway, she thought that area would be included for study. Ms. Miernik stated that she would call Mr. Skipper from Skipper Consulting and speak with him about the problems in that location. Ms. Kling stated that she would relay her comments to the MPO Policy Board.

Mr. Nicolas made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 1-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 2-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add funds for resurfacing and widening US 72 Eastbound from East of Moores Mill Road to West of Brock Road. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that this resolution amends the NHS/Interstate Maintenance/NHS Bridge Projects and Safety Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds for this project for the State of Alabama. She further stated this is a maintenance project managed by ALDOT Division 1 and sponsored by the State of Alabama with a total cost of \$1,865,000. The federal amount is \$1,510,650 and the State amount is \$354,350. The scheduled bid date is April 2014.

Ms. Miernik requested that the State pay close attention to the roadway and to make sure that the shoulder of the road will still accommodate bikes. Ms. Kling stated she would relay that information to the State at the MPO meeting of the Policy Board on Wednesday.

Mr. Nicolas made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 2-14; which was duly seconded by seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 3-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add funds for resurfacing and traffic striping US 72 from McCaulley Mill Road to County Line Road. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that Resolution 3-14, amends the NHS/Interstate Maintenance/NHS Bridge Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add Resurfacing and Traffic Striping on US 72 from McCulley Mill Road to County Line Road for the State of Alabama

This is a maintenance project in the MPO Study Area/Limestone County managed by ALDOT Division 2 with a total cost of \$2,480,869. The federal amount is \$1,984,695 and the State amount is \$496,174. The scheduled bid date will be April 2014.

Mr. Nicolas made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 3-14; which was duly seconded by Ms. Miernik and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next resolution amends was **Resolution 4-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add funds resurfacing and traffic striping SR-53 from south of I-565 to Mastin Lake Road. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that Resolution 4-14, amends the NHS/Interstate Maintenance/NHS Bridge Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds for this project for the State of Alabama. She further stated that it is a maintenance project managed by ALDOT Division 1, with a total cost of \$2,350,000. The federal amount requires \$1,880,000 and the State match is \$470,000. The scheduled bid date is January 2015.

Ms. Miernik requested that access to bicycles be retained for this project. Ms. Kling remarked that she would relay her concerns to the State at the MPO meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Nicolas made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 4-14; which was duly seconded by Ms. Mernik and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 5-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add funds for westbound land and intersection improvements on US 72 East from Maysville Road to Shields Road. He asked Ms. Kling to explain.

Ms. Kling stated that Resolution 5-14, amends the Appalachian Highway System Projects Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds for this project. She continued that this Improvement mitigates current traffic congestion at this location by adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> westbound lane on US 72 starting at the Shields Road intersection, proceeding through the Moores Mill intersection and terminating at the Sparkman Drive/US 72 Ramp. The project is 100% federally funded. Ms. Kling stated that the right of way is estimated to cost \$480,769 and was set to be authorized December 2013. Utility relocation cost is \$50,000 and is set to be authorized in February 2014. Construction cost is \$4,728,949 and is scheduled to bid in April 2014.

Ms. Miernik requested that these improvements not change bicycle accessibility on this corridor. Ms. Kling stated she would relay those comments to the State at the MPO meeting on Wednesday.

Ms. Miernik made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 5-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 6-14 to adopt the Final 2013 Public Participation Plan for the Huntsville Metropolitan Planning Area**. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that the previous Public Participation Plan was adopted in 2008. Federal legislation requires a 45 day period for public comments before adoption of the plan. Copies of plan for public review were left at the City of Huntsville Planning Office, Madison County Courthouse, Town of Triana City Hall, City of Madison City Hall, and the Town of Owens Cross Roads City Hall. Legal ads were placed, public notices and press releases were issued.

Ms. Kling told the committee that public participation in the transportation planning process is required by federal legislation. The MPO staff received comments from the public and incorporated them into the plan where feasible. Public comment was received October 21 through December 4, and again from December 20 until January 8. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidelines for public participation activities to be conducted by the MPO and insures that these activities are done in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. This plan was basically rewritten to add information that ALDOT, FHWA, and FTA requested us to add.

Ms. Kling stated she would provide a quick overview of the plan. In Section 1.0: Introduction, the MPO staff added a list of all laws and regulations governing MPOs and State DOTs, included a reference that the MPO follows the Alabama Open Meetings Act, and expounded upon the extent of public participation conducted by ALDOT.

Ms. Kling said the MPO staff received public comments requesting that the Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings be changed to a Monday, the week before the MPO meeting instead of having both meetings during the same week. This request was honored and the meeting day was changed for CAC meetings. Because of this meeting change, the MPO staff will make plans, documents, and meeting materials to the public at least 2 weeks before the MPO meeting instead of 2 weeks before the CAC meeting.

Ms. Kling stated that further comments requested the addition of the Chairman of the Limestone County Commission to the MPO, addition of Limestone County Personnel to the Technical Coordinating Committee, and reorganization of the Citizens Advisory Committee to change representation based upon population and to add a representative from Limestone County and a County Citizen representative that works or lives on Redstone Arsenal.

Ms. Kling said the MPO staff responded to these comments by stating that by law, the establishment of the MPO and its committees is done through agreement and approved by the Governor, State DOT, and local jurisdictions that are members of the MPO. Adding a new member lies with those in the capacity to change the agreement. Additionally, the MPO Boundary Lines approved in 2012 actually decreased the population in the Limestone County Rural Area by over 17%. Conversely, there was a 1,167% Increase in municipal population in the City of Huntsville and City of Madison located in Limestone County.

Ms. Kling stated that City of Huntsville and City of Madison leaders interface with Limestone County leaders & the MPO Staff reports to them monthly regarding transportation projects in their county. She further stated that Technical Coordinating Committee includes a member from ALDOT District 2, responsible for transportation project management in Limestone County. Additionally, Mr. Richard Sanders, Limestone County Engineer is invited to the meetings and involved in the Transportation Planning Process.

Concerning the composition of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Ms. Kling stated that previous federal legislation required that MPOs develop and adopt a prospectus that outlines how the MPO would operate. This document also outlined the official composition of the Citizens Advisory Committee. The CAC is currently comprised of 16 members: 8 from Huntsville and 2 representing all other jurisdictions. Based upon population, the City of Huntsville has half the members representing over half of the population in the Study Area, with one of those members representing Huntsville-Limestone County. Madison County has 2 members on the CAC that are employees on the Redstone Arsenal installation. Historically, other jurisdictions have had 2 representatives on the CAC and the current composition has worked well.

Ms. Kling continued with Section 2.0: MPO Planning Requirements. She stated it was developed to indicate the eight (8) planning factors required by legislation. It includes all livability principals and indicators that are required by ALDOT in all planning documents, lists all plans approved by the MPO that require public participation, and indicates how to amend plans if necessary.

Ms. Kling remarked that Section 3.0: Public Participation Procedures, lists methods of providing information to the public such as websites, e-mails, press releases, legal ads, etc... Additionally, MPO policies for public participation, based upon federal requirements, are explained. There were some public comments regarding Section 3. The MPO staff was requested to add other methods of social media interaction to the plan. As a result, social media was added to Section 3.2.1 as a technique to use for public outreach. A new objective was added to Section 3.3.2.4 to indicate the MPO would provide broader access to public information through Twitter, Facebook, etc. as these methods are developed by the staff. Measurements of social media use were added to Appendix D. The staff was also requested to show that public feedback was received and incorporated into plans. Ms. Kling said that the FHWA provided recommendations to the MPO staff during its last TMA certification review concerning this topic. Their recommendations were added to Section 3.3.1.4 by posting all MPO

Committee Minutes to the website, provide responses to all issues and comments raised, provide opportunities for discussion and responses on the MPO website. Also, public comments and the disposition of comments are to be published in plan documents.

Ms. Kling mentioned stated that Section 4.0: Revisions and Amendments, indicates that the Public Participation Plan will be amended or readopted after new transportation legislation is approved by Congress; possibly soon after October 2014.

Ms. Kling stated that next section was Appendices. She stated that Appendix A showed the Adopted MPO Study Area and Urbanized Area Boundary Map and Appendix B showed all the Livability Indicators in map or table/graph form.

Ms. Kling stated that Appendix C was something new they had added to the Plan, which she noted was the Title 6 documentation that was required by ALDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. She stated that Huntsville Transit and Madison County Tram had this type of documentation in place and met these requirements. She continued that the State DOT, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration wanted them to have this plan in place for the MPO.

Ms. Kling stated that the Limited English Proficiency Plan assessed the population in the MPO Study Area that spoke only a foreign language, noting that they would have to show how they were going to accommodate these persons.

Ms. Kling stated that there were certain thresholds that needed to be met concerning the population that spoke with limited English proficiency. She continued that at this time they did not meet the threshold of having to translate documents, noting that, however, in instances where translations needed to be made, they would attempt to accommodate this if provided ample time.

Ms. Kling stated that Appendix D was Public Participation Evaluation Procedures; that Appendix E was a Glossary of Abbreviations; and Appendix F was Public Comments Received Regarding the Draft 2013 Public Participation Plan.

Ms. Kling stated that there were additional comments written by Ms. Miernik regarding the comments submitted. Ms. Miernik requested that the composition of the CAC membership be revisited as well as the criteria for membership. She also noted that there had been some problems with attendance of some members of the CAC. Mr. Madsen stated that the staff would be requesting that these members be replaced to make sure that everyone was represented on the committee. Mr. Madsen further stated that the MPO staff would be working with the Citizens Advisory Committee to make sure these issues are addressed.

Mr. Holderer made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 6-14; which was duly seconded by Ms. Mernik Martin and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 7-14 to amend the Transportation Improvement Program** to add funds for the Access Management and Intersection Improvements on SR-53 (US 231) from Hobbs Road and South of Weatherly Road. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that this resolution amends the Other Surface Transportation Program Project Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add this project for the State of Alabama. Ms. Kling further explained that this resolution only covers the preliminary engineering design cost for this project. It is a project selected by the Mayor of Huntsville as a priority project and is one of the projects that the City of Huntsville will be splitting the cost with the State DOT 50/50. Other phases of the project are scheduled beyond 2015, and cannot be added to the TIP at this time. The total cost of preliminary engineering design is estimated to be \$950,000, and work is scheduled to begin February 2014.

Mr. Nicolas questioned the funding of the project, as the resolution shows the project being split on an 80%/20% basis. Ms. Kling stated that the split was being shown as an 80%/20% split for State accounting purposes per the State's request; however, the State and the City of Huntsville will have an approved agreement soon to formally split the cost share 50/50.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 7-14; which was duly seconded by Mr Holderer.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 8-14 to amend Transportation Improvement Program** to add additional Lanes SR-2 (US 72 from County Line Road to Providence Main Road in the City Limits of Huntsville. Mr. Devlin asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that this resolution amends the Other Surface Transportation Program Project Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add this project for the State of Alabama. She further stated that this resolution only covers the preliminary engineering design cost for this project. It again is a project selected by the Mayor of Huntsville as a priority project and is one of the projects that the City of Huntsville will be splitting the cost with the State DOT 50/50. Other phases of the project are scheduled beyond 2015, and cannot be added to the TIP at this time. Ms. Kling stated that this project compliments the current project compliments and ties to the City of Madison's ATRIP project on County Line Road from Madison Blvd to US 72. The total cost of engineering design is estimated to be \$1,200,000 and should start in February 2014.

Mr. Holderer made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 8-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin noted the next item on the agenda pertained to the Year 2040 Transportation Plan update. He requested Ms. Kling to present the item.

Ms. Kling stated that the Year 2040 Transportation Plan is an upcoming planning initiative for the MPO and the staff will begin the process of developing the document very soon. The final plan is due into to State DOT and FHWA by March 2015. The draft should be ready for approval by the CAC later this year.

Ms. Kling stated that in the near future, the MPO staff will be contacting each jurisdiction to ask for a list of projects to be added as well as cost estimates, general alignments of the projects, and other information.

Ms. Kling further said that the backbone of the Year 2040 Plan is the transportation model, so the MPO staff will be updating demographic data, growth forecasts, and traffic counts for the transportation model; will run the model, and get it approved by State and FHWA. This is a lengthy process, as all MPOs in the State will be doing this. Ms. Kling explained that all of this must be done with a great degree of public involvement and public meetings and input.

Mr. Devlin noted the next item on the agenda was the Election of Officers, with the position of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary being open. He called for nominations from the members.

Mr. Devlin made a motion to recommend to re-elect Bill Weaver for Chairman which was duly seconded by Mr. Holderer and carried unanimously. Mr. Holderer made a motion to recommend to re-elect Mr. Devlin for Vice Chairman which was duly seconded by Ms. Meirnik and carried unanimously. Mr. Devlin made a motion to recommend Mr. Robinson for Secretary which was duly seconded by Mr. Nicolas.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.