

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Monday, June 16, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 5:00pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Administration Building located at 308 Fountain Circle

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Weaver – Raytheon  
John Ofenloch –  
Todd Slyman – Village of Providence  
David Cousins –  
Tony Smith – Huntsville Utilities  
Jennifer Nelson  
Gary Whitley – Huntsville Utilities  
Russ McDonald – City of Huntsville

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tanjie Kling- City of Huntsville Planning  
James Vandiver – City of Huntsville Planning  
James Moore-City of Huntsville Planning  
Tracy Meshberg-city of Huntsville Planning  
Kim Smith-city of Huntsville Transportation

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Weaver. Upon call for the adoption of minutes from April 14, 2014. Mr. Ofenloch made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kling and approved by all.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 28-14**, adopts the Draft Fiscal Year 2015 Unified Planning Work Planning. He asked Mr. Moore for an explanation of the item.

Mr. Moore made a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that the Unified Planning Program (UPWP or Business Plan was updated every year to provide citizens and stakeholders the necessary transparency to see how Federal and State Transportation planning dollars were expended by the Huntsville MPO and the Alabama Department of Transportation in order to meet Federal Metropolitan Planning requirements.

Mr. Moore stated that the UPWP was developed by the MPO staff in consultation with partner agencies and input from local citizens and stakeholders, and that the documents might be amended to account for changes in funding or project needs.

Mr. Moore state that the Huntsville MPO's current UPWP adopted in September 2013, extended through September 30, 2014. He stated that, as adopted, extended through

September 30, 2014. He stated that, as adopted, the program funded nearly 500,000 dollars' worth of planning activities and studies for the Huntsville MPO region.

He stated that it coordinated the planning undertaken by all participants in the regional process and laid out the MPO's Strategic Plan for the upcoming plan Fiscal Year.

Mr. Ofenloch made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 28-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Slyman and carried unanimously.

Ms. Kling explained to the new members about the TIP and the State's Comprehensive Project System.

Year 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is the 4-year financial plan for transportation construction, resurfacing, and other improvement projects and enhancements in the MPO area. The plan also includes transit allocations for jurisdictions receiving Federal Transit – who is a direct recipient of Urbanized Area transit funds, and Madison County – who receives rural transit funds from FTA through the State of Alabama.

The State's Comprehensive Program Management System is the Alabama Department of Transportation's tentative schedule of planned future projects that fall outside the years of the Transportation Improvement Program. In this case, it includes projects and grants allocations to reflect a more precise amount for the next fiscal year. The next 2 resolutions specifically programs transit funds for fiscal for fiscal year 2015.

Ms. Kling also explained Transit revenues in general are required to be programmed in the TIP, but firm funding amounts are not really know until the grant applications are submitted each year and awarded are not really know until the grant applications are submitted each year awarded. Both the City of Huntsville and Madison County have previously programmed estimated transit allocations for fiscal year 2015. Each year, there is a requirement to modify these allocations to reflect a more precise amount for the next fiscal year 2015. The next 2 resolutions specifically programs transit funds for fiscal year 2015.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 29-14**; amends the Transit Program Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds and program funds in the Comprehensive Project Management System for Huntsville Public Transit's proposed grant allocations for fiscal year 2015 for Madison County. Mr. Weaver asked Ms. Kling to explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling made a Power Point presentation. She stated that Huntsville Public Transit had requested that the grant allocations for FY 2015 be added to the Transportation Improvement Program. She continued that this was for Capital and eligible Operating Expenses. She stated that the highlights of some of these expenditures for FY 2015 would be the purchase of tow shuttle buses and three Handi – Ride vehicles, in the amount of \$170,000. She stated that

there would be associated transit improvements to be used to replace and install five passenger shelters, with a total allocation of \$28,969.

Ms. Kling stated that the bottom – line grant allocation for FY 2015 was approximately \$4,345,669, with the FTA amount being approximately \$2.76 million and the City of Huntsville amount being \$1.5 million.

Ms. Kling stated that, additionally, Huntsville Public Transit wanted to add transit funds into the State's Comprehensive Project Management System for FY 2016 and 2017, also for Capital and eligible Operating Expenses, She stated that for FY 2016, the total amount for these grant allocations for all the programs was \$4.458 million, with the Federal Transit Administration's share being \$2.84 million and the City of Huntsville's share being \$1.6 million. She stated that for FY 2017, the grand total amount of the Transit Grant expected was \$4.489 million, with an FTA allocation of \$2.85 million, and the City of Huntsville's share being \$1.6 million.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 29-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 30-14**, amends the Transit Program Section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds for Madison County Transit's proposed grant allocations for fiscal year 2015 for Madison County. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that this resolution modifies the federal transit allocations for Madison County's TRAM program for fiscal year 2015 as Follows: Operating Assistance with a total cost of \$344,890. The federal amount is \$137,956 and Madison County and other revenues (obtained from fares and contracts) pay a majority of this cost in the amount of \$206,934. She continued that for Administration Assistance with a total cost \$60,135 with the federal amount of \$48,108 and Madison County's cost share of \$12,027 and the Transit Capital, with a total amount of \$110,000. The federal share is \$88,000 and Madison County's share is \$22,000. These funds are to be used to purchase 2 replacements buses.

Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 30-14; which was duly seconded by Ms. Nelson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 31-14**, deletes future funds in the Comprehensive Project Management System for the project: Jeff Road from Capshaw Road to Alabama Highway 53 for Madison County. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated at the meeting, the remaining project phase was added to complete the Jeff Road corridor from Douglas Road to Alabama Highway 53. Since Jeff Road Project was split

into 2 separate projects at the last meeting and they were added to the appropriate plans and appropriately scheduled, and the State still has the Jeff Road project from Capshaw Road to Alabama Highway 53 scheduled on their books, the MPO staff is requesting that the specific project name: Jeff Road from Capshaw Road to AL Highway 53 and its duplicative funding be deleted. (The funds that were originally scheduled for the other phases of Jeff road from Capshaw Road to AL 53 are being applied to the project "Jeff Road from Douglas Road to AL 53.)

Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 31-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 32-14**; deletes right of way funds in the Comprehensive Project Management System for the project: Blake Bottom Road Overpass at Research Park Boulevard for Madison County. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that this item takes care of little financial housekeeping for the Blake Bottom Road. Several years ago, the Blake Bottom Road project was added to the TIP, and the State programmed its right for fiscal year 2018. In the meantime, Madison County was awarded an ATRIP grant for the Blake Bottom Road project, with a construction schedule before FY 2018. At the present time, there is not enough MPO controlled money or Surface Transportation Attributable funds to move the right of way acquisition up within the next 3 years.

Ms. Kling also explained that Madison County has indicated that they would pay for the right of way cost for this ATRIP project so that it may progress without delay. This action would delete the federal funds for the right of way phase schedule for FY 2018, as construction is currently scheduled for fiscal year 2015. This allows the county to pay for the right of way cost for this project.

Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 32-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Slyman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 33-14**; Huntsville Public Transit and was a resolution designating the City of Huntsville as the Designated Recipient of FTA Section 5307 Grant Funds, Urbanized Area Formulas Program, for the Huntsville Urbanized Area. He asked Ms. Smith for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Smith stated that the resolution would authorize them to submit to the Governor that the City of Huntsville be designated as the recipient of the funds. She stated that the City had been the designated recipient since 1981. She continued that the paperwork concerning this at the FTA had been misplaced, and that this would authorize a request to the Governor to re-designate the City of Huntsville as the recipient so that these funds could be received.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend approval Resolution 33-14; which was duly seconded by Mr. Ofenloch and carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the Status of the Year 2040 Transportation Plan. He asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item.

Ms. Kling stated that the staff is working towards the Year 2040 Transportation Plan update – due to the State and FHWA by March of 2015. A final list of projects has been compiled and cost estimates of all projects have been completed. The staff is in the process of working with Atkins North America, who will be performing all of the modeling for the plan. Atkins is currently working on the Auburn Opelika MPO's long range transportation plan and they have done modeling work for the Birmingham MPO to get them ready for their long range transportation plan as well. We will be contacting all jurisdictions during the plan update for any needed information.

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