

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JUNE 1, 2015

A regular meeting of the Citizens of the Citizens Advisory Committee was held on Monday 1, 2015 at 5:00pm on the 7th floor of the Administration building located at 308 Fountain Circle.

MEMBERS PRESENTS:

Trent Griffin-City of Huntsville
Bill Weaver-City of Madison
Tony Smith-City of Huntsville
Gary Whitley, Jr.- City of Huntsville
Bob Devlin-Madison County
John Ofenlock-City of Huntsville
Todd Slyman-City of Huntsville

STAFF PRESENT:

Tanjie Kling-City of Huntsville
Tracy Meshberg-City of Huntsville
Connie Graham-City of Huntsville
James Vandiver-City of Huntsville
James Moore-City of Huntsville
Michelle Jordan-City of Huntsville

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Devlin. Upon call for the adoption of the minutes from June 1, 2015. Mr. Whitley, Jr. made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and approved by all.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 8-15**; Adopts the Draft FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Devlin asked Mr. Moore for an explanation of the item.

Mr. Moore stated that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or business plan is updated every year to provide citizens and stakeholders the necessary transparency to see how federal and state transportation planning dollars are expended by the Huntsville MPO, and The Alabama Department of Transportation in order to meet federal metropolitan planning requirements.

Mr. Moore presented to the audience an example of a task in the UPWP, and went into detail about the objectives, proposed work, end products, staffing responsibilities, and budgeting of the task.

Mr. Moore further remarked that the UPWP is developed by the MPO staff in consultation with partner agencies and input from local citizens and stakeholders. The document may be amended to account for changes in funding or project needs.

Mr. Moore stated that the Huntsville MPO's current UPWP, which was adopted in September 2014, extended through September 30, 2015. He stated that as adopted, the program funded over \$500,000 worth of planning activities and studies for the Huntsville MPO region.

Mr. Weaver made a motion to recommend approval to Resolution 8-15; which was duly seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 9-15**: Amends the Other Surface Transportation Projects section in the adopted FY 2012-2015 TIP to add funds for the State of Alabama. Mr. Devlin asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item. Ms. Kling stated that The Alabama Department of Transportation requested that this 5 mile resurfacing and striping project in Limestone County be added to the FY 2012-2015 TIP. The allocation of \$771,850 allows for the maintenance of East Limestone Road from US 72 to Copeland Road. The project will be paid for with federal and State funds out of the State's Other Surface Transportation program. The bid date should be the end of September.

Mr. Griffin made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 9-15; which was duly seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 10-15**: Adopts the Draft FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for the Huntsville Urbanized Area. Mr. Devlin asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item. Ms. Kling stated that the TIP is the financial plan that specifies what road improvements, bike/ped facilities, and transit programs will be funded for a 4 year period. The plan is adopted every four years, and is periodically amended during the time it covers. All projects in this Draft 2016-2019 TIP originate from the MPO's long range transportation plan. This TIP is essentially a continuation of the projects that were not completed during the previous 2012 through 2015 financial cycle, with a few new projects added.

Ms. Kling indicated the text of the Plan was updated to meet federal and State guidelines and the document was updated to MAP-21 Legislation. While this legislation and funding expired September 30, 2014, Congress has passed 2 continuing resolutions to guarantee funding for the various programs at least until July 31, 2015. She stated until a new highway bill is passed, the MPO will continue to fall under the planning requirements of MAP-21.

Ms. Kling said that new Planning Emphasis Areas were added to the plan. These are: MAP-21 Implementation, with a focus on performance measures and targets; the Models of

Regional Planning Cooperation to promote cooperation and coordination across MPO and State Boundaries; and the Ladders of Opportunity to provide connectivity where there may be gaps in service. The latter pertains more to transit programs.

Ms. Kling remarked that the Title 6 and Environmental Justice section was expanded to provide more information about the application of these requirements and principles to the transportation planning process, and the Level of Effort section was rewritten to mirror a Memorandum of Understanding signed between ALDOT & FHWA.

She further added that aside from the text, projects are scheduled for 2016 through 2019. All fiscal year 2015 projects that have not yet been authorized were included in this Draft plan. If funds are not released for those projects before October 1, 2015, the projects will be rolled over to Fiscal Year 2016 and published in the Final 2016-2019 TIP to be adopted in August or September.

Ms. Kling remarked that for the project section of this plan, different funding categories in the TIP that obligate new projects, or the continuation of projects started in earlier TIPS will be discussed.

She said that a few changes were made under the funding category of Surface Transportation Attributable Projects, which are the only federal funds that the MPO Board controls. In the past, the City of Madison received a federal earmark for the engineering design for Balch Road from south of the Madison City Limits to Gooch Lane. A few years ago, the State had programmed the remainder of the project to be financed with their Surface Transportation Other funds. Recently; however, the State reconsidered their funding ability for the construction and determined it should be funded either by the City of Madison or through the MPO's "Surface Transportation Attributable Projects" funds. The State is limiting their financial participation to a portion of right of way funding for 2019 using their dedicated funds in the amount of \$497,316. The State also moved the remainder of the Balch Road project to the STPHV category of funds for FY 2019 for right of way and utility relocation, requiring \$356,670 in federal funds. This project's right of way and utility relocation will cost a total of \$1,067,484, with the total federal amount being \$853,986. Construction is programmed for outer years, with financial assessments being done periodically to determine if the project can be moved up.

Ms. Kling added there are also 2 new projects that appear in this funding category. These 2 projects were added last year to the State's schedule, per MPO resolution. These are Slaughter Road from Old Madison Pike to Madison Blvd/Highway 20, with engineering design scheduled for FY 2019 and Old Highway 431 Bridge Replacements, with construction scheduled for FY 2018. The Other Surface Transportation Program Projects include Curb Ramp Installation on State Routes at various locations in Madison County for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of \$478,607. Additionally, this section mostly includes the ATRIP projects that were previously approved. These projects, if not bid in FY 2015 will roll over in FY 2016. These are Winchester Road, Zierdt Road, several projects for Limestone County & Kellner Road. ALDOT

just added utility relocation for Madison County's ATRIP project of Winchester Road from the Flint River to Bell Factory Road. The total cost is over \$1.4 million, being paid for with federal and State funds. No TIP amendment is required for this project.

Ms. Kling said that the NHS/Interstate Maintenance/NHS Bridge Projects includes the right of way, utility relocation, and construction of Memorial Parkway from Sparkman Drive to Mastin Lake Road including an overpass at Mastin Lake. She reiterated that this is a Restore Our Roads Project – a project that the City of Huntsville and State through the State's federal aid allocation have agreed to cost share on a 50/50 basis. The total cost of this project is over \$31 million, and is scheduled for fiscal year 2016. Also 2 other Restore Our Roads Project's are planned: The completion of the Northern Bypass from Pulaski Pike to US 231/431 Intersection, with UT & CN scheduled for FY 2017, and the completion of Access Management & Intersection Improvements on US 231 from Hobbs Road to South Weatherly Road, with RW scheduled for FY 2016, and UT & CN scheduled for FY 2017.

Ms. Kling stated that 4 new resurfacing projects were added to the plan for fiscal year 2016. These are Alabama Highway 53 from South of I-565 to South of Intersection with/Mastin Lake Road; US 72 from East Perimeter Parkway resurfacing & 2 foot safety widening on US 431, south of Old Highway 431 to South of Victorian Lane; and US 431 from Madison/Marshall County Line to Old Hwy 431.

Ms. Kling stated the next category of funds with new projects, is the Transportation Alternatives Program. This program allocates funding for greenways/bikes and pedestrian access; the other types of types of projects that do not involve motorized transportation. The Madison Downtown Streetscape project was deleted per City of Madison's request. The City of Madison has not abandoned this project, but they have decided to fund the project themselves. The EUL Bike/Ped Corridor from Redstone Arsenal to Governors Drive West was added. The amount allocated for construction is \$115,000 for fiscal 2017. Additionally, the Aldridge Creek Greenway Extension from Weatherly Road to Esslinger Road in the total amount \$1,020,000 dollars for fiscal year 2017.

Ms. Kling discussed the Transit Section and explained the allocations for FY 2015 have been retained until the final the Final 2016-2019 TIP is developed and adopted. Madison County's TRAM Program for FY 2016-2019 has a total estimated allocation of close to \$2 million. The FTA allocation for City of Huntsville's Transit Program for FY 2016-2019 is estimated to be over \$18.7 million.

Ms. Kling said that the last funding category is Regionally Significant Projects. Federal regulations require that projects funded without federal aid be included in the TIP if they serve major planned developments or activity centers or serves regional transportation needs. Four locally funded projects meet the criteria, and have been added to the plan. These 4 projects involve 100% local investment from the City of Huntsville, Madison County, and the City of Madison of over \$84.8 million.

Ms. Kling stated these projects are Greenbrier Road from Old Hwy 20 to 5000 feet north of Old Hwy 20, with the City of Huntsville committing \$10.2 million in local funds in fiscal year 2016 for this project; Old Hwy 20 from County Line Road to Segers Road with the City of Huntsville committing nearly \$5.6 million in local funds in fiscal year 2016 for this project; I-565 and Madison Blvd Interchange Modification for Resolute Way Access at Redstone Arsenal with the City of Huntsville committee \$37.5 million. An Interchange at I-565 near Zierdt Road was added for the City of Madison and Madison County with utility relocation and construction scheduled for FY 2016. The City Madison and Madison County commitment for utility relocation and construction is \$26.5 million.

Ms. Kling added, that with the financial commitments for the Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP for federal aid road improvements, including all required matching funds, over \$264 million is committed; for Transit over \$24.7 million; for Transportation Alternatives over \$1.1 million and for Regionally Significant projects over \$84.8 million of local funds. This reflects a total investment of over \$374.6 million for all projects and programs in the area.

Mr. Whitley made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 10-15; which was duly seconded by Mr. Weaver and carried unanimously.

Mr. Devlin stated that the next item on the agenda was **Resolution 11-15**: Appoints State of Alabama as the designated recipient and distributor of FTA Section Grant Funds. Mr. Devlin asked Ms. Kling for an explanation of the item. Ms. Kling stated that the legislation requires the Governor to designate a recipient for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Formula Grant Funds for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. This grant is the funding source for human service agencies and other eligible non-profits, that provide transportation services, as part of their mission to elderly and/or disabled clients.

Ms. Kling stated at an earlier meeting this committee recommended TARCOG as the designated recipient and the pass through agency for Section 5310 Formula Grant Funds. At the time of this committee's approval, the TARCOG staff had agreed to this responsibility. However, recently the TARGOC Board declined the management and oversight of this program. The City of Huntsville Transit Division and the MPO staff participated in negotiations with FTA and the State of Alabama concerning the need for another agency to fill the role. As a result, ALDOT has agreed to be the designated recipient of these funds, and serve as the pass through agency to distribute these monies. Previously, those types of funds passed through ALDOT, and they have a procedure in place to manage such a program. ALDOT is required to submit a letter from Governor formalizing approval, a signed resolution of approval by MPO, and legal assurances. Adoption of this resolution allows the State of administer these funds appropriately.

Mr. Weaver made a motion to recommend approval of **Resolution 11-15**; which was duly seconded by Mr. Smith and carried unanimously.

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