

MINUTES OF THE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING
HELD JUNE 8, 2016,
AT 4 P.M.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization met on Wednesday,
June 8, 2016, at 4 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the
Municipal Building, Huntsville, Alabama, there being present:

Metropolitan Planning Organization Members Present:

Mr. Dale Strong, Chairman	Chairman, Madison County Commission
Mayor Tommy Battle	City of Huntsville
Mayor Troy Trulock	City of Madison
Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
Councilwoman Jennie Robinson	Huntsville City Council
Mr. Curtis W. Vincent	ALDOT/Guntersville

Metropolitan Planning Organization Members Absent:

Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads
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Staff Members Present:

Ms. Tanjie Kling	Huntsville Planning Division
Mr. James Moore	Huntsville Planning Division
Ms. Paige Colburn	Huntsville Planning Division

Chairman Strong called the meeting to order.

Chairman Strong asked that the record reflect that the following members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization were in attendance at the meeting: Chairman Strong, Mayor Battle, Mayor Trulock, Director Vincent, Mayor Caudle, and Councilwoman Robinson, and that absent was Mayor Craig.

Chairman Strong stated that the first item on the agenda was Approval of the Minutes of the MPO meeting on February 3, 2016. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution to adopt the Draft FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mayor Caudle read and introduced a resolution adopting the Draft Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2017, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 07-16)

Mayor Caudle moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

Chairman Strong recognized Mr. James Moore of the Huntsville Planning Division.

Mr. Moore stated that the Unified Planning Work Program was the governing planning document prepared by the Huntsville Metropolitan Planning Organization on an annual basis, noting that it identified the transportation planning work to be undertaken by the MPO, as required by Federal law.

Mr. Moore stated that the purpose of the Unified Planning Work Program was to outline multimodal transportation planning activities within a financially constrained budget to be conducted in the Huntsville MPO planning area. He continued that the UPWP was updated each 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.

Mr. Moore stated that some examples of tasks performed by the UPWP were as follows: Task I, Administration, covering financial management, public outreach, and the general management of the MPO; Task II, Data Development and Maintenance, covering the collection and maintenance of data, as well as travel demand modeling for the MPO; Tasks III & IV, Short and Long-Range Planning, covering the TIP, the UPWP, and the Long-range Plan; and Task V, Special Studies, including Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, and Climate Change.

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

Mr. Moore stated that the Huntsville MPO's current UPWP, adopted in September 2015, extended through September 30, 2016. He continued that as adopted, the 2017 program funded over \$748,000 worth of planning activities and studies for the

Huntsville MPO region.

Chairman Strong thanked Mr. Moore for the presentation.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 07-16, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was an amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mayor Trulock read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/National Highway System Bridge Projects Sections and the Other Surface Transportation Projects Section in the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to increase right-of-way funding for the Northern Bypass, from east of Pulaski Pike to east of the US 231/431 intersection, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 08-16)

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

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Tanjie Kling of the Huntsville Planning Division.

Ms. Kling stated that the above resolution amended the adopted Year 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to

accommodate a higher cost estimate for right-of-way acquisition for the Huntsville Northern Bypass from 1500 feet east of Pulaski Pike to east of US 231/431. She stated that the resolution required federal funds from both the National Highway System Program and the Surface Transportation Other Program to meet the estimated overruns.

Ms. Kling stated that this segment of the Huntsville Northern Bypass was nearing the right-of-way acquisition phase. She continued that the original right-of-way cost was estimated approximately 10 years prior, and that it had come in at approximately \$5 million. She continued that, however, during the course of a decade, several things had changed, with one being, of course, inflation. She continued that there had also been development within the corridor. She stated that, also, since the time this had been initially estimated, they now had an actual design and were aware of what right-of-way they specifically needed to purchase. She continued that the current estimate was approximately \$11.5 million in order to acquire the right-of-way for this project.

Ms. Kling stated that this was a "Restore our Roads" project, so the City of Huntsville would be splitting the cost with the State of Alabama, 50-50. She stated that this right-of-way acquisition was tentatively scheduled to commence in July 2016.

Chairman Strong thanked Ms. Kling for the presentation.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion

of the above resolution.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 08-16, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was an amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

Councilwoman Robinson read and introduced a resolution amending the Transit Projects Section in the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP by modifying the budget allocation for the FY 2017 program for Huntsville Public Transit, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 09-16)

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Battle.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Kling of the Huntsville Planning Division.

Ms. Kling stated that Huntsville Public Transit was requesting an amendment to the TIP pertaining to their Fiscal Year 2017 budget. She stated that since the City of Huntsville was a direct recipient of grant funds from the Federal Transit Administration, it received every year information from the FTA concerning what budgetary amounts would be available to be utilized. She continued that there was a requirement that this be done each year and the figures tweaked.

Ms. Kling stated that based upon the latest information concerning the budget amounts for Fiscal Year 2017, Huntsville Transit was requesting that the Capital and Operating allocations be modified as shown on the displayed table, and also attached to the resolution. She stated that this reflected a total of more than \$2.5 million for the Operating Budget and more than \$1.7 million for the Capital Budget. She continued that the City of Huntsville was projected to receive a total of approximately \$2.4 million from the Federal Transit Administration for its transit programs in FY 2017, and that the City would be paying a match of more than \$1.8 million.

Ms. Kling stated that the total funding for Huntsville Transit would be approximately \$4.3 million. She continued that the federal allocation for the year was anticipated not to cover all the needs for Huntsville Transit, with there being a deficiency of approximately \$239,000 that the City of Huntsville would have to pay. She continued that this would be primarily for purchasing equipment for its buses, to meet ADA requirements. She continued that this specific equipment would provide visual and auditory messages related to bus stops for passengers who might have hearing impairments or low vision.

Chairman Strong thanked Ms. Kling for the presentation.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 09-16, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was a Status Report of ATRIP Projects and Other Major Transportation Projects.

Chairman Strong recognized Mr. Les Hopson of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Mr. Hopson stated that the first project was the City of Huntsville, Additional Lanes on US 72 East, westbound, and that that project had just been completed.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Zierdt Road northbound lanes from north of Martin Road to south of Madison Boulevard, and that it was approximately 90 percent complete, with an estimated completion date of the current summer.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Phase 1 of the Widening and Realignment of Church Street, from Monroe Street to east of Pratt Avenue. He stated that the utility relocation and clearing and grubbing project had just been let, and that the work would commence on this in July of 2016. He continued that the road and bridge construction project should be let in the fall of 2016.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Additional Lanes on Winchester Road from

Dominion Circle to Naugher Road. He continued that the design was almost complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was about to commence. He continued that there was significant utility relocation involved with this project, and there was quite a bit of right-of-way, so they were looking at doing a separate project, and they were looking at letting that in 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, which had just been mentioned, was the City of Huntsville, the Huntsville Northern Bypass from east of Pulaski Pike to the US 231/431 intersection. He continued that there was a construction cost of \$23 million plus. He stated that the design was 60 percent complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was about to commence. He stated that they were hoping for a letting date on this of late 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Additional Lanes on Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road. He stated that this was the ATRIP-funded portion, that the design was 85 percent complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was underway. He continued that they were looking at a letting date on this of 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, and that this was the other portion of Martin Road, the STPAA-funded portion, and that it was about the same on the design, 80 percent complete, and that the right-of-way acquisition was ongoing. He stated that they had not decided if this would be let at the same time as the other portion,

that they were looking at the logistics of it at this time. He continued that they were looking at possibly 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Memorial Parkway, the overpasses and the new Martin Road bridge. He stated that this work was 20 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Memorial Parkway, the Mastin Lake overpass. He stated that the cost was \$31 million, and the design was 60 percent complete. He stated that they were working on the environmental document, and they hoped to begin right-of-way acquisition in the current summer, with a letting date of late 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the cities of Huntsville and Madison, the Zierdt Road southbound lanes and the greenway, from Martin Road to Madison Boulevard. He stated that the design was 85 percent complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was well underway. He continued that they hoped to let this in the fall of 2016.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the cities of Huntsville and Madison, Additional Lanes on US 72, from County Line Road to Providence Main Street. He stated that the estimated construction cost was \$60 million, and the estimated right-of-way cost was \$10 million plus, noting that this was quite a substantial project. He stated that they were in design at this time, and they were looking at a letting date in

2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Madison, Widening and Resurfacing on County Line Road from Madison Boulevard to the Madison City Limits. He stated that this was 60 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was the City of Madison, Kellner Road Extension to Zierdt Road. He stated that this was in the early design stage at this time, and that they were estimating a letting date in 2017.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Madison County, Construction of Interchange at Blake Bottom Road Overpass. He stated that the right-of-way acquisition was well underway on this, and they were looking at a letting date in the fall of 2016.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Madison County, a Bridge Replacement and Approaches on Winchester Road over the Flint River. He continued that this was 50 percent completed.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Madison County, Additional Lanes on Winchester Road from Naugher Road to Riverton Road, that the design was almost completed, and the right-of-way acquisition was almost completed. He stated that they were looking at a letting date of sometime in 2017, depending on the utility relocation.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Madison County, Additional Lanes on Winchester Road, from the

Flint River to past Bell Factory Road. He stated that this project had just been let, and that Reed Contracting had been the low bidder. He stated that work would start in the current summer.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Madison County, Additional Lanes on Jeff Road. He stated that this was still in the environmental study process. He continued that this was quite a large project, with 100 right-of-way tracts to be acquired at this time. He stated that they were not aware as to exactly when this would be let, but they were looking at 2018 at this time.

Mr. Hopson stated that these projects were in the total amount of \$301 million plus.

Mr. Hopson asked if the MPO members had any questions.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong thanked Mr. Hopson for his presentation, stating that it had been very informative.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Comments. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the MPO at this time.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Other Business. He asked Ms. Kling if there was any further business to come before the MPO.

Ms. Kling replied in the negative.

Chairman Strong stated that he would like to welcome back

a familiar face, noting that Curtis Vincent had served in North Alabama for more than 20 years and then had spent six or seven years in South Alabama. He stated that he was glad he had now been appointed to take over the North Alabama Division. He stated that they were certainly glad to have him as a member of the MPO, as well as all the vital parts that he was doing for transportation in North Alabama. He welcomed him back home.

Chairman Strong stated that with no further business to come before the MPO, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman,
Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Secretary,
Metropolitan Planning Organization