

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE  
HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION,  
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017

The Technical Coordinating Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2017, at 3:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, there being present:

Committee Members:

Ms. Connie Graham	City of Huntsville Planning Division
Mr. Dennis Madsen	City of Huntsville Director of Urban and Long Range Planning
Mr. Tommy Brown	City of Huntsville Director of Parking and Public Transit
Mr. Houston Matthews	Madison County Engineering
Mr. Richard Grace	Madison County Engineering
Mr. Lucas Blankenship	Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
Mr. Les Hopson	Alabama Department of Transportation
Ms. Ruth Khoja (Proxy for Anne Burkett)	Madison County Planning and Economic Development
Ms. Brandi Quick	City of Huntsville Executive Director, Ditto Landing
Mr. Shane Davis	City of Huntsville Director of Urban and Economic Development
Ms. Michelle Jordan	City of Huntsville Director of Planning
Ms. Kathy Martin	City of Huntsville Director of Engineering

Staff Members:

Mr. James Moore	MPO Staff
Mr. James Vandiver	MPO Staff
Mr. Steve Dinges	MPO Staff

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order and stated that the first item on the agenda was Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on June 7, 2017.

Mr. Madsen moved for approval of the minutes of the meeting on June 7, 2017.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Brown.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was the Adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Graham recognized Mr. James Moore.

Mr. Moore made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Moore stated that Resolution No. 09-17 would adopt the Final Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, the UPWP.

Mr. Moore stated that the purpose of the UPWP was basically to outline multimodal transportation planning activities, within a financially constrained budget, to be conducted in the Huntsville MPO Planning Area.

Mr. Moore stated that the UPWP 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.

Mr. Moore stated that examples of tasks performed in the UPWP were as follows: Task I, Administration, covering administrative support activities such as financial management, contract management, public outreach, and the general management of the MPO; Task II, Data Development and Maintenance, covering the collection, maintenance, and analysis of transportation data, including the development of socioeconomic forecasts and travel demand models to determine where future transportation investments would be; Tasks III and IV, Short- and Long-Range Planning, addressing planning for activities taking place within a three- to five-year time frame, including the management of the Transportation Improvement Program, the TIP, the Unified Planning Work Program, the UPWP, and covering planning activities for the long term, including the development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, Air Quality Planning, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, Transit, and the promotion of sustainable development; and Task V, Special Studies, covering other planning issues and studies, including major corridor studies, Planning, Freight Planning, Congestion Management, and Safety Management, as well as Environmental Justice and Climate Change.

Mr. Moore stated that the 2018 UPWP was developed by the MPO staff, in consultation with partner agencies and input from local citizens and stakeholders. He stated that the document

may be amended to account for changes in funding or project needs.

Mr. Moore stated that next was a look at the budget for 2017-2018. He stated that the Huntsville MPO's current UPWP, adopted in September 2016, extended through September 30, 2017. He stated that the Final FY 2017 UPWP total was \$745,816. He continued that as adopted, the 2018 program would fund over \$756,000 worth of planning activities and studies for the Huntsville MPO region.

Mr. Moore stated that the Edits from the Draft to the Final UPWP were as follows: Transit Pages Edited by Huntsville Public Transit added Request for Proposals (RFP) wording; last transit study "increased ridership over 20 percent;" and Appendix E, Summary of Public Outreach Activities, providing details as to the dissemination of the Draft FY 2018 UPWP and Final FY 2018 UPWP for two weeks of public review each. He stated that the Appendix included press releases and public notices.

Mr. Madsen moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 09-17, adopting the Final Fiscal Year 2018 Unified Planning Work Program.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Davis.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it

was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

Ms. Moore recognized Mr. Madsen.

Mr. Madsen stated that Resolution No. 10-17 would amend the Transportation Alternatives Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a Transportation Alternative grant project for the Dry Creek Greenway in the City of Huntsville.

Mr. Madsen made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Madsen stated that the link was shown in beige on the display. He continued that it linked the Town Green at Providence Town Center to the existing Indian Creek Greenway. He stated that this was an 80-20 match, with the Federal being \$400,000 and the Local \$100,000.

Mr. Madsen stated, concerning the CAC Comments, that there was a request for clarification as to what was being done with the bridge. He stated that a ramp would be installed, to ensure ADA compliance.

Mr. Madsen stated that they had also talked about prioritization methodology, why they chose certain links over others. He stated that one answer to this was that, basically, it was an opportunity because the land was being donated by the owner, and, also, that it linked a busy commercial area to a very popular greenway.

Mr. Madsen stated that another comment concerned getting

more access to the prioritization criteria. He stated that the City of Huntsville was currently updating its Greenway Master Plan and stated that those priorities would be published with that update.

Mr. Madsen stated that CAC members had asked if Providence road expansions were taken into account with this project. He stated that this was coordinated with the anticipated work of the Providence developers.

Mr. Madsen stated that, also, pedestrian crossings were discussed. He stated that this would actually go under the existing bridge.

Mr. Madsen stated that the CAC also wanted to see a little more context on some of the presentations.

Mr. Madsen stated that that was the extent of the CAC comments.

Mr. Davis moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 10-17, amending the Transportation Alternatives Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a Transportation Alternative Grant Project for the Dry Creek Greenway in the city of Huntsville.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Brown.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

Ms. Graham recognized Mr. Madsen.

Mr. Madsen made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Madsen stated that Resolution No. 11-17 amended the Transit Projects Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a new FY 2017 transit project number for existing Section 5317 funding for Genesis Residential.

Mr. Madsen stated that that was described on the display. He stated that the only real change, basically, was that ALDOT had assigned a different project number to it, that there was no change in the level of funding, the recipient, or the source.

Ms. Jordan moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 11-17, amending the Transit Projects Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a new FY 2017 transit project number for existing Section 5317 funding for Genesis Residential.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Brown.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement

Program.

Ms. Graham recognized Mr. Madsen.

Mr. Madsen made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Madsen stated that Resolution No. 12-17 would amend the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a new utility relocation phase to an existing project on Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road in the city of Huntsville.

Mr. Madsen stated that this was essentially setting aside State funds previously allocated to the City for construction on Martin Road. He stated that even though the road would be done in phases, the utility relocation would be done at the same time, so this was adding a utility phase to the project.

Mr. Madsen stated that the only CAC comment on this item concerned which utilities were included in the cost. He stated that that was that only gas, water, and sewer were reimbursable with Federal funds.

Ms. Martin moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 12-17, amending the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to add a new utility relocation phase to an existing project on Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road in the city of Huntsville.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Blankenship.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.



There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

Ms. Graham recognized Mr. Madsen.

Mr. Madsen made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Madsen stated that Resolution No. 13-17 amended the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to increase the cost of the interchange at Blake Bottom Road and State Road 255/Research Park Boulevard.

Mr. Madsen indicated the location on a displayed map, noting that one could see Research Park Boulevard coming in from the north and stated that Blake Bottom Road intersected on the east and west. He stated that this was ATRIP money, and the additional cost did not affect MPO funding. He stated that the old estimate was \$7 million, and the new estimate was \$11.6 million. He stated that, as had been clarified at the CAC meeting, this new estimate had come from ALDOT and included additional costs that were not considered in the preliminary estimate. He stated that the design had not changed since the original estimate.

Mr. Madsen stated that the CAC had some questions with regard to connection across Blake Bottom, from east to west.

He stated that eastbound was still accessed via flyovers, and there was no new westbound access. He stated that the homeowners and noise concerns had been addressed per FHWA requirements.

Mr. Matthews moved to recommend approval of Resolution No. 13-17, amending the Other Surface Transportation Program Projects Section of the adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP to increase the cost of construction for an ATRIP project, the Blake Bottom Road interchange at Research Park Boulevard.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Davis.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any discussion of the above motion.

Mr. Davis stated that he was aware that that project was recently opened for bid and asked if they knew what the construction timeline was.

Mr. Matthews stated that ALDOT had let the project the prior week, and it was opened at approximately \$7.8 million, and that Madison County engineering was now working through the process to get it executed and begin construction.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any further discussion of the above motion.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Ms. Graham stated that the next item on the agenda was Review of Administrative Modifications to MPO documents since

last MPO meeting.

Ms. Graham recognized Mr. Madsen.

Mr. Madsen made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Madsen stated that Administrative Modifications were done internally by staff, but they did want to take the opportunity to address the CAC, TCC, and MPO and let them know what administrative modifications were being worked on.

Mr. Madsen stated that the first Administrative Modification was changes to the FY 2017 UPWP, basically dealing with how ALDOT invoiced. He stated that, also, there was a project addition of a Federal maintenance program on State Road 53, from north of Taurus Drive to the Limestone County line. He stated that this was basically a point of information. He continued that he believed this construction may have already started. He stated that this was Federal and State funds only and had been previously authorized.

Mr. Madsen stated that next was Rockhouse Road at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. He stated that they were not adding this to the TIP because it was an FY 2020 project, and they were not adding it to the LRTP because it was not capacity building, that it was purely some resurfacing, in addition to a turn lane. He stated that this was 100 percent Federally funded through the National Park System.

Mr. Madsen stated that what was being displayed was the location of this project. Mr. Madsen stated that the CAC comment concerning this was if there were traffic counts on

Rockhouse Road. He stated that they did not believe so, but they were going to look and see if anyone with the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) might have some.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any Public Comment.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee.

There was no response.

Ms. Graham stated that the meeting was adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned on August 30, 2017, at 3:45 p.m.)