

MINUTES OF THE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 6, 2017
AT 4 P.M.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization met on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 4 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, there being present:

Metropolitan Planning Organization Members Present:

Mr. Dale Strong, Chairman	Chairman, Madison County Commission
Mr. Shane Davis	City of Huntsville (Proxy for Mayor Battle)
Mayor Paul Finley	City of Madison
Mr. Les Hopson	ALDOT/Guntersville (Proxy for Mr. Curtis W. Vincent)

Metropolitan Planning Organization Members Absent:

Councilman Bill Kling	Huntsville City Council
Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Dennis Madsen	MPO Staff
Ms. Paige Colburn	MPO Staff
Mr. Steve Dinges	MPO Staff
Mr. James Vandiver	MPO Staff

Chairman Strong called the meeting to order.

Chairman Strong asked that the record reflect that in attendance at the meeting were the following persons:
Mr. Shane Davis, Proxy for Mayor Tommy Battle; Mayor Finley; Chairman Strong; and Mr. Les Hopson, Proxy for Mr. Curtis Vincent.

Chairman Strong stated that the first item on the agenda was Approval of the Minutes.

Mayor Finley moved for approval of the minutes of the MPO meeting on August 30, 2017.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mr. Davis.

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

There was no response.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Chairman Strong asked Ms. Colburn to make a presentation concerning the item to be approved.

Ms. Colburn stated that that would fall under Other Business, but she could go ahead and cover it at this time.

Ms. Colburn stated that this was a letter from the City of Madison requesting that the Metropolitan Planning Organization would add their Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project, which she noted was a greenway in the

city of Madison, to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) the upcoming year, should they be approved for this funding.

Mr. Davis moved to approve the request from the City of Madison, as set out above, which motion was seconded by Mayor Finley.

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

Mayor Finley stated that he appreciated this. He stated that this was the extension of the Mill Creek Greenway, noting that they were bringing this all the way to, in essence, the Eastview Extension sidewalk, that it would connect the east to the west. He stated that they were excited about this and were hoping they could secure it.

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

There was no response.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on the above motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item was a status report of ATRIP projects and Other Major Transportation Projects, presented by Mr. Les Hopson of ALDOT.

Mr. Hopson stated that the first project, in the city of Huntsville, was the Widening and Realignment of Church Street Phase 1. He stated that the clearing and grubbing phase had been completed, and the project bid date was the spring of

2018, for the road and bridge construction. He stated that upcoming would be the Utility Relocation. He continued that Railroad and Corps of Engineer permits were outstanding at this time.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was Additional Lanes on Winchester Road from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road. He stated that right-of-way acquisition was just starting on this project, and that there was a possible letting date of 2018. He continued that, however, since there was a significant Utility Relocation involvement in this project, there might be a separate phase of the project that would come out of that to start with.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was the Huntsville Northern Bypass. He stated that right-of-way acquisition was under way on this project, and they were looking at a possible letting date of Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was Additional Lanes on Martin Road from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road. He continued that this was the ATRIP-funded portion. He stated that right-of-way acquisition was under way, that it was finalizing, and they were looking at a letting date of spring of 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next phase of this project, in the city of Huntsville, was Additional Lanes on Martin Road from Wall Triana Boulevard to Old Jim Williams Road, noting

that this was the STPAA-funded portion. He stated that right-of-way acquisition was well under way, and they were looking at a letting date of later in Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was Memorial Parkway Overpasses, at Byrd Spring and Lily Flagg. He stated that this project was 80 percent complete, that it was well under way.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was Memorial Parkway from Sparkman Drive to Winchester Road, including the Overpass at Mastin Lake Road. He stated that right-of-way acquisition had commenced on this project, and that there was a possible letting date of Fiscal Year 2018, which he noted was very dependent on right-of-way acquisition on the project.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the cities of Huntsville and Madison, was the Zierdt Road northbound lanes. He stated that this project had been completed.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the cities of Huntsville and Madison, was the Zierdt Road southbound lanes and the greenway. He stated that right-of-way acquisition was well under way. He stated that there were some condemnations involved in this, and that the projected letting date was March 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in the cities of Huntsville and Madison, was Additional Lanes on U.S. 72 from County Lane Road to Providence Main Street. He stated that

this project was under design, with possible right-of-way acquisition starting in 2018, and a projected letting date of Fiscal Year 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next item, in the city of Madison, was the Kellner Road Extension. He stated that he believed Madison County had taken over this phase of the project. He stated that it was still under design, with a possible letting date of Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in Madison County, was the Interchange at the Blake Bottom Road Overpass. He stated that the project had been let, and Reed Contracting had commenced work, and the project was approximately 10 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in Madison County, was the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on Winchester Road over the Flint River. He stated that the project was 95 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in Madison County, was Additional Lanes on Winchester Road from Naugher Road to Riverton Road. He stated that the Utility Relocation was under way. He continued that there was a little bit of right-of-way that had to be acquired before the project could be let. He stated that it appeared that the letting date would be in the spring of 2018.

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

the Flint River to 0.1 mile past Bell Factory Road. He stated that the project was almost complete, that they were just waiting on the bridge project to be completed so the paving work could be done up to the bridges.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, in Madison County, was Additional Lanes on Jeff Road. He stated that on this project they were still finalizing the Environmental Document and doing right-of-way acquisition. He stated that hopefully there would be a letting date in Fiscal Year 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the total amount of the projects under construction or in design was \$301,088,806.

Chairman Strong thanked Mr. Hopson for the presentation. He asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hopson at this time.

Mayor Finley stated, concerning University Drive, that it was said that it was 40 percent complete. He asked Mr. Hopson if at the next meeting of the MPO he could bring forward what had been designed and what they were contemplating concerning this project.

Mr. Hopson stated that that was a good question. He stated that they had some alternatives they were looking at at this time. He continued that they were still trying to study what to do with the money they had, noting that they had approximately one-half of the money they needed in order to build the entire corridor. He stated that at this time he

could not give a date on this but reiterated that they were still evaluating some alternatives on it.

Mayor Finley stated that perhaps, from an evaluation standpoint, they could advise the MPO as to what they were thinking on this.

Chairman Strong stated to Mr. Hopson that perhaps they could potentially set a meeting on this matter with the Mayor of Huntsville; the Mayor of the city of Madison; Director Cooper; and Curtis Vincent, the Regional Director for the State of Alabama. He stated that he believed this project had originally been slated for \$45 million, and the cost had escalated to more than \$80 million. He continued that he believed the direction of this project was crucial to practically every city in the local area and, also, persons traveling from Limestone, Lawrence, and other counties. He reiterated that perhaps they could schedule a meeting to see where they were on this project and what options were on the table for executing it in a timely manner.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Hopson.

Mayor Finley stated that he did not have any further questions on that matter. He continued that he had attended a meeting at Williams Elementary School concerning Zierdt Road and Martin Road, and there were a lot of folks that were concerned that they were going to start two projects at the same time. He stated that he just wanted to make sure the

MPO understood that while this might be helpful in the long term, it needed to be monitored short term, and that they should do anything they could possibly do in order to minimize that impact.

Chairman Strong stated that with approximately \$301 million of projects under construction or design, persons could see the construction that was going on, and everyone was also aware of other projects that were slated to commence soon. He stated that these projects did hold up traffic while they were going on, but with the number of jobs they had had announced and that were being announced, with 300 jobs having just been announced in the current week in Huntsville, he believed it was critical that they keep these road projects moving forward. He continued that there was no doubt that this plan was thorough.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Hopson.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any other business to come before the MPO.

There was no response.

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

(Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.)

Chairman,
Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Secretary,
Metropolitan Planning Organization