

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting - November 28, 2018 - 4 p.m.

**City Council Chambers, Municipal Building
Huntsville, Alabama**

Members Present:

Mr. Dale Strong, Chairman	Chairman, Madison County Commission
Mayor Tommy Battle	City of Huntsville
Mayor Paul Finley	City of Madison
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads
Ms. Frances Akridge	Huntsville City Council
Mr. Curtis W. Vincent	ALDOT/Guntersville

Members Absent:

Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
-------------------	----------------

MPO Staff Present:

Mr. Dennis Madsen
Mr. James Moore
Ms. Shontrill Lowe
Mr. James Vandiver
Mr. Steve Dinges

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Strong at the time and place noted above.

Chairman Strong asked that the record reflect that in attendance at the meeting were Chairman Strong, Mayor Battle, Mayor Finley, Mayor Craig, Councilwoman Akridge, and Director Vincent.

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

Mayor Finley moved for approval of the minutes of the MPO meeting on August 29, 2018.

Said motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

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

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

Chairman Strong stated that the first item on the agenda was Discussion of the City of Huntsville Greenbrier FRA and EDA Grant Projects. He stated that the MPO had written letters of support for these projects.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Shontrill Lowe of the MPO staff.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that what was being displayed were letters of support that Chairman Strong had already signed. She stated that, basically, the City was looking for extra funding to do an at-grade crossing and improvements at the bridge near Old Highway 20 and Greenbrier Parkway. She stated that they had taken a step to do an FRA grant and an EDA grant, and what was displayed were just the letters of support.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Discussion of Alabama A&M University FTA Grant Projects. He stated that on September 25, 2018, Alabama A&M University had been awarded an FTA Bus and Bus Facilities 5339(b) Grant for FY 2018, in the amount of \$3,761,033.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that Alabama A&M had applied for and been awarded these funds to purchase electric buses and construct a storage facility for their buses, and also install shelters and upgrade its technology, and so forth.

Ms. Lowe stated that a lot of questions had been asked at the CAC meeting about the local match. She continued that that particular match was coming from the Alabama A&M Operational Budget, in the amount of \$752,206.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was an Amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 11-18 would add an ALDOT FY19 TAP Sidewalk Project for the Town of New Hope in the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that New Hope had applied to ALDOT for the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding, and they had been awarded that, to install sidewalks along Hayden Street and Main Drive, and so forth, around the Square, up to the school.

Mayor Craig read and introduced a resolution amending the Transportation Alternatives Section in the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP by adding the Town of New Hope FY 2019 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TAP) grant project for sidewalk funding, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 11-18)

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

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

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 11-18, 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 (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 12-18 would adopt and support the Statewide Bridge and Pavement Performance Measurement (PM2) Targets, as approved by ALDOT, into the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that the PM2 Targets were basically the Bridge and Pavement Performance Targets. She stated that the State had adopted those, in conjunction with Federal Highway, and they were basically following suit. She stated that they had the option at a later date to pick up their own targets if they so choose, but at this time they would follow suit, if the MPO approved.

Mayor Finley read and introduced a resolution amending the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP by adding Bridge and Pavement Performance Measurement (PM2) Targets, as approved by ALDOT, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 12-18)

Mayor Finley moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Craig.

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

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Akridge.

Ms. Akridge asked Ms. Lowe what the pavement goal was, if it was a 10-year life or what was the goal that was being approved with this.

Ms. Lowe stated that they would come back in, she believed, in October of 2019, that it was only a year. She stated that they would go back and look at the performance targets and see if they were hitting those, and if they were, then maybe they were fine, and they would not need to update them, but if they

were not, then they would maybe make some arrangements to update them accordingly.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 12-18, 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 (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 13-18 would adopt and support the Statewide Travel Time Reliability Performance Measurement (PM3) Targets, as approved by ALDOT, into the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that this was along the same process, that they were taking a look at their Travel Time Reliability, that along the interstates they were looking at the reliable time for one to get from one interchange to the next interchange. She stated that upon the MPO's approval, they would be adopting the ALDOT standards.

Mayor Battle read and introduced a resolution amending the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP by adding the Statewide Travel Time Reliability Performance Measurement (PM3) Targets, as approved by ALDOT, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 13-18)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 13-18, 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 (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 14-18 would delete a bridge replacement project on Thach Road over an Unnamed Creek (BIN #4132) from the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong stated that without objection, they would consolidate this item and the following three items on the agenda.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP by deleting a Bridge Replacement Project on Thach Road over an Unnamed Creek (BIN #4132), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-18)

Ms. Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley and was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP, for Replacement of Bridge and Approaches (BIN #009693) on Dan Tibbs Road over Dry Creek - MCP 45-119-08, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-18)

Ms. Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley and was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution changing the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects section of the 2016-2019 TIP to replace bridge and approaches project on Dan Tibbs Road

over Dry Creek - MCP 45-119-08, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-18)

Ms. Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley and was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP, for Replacement of Bridge and Approaches (BIN #002544) on Old Highway 20 (CR-12) over a Slough of Limestone Creek (FHWA DISASTER AL 2016-01) (DDIR REPORT LIMESTONE-2), as follows,

(RESOLUTION NO. 17-18)

Ms. Akridge moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley and 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 (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 18-18 would add additional lanes on SR-255 from Old Madison Pike Overpass to SR-2 (U.S. Highway 72) in the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that she believed this amendment was from Old Madison Pike to University, Highway 72. She stated that they would be adding an additional lane on each side, which she noted would essentially try to relieve some of the congestion in the area. She stated that the total cost of this project was \$3.9 million, and the cost distribution was shown on the display.

Mayor Craig read and introduced a resolution amending the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP by adding additional roadway lanes on SR-255 from Old Madison Pike Overpass to SR-2 (US-72), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 18-18)

Mayor Craig moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Mr. Vincent.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Chairman Strong recognized Mayor Finley.

Mayor Finley asked if this would make six lanes all the way to Highway 72.

Ms. Lowe stated that was correct.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 18-18, 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 (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 19-18 proposed to add the resurfacing project on I-565 from .80 mile west of Indian Springs Road to .25 mile west of the Madison County line in the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that this was a resurfacing project that was in the design phase. She stated that there was about \$100,000 that was going to the design for this particular project. She stated that it was resurfacing all the way to I-565.

Mr. Vincent read and introduced a resolution amending the National

Highway System/Interstate Maintenance Section of the Adopted FY 2016-2019 TIP by adding a resurfacing project on I-565 from .80 mile west of Indian Springs Road to .25 mile west of the Madison County line, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 19-18)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Akridge.

Ms. Akridge stated that she wanted to ask for a diagram. She asked Ms. Lowe if she could zoom in on it, noting that it was very simplified.

Ms. Lowe stated that she did not believe she could.

Ms. Akridge asked if this was just resurfacing, just as they would do on a neighborhood road.

Ms. Lowe replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Finley asked if it was correct that this was just the design phase of this.

Ms. Lowe replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Akridge asked if it was correct that this was a design to do the same kind of resurfacing that one would see on a lot of side streets.

Ms. Lowe replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any further questions.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 19-18, 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 2016-219 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 20-18 would change the Transit Project section

of the 2016-2019 TIP to add a Section 53.11, Transit, State Admin, University of Alabama Huntsville, Capital Bus Support Equipment, FY 2018 Grant, AL18X027.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that UAH had applied to the State for Section 53.11 funding to operate a bus training simulator. She stated that they did not have a bus system as of this time, but they would like to have one on their campus at a later date, so at this time they would like to have the training simulator, to kind of go through the fundamentals of what a bus would be like on campus.

Mayor Finley read and introduced Resolution No. 20-18 amending the Transit Projects Section of the Adopted 2016-2019 TIP by adding the Section 5311, Transit, State Admin, University of Alabama Huntsville, Capital Bus Support Equipment, FY 2018 Grant, AL18X027, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 20-18)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 20-18, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was a Review of Administrative Modifications to MPO Documents Since the Last MPO Meeting.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that there were three Administrative Modifications, with the first being Utility Costs for the bridge replacement on Old

Highway 20. She stated that this one had been mentioned earlier. She stated that the cost of this particular project had increased from approximately \$314,000 to approximately \$378,000.

Ms. Lowe stated that the Construction Costs of that bridge had increased from approximately \$1 million to approximately \$2.6 million. She stated that this particular project was an emergency relief project, so it was in the Administrative Modification Section simply because it was an emergency relief project, and it did not necessarily have to have a resolution to be adopted for that particular project.

Ms. Lowe stated that the third one was the Construction Costs for additional lanes on Winchester Road from Naugher Road to Riverton Road. She stated that those projects had increased from approximately \$9.3 million to approximately \$9.9 million.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion of the Administrative Modifications.

Mayor Finley asked, from a funding standpoint, where the additional funding would come from. He stated that the projects had increased and asked how the funding would be increased for them.

Chairman Strong stated that he would help with this. He stated that concerning the Naugher Road project, they were at this time having to find the money, in Madison County, for this. He stated that this project was an ATRIP project, and they had made an agreement with the State of Alabama that they would pay a certain percent of the project, so whatever would be the increase in the project, that same percent would follow. He stated that the bridge was an emergency relief project.

Ms. Lowe stated that that came from the State.

Mayor Battle asked if the bridge on Highway 20 was the bridge right down from Greenbrier.

Ms. Lowe replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further clarification needed concerning the Administrative Modifications.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Jurisdiction Reports. He stated that he wanted to commend Ms. Lowe for adding this to the agenda. He stated that this would allow an opportunity for representatives of Madison County, the City of Huntsville, the City of Madison, the Town of Triana, and the Town of Owens Cross Roads, and any of the other cities to comment. He stated that there were six cities in Madison County that supported the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and then, of course, unincorporated Madison County. He stated that probably as the meetings went on, they would have more input.

Mr. Strong stated that there were more than 200,000 people living in the city of Huntsville and more than 48,000 people living in the city of Madison. He stated that he had been taken aback recently with the latest projections of population in unincorporated Madison County, noting that there was a population of more than 111,000 people, which he noted by population would equate to the fifth largest city in the state of Alabama. He stated that Huntsville was the third largest city in the state of Alabama, and unincorporated Madison County would be the fifth largest, larger than Dothan, Tuscaloosa, or Hoover. He stated that when they communicated their needs with transportation projects, potential gas tax that might be coming up, they needed to be sure they relayed that to those who represented them in

Montgomery.

Chairman Strong stated that if any representative of Madison County, the city of Huntsville, the city of Madison, the town of Triana, or the town of Owens Cross Roads would like to address the MPO, this would be the time. He continued that he believed by the next meeting it would probably be even more appropriate.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Agency Reports. He stated that he would turn the meeting over to Mr. Les Hopson and allow him the opportunity to bring them up to date on Department of Transportation projects.

Mr. Hopson stated that the first project was the City of Huntsville, the widening and realignment of Church Street, Phase 1. He stated that this project was let in July of 2018, that Reed Contracting had submitted the low bid, and work had just started on this project.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, additional lanes on Winchester Road from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road. He stated that the design was well under way, and the right-of-way acquisition was under way. He stated that there was quite a bit of Utility Relocation involved with this project, so the earliest they were looking at for a letting date would probably be in FY 2020. He stated that this project was ATRIP funded also.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, the Huntsville Northern Bypass. He stated that the right-of-way acquisition was well under way, the design was 90 percent complete, and they were looking at a letting date possibly in the summer of 2019, pending right-of-way acquisition, which he noted was pretty extensive.

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 an ATRIP project. He stated that Reed Contracting had submitted the low bid on this project and work was approximately 5 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, additional lanes on Martin Road from Wall Triana Boulevard to Old Jim Williams Road. He stated that this was STPAA funded, which he noted was Federal funds. He stated that the design was almost complete, and the right-of-way acquisition had been completed, but they were still waiting on some money from ALDOT for this project, which should be coming in 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, the City of Huntsville, was the Memorial Parkway Overpass. He stated that this job was essentially complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the City of Huntsville, Memorial Parkway, the Overpass at Mastin Lake Road. He stated that the cost was \$31 million, the design was almost complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was well under way. He stated that they were looking at a possible letting date in the summer of 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, the Cities of Huntsville and Madison, was Zierdt Road southbound lanes and greenway, from Martin Road to Madison Boulevard. He stated that this was a combination of ATRIP and MPO funding. He stated that Wiregrass Construction had submitted the low bid, and the work had just started on this project.

Mayor Battle inquired as to the finish date for this project.

Mr. Hopson stated that he did not recall that information, but he believed that the construction on this would be at least two years.

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 as persons were well aware, this project had a very high cost. He stated that they had been in discussion with Federal Highway about trying to pare down the cost. He stated that he believed they were meeting internally this week to see if they might could make some changes on this project, and they hoped that they could be meeting with them within the next month or so and get this project back well under way.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, the City of Madison, was the Kellner Road Extension. He stated that the design was approximately 40 percent complete, and they were looking at a possible letting date of FY 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, for Madison County, was the interchange construction at Blake Bottom Road. He stated that this project was let in August, and it was well under way, that it was 45 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, for Madison County, was additional lanes on Winchester Road from Naugher Road to Riverton Road. He stated that the estimated cost was approximately \$10 million, and it was set to let on December 7, 2018.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, for Madison County, was additional lanes on Jeff Road, from 0.8 mile south of Capshaw to Douglass Road. He stated that the design was approximately 30 percent complete, and they were looking at a possible letting date in 2020. He stated that they were still waiting for environmental document approval on this one.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was a project that they had not added on, but this was for Madison County, Old Highway 431, four bridges. He stated

that they had just received word that the environmental document had been approved by the Federal Highway Administration. He stated that they could go ahead with the right-of-way acquisition on this one, and that there could be a possible letting in the summer of 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project, for Limestone County, was the interchange improvements at Greenbrier Road. He stated that this had been let in August, and Reed Contracting had submitted the low bid, and the work had just started on this project.

Mr. Hopson stated that the total amount under construction or in design was \$310,379,102.

Mr. Hopson stated that he would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Akridge.

Ms. Akridge asked if she could get a list like Mr. Hopson had just gone over to offer to the public.

Mr. Hopson replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Akridge stated that people wanted to know what she was doing, and she would certainly like to have that list.

Mr. Hopson stated that he believed all the MPO members usually got a copy of this, that they sent them out, and Ms. Akridge would receive a copy of it.

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

Chairman Strong thanked Mr. Hopson for the presentation.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Board Member Comments. He asked if any Board members had any questions related

to this meeting.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Akridge.

Ms. Akridge stated that it was water under the bridge because the MPO had approved it, but she was curious about why it would cost \$100,000 to design the repaving of 565 when she would think there would be a computer model that could be used to calculate the depth of grading, milling, et cetera. She stated that she was a little surprised by this.

Mr. Hopson stated that it was Federal funds, for one thing, and there were a lot of requirements as far as putting together a set of plans. He stated that there were a lot of reviews it would have to go through, that it was pretty comprehensive, especially on interstate routes, as far as doing a set of plans for a letting. He stated that a lot of work went into it, and that was the reason. He stated that he agreed that it was a considerable cost.

Ms. Akridge asked if it was that there were a lot of specifications on materials and structural engineer stamps and asked what were some of the other things, what it would look like if she thumbed through it.

Mr. Hopson stated that there were a lot of materials reports involved. He stated that every project was treated differently. He stated that even though it just seemed like it was a paving project, it was pretty comprehensive, especially on the interstate system. He stated that they would not let them just go out there and start paving on one.

Ms. Akridge asked if it would also include phases, and when they flagged down a lane, or closures, if it included all the logistics of this project also.

Mr. Hopson stated that it would not necessarily be lane closures, unless there was something done such as a materials investigation on it. He stated that he could show Ms. Akridge a set of plans on one, and he could show her

just what went into one, noting that it was quite a bit.

Ms. Akridge asked if in Mr. Hopson's opinion, this was reasonable.

Mr. Hopson stated that he thought it was, noting that they had been doing this a long time. He stated that to use the Federal funds like they did, they partnered with Federal Highway, and they kind of established how things needed to be done, and they went along with them on it.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any further questions from the Board members.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Opportunity for Public Comment. He stated that anyone who would like to address the MPO should go to a mic and state their name and address, and they could address the MPO for three minutes.

Mr. Richard Meyers, town of Gurley, appeared before the MPO, stating that he would be asking his question not only as a private citizen of Gurley but as a volunteer on the Planning Commission. He asked if there was anybody present with the Planning Organization that knew the status for the plans for a light at the end of Rock Cut Road at US 72, to alleviate some of the traffic that would be coming back when Cecil Ashburn was shut down.

Mr. Vincent stated that ALDOT had partnered with the City of Huntsville for a temporary signal at that location. He stated that it would only stop the eastbound traffic, to allow traffic to come out of Rock Cut Road to make a left. He stated that as part of that, there would be an acceleration lane of about 1200 feet in length.

Mr. Meyers inquired as to the timeline for this project.

Mr. Vincent stated that he believed the City was ready to start work, if they have not already started in the current week.

Mr. Meyers asked if this was something that would show up on the slides for this organization.

Mr. Vincent stated that it would not.

Chairman Strong asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address the MPO at this time.

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, appeared before the MPO, expressing appreciation to the MPO for letting the public get involved in what was going on.

Ms. Reed stated that she first wanted to bring up something that had been handed to her to bring before the MPO. She stated that on Winchester Road and Shields Road they would like to have another lane added, going into Shields Road. She stated that they said the traffic was terrible, that they were having a real big problem there, and they wondered if somebody would take an interest in this and see if they could get a new lane over there.

Chairman Strong stated that he would refer Ms. Reed to Mr. Chuck Faulkner, the Madison County Engineer, who was present at this meeting. He stated that she could provide him this information. He stated that he believed the location would be Winchester Road, Shields Road, and Homer Nance Road. He stated that Mr. Faulkner would be happy to look into this and communicate with the local Commissioner who represented that area and get information concerning it back to Ms. Reed.

Ms. Reed stated that she had one big issue. She stated that she found it hard to understand that the State could just step into a city and do what they wanted to without the public, the City, and the Mayor getting involved. She stated that there was a real problem on University Drive, and everyone was hounding her about it, and she was hounding everybody else about it. She

stated that it was about the concrete barriers that were going up University and on Jordan Lane. She stated that it blocked Popeye's and the bank, that people had to go all the way down and turn around and come back.

Ms. Reed stated that she had been told by the Transportation Department that they had gotten a police report from the City of Huntsville that there were too many wrecks up there. She stated that she lived within about three blocks of that area, and she had never seen as many wrecks up there as they were about to see. She stated that the big, brick barriers were going all the way from the Parkway to old Madison Mall. She stated that if anybody from the State was up here, they needed to go out and look at this.

Ms. Reed stated that she had called to find out who had okayed this and said it was okay to do it without public involvement. She stated that she had told them that Kay Ivey needed to see this, that she needed to look into this. She stated that then she had gotten the truth as to where this had come from. She stated that it would be up to the MPO to look into it, though. She stated that she had just been told that she would get used to it.

Ms. Reed stated that everybody in the city was harping about this, that they had cut off the businesses out there. She stated that the streets were just not wide enough for these barriers, and they were not preventing wrecks, that they were causing wrecks. She stated that someone needed to go out and check this out. She stated that she had asked the State if Mayor Battle had okayed it, and if he had seen it, or whatever. She stated that it was State job, and she guessed they did not want to get involved. She stated that there needed to be a public hearing on this, that they needed to let the public get involved.

Ms. Reed stated that with the gas tax and all the money they were wasting in the city, they could have put up reflectors, and there was a lot of

studying that could have been done.

Ms. Reed stated that she would like to know the cost of the work that was being done on University Drive. She continued that they needed to find out who had made this decision, noting that she really wanted to tell people the truth about what was going on and who was making these decisions. She stated that it was affecting the people of the city. She stated that they might not care, and they might think they were doing something good, and maybe they were.

Ms. Reed stated that she was also interested in who was paying for the greenways. She asked what a greenway had to do with transportation, noting that she would like for someone to explain that to her sometime. She stated that she knew they were trying to buy 331 acres, from downtown to Ditto Landing.

Chairman Strong stated to Ms. Reed that her three minutes were up. He stated that the MPO members could comment on the questions Ms. Reed had asked or they could take it under advisement and answer the questions privately.

Chairman Strong stated to Ms. Reed that he appreciated her input, and he knew she cared about the people. He stated that they would try to get the answers to her inquiries to her.

Mayor Battle asked Mr. Vincent how many hearings they had held concerning University Drive. He stated that the City of Huntsville Planning Department had taken letters out to every business owner up and down that street and reminded them of the public meeting that would be held. He continued that he believed it was at TARCOG.

Mr. Vincent stated that was correct, and if he recalled correctly, they had had two public meetings concerning this. He stated that, also, they had gone to

most of the businesses and shown them what was proposed.

Mr. Vincent stated to Ms. Reed that, just as he had advised her when she was in his office, he took full responsibility for that project. He stated that it would improve safety, that it had improved safety. He stated that they would have information to show this once the project was completed.

Mr. Vincent stated to Ms. Reed that she was welcome to come back to his office at any time, and he would sit down with her and talk about this some more, that he would get her happy.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Akridge.

Ms. Akridge stated that this was another category of "change is hard." She stated to Ms. Reed that they appreciated she was relaying the fact that a lot of people were frustrated with this change. She stated that she wanted to add that as a driver, when she had seen the concrete medians going in, she was relieved to see some traffic flow accommodations. She stated that when she had first moved to Huntsville 12 years prior, she had witnessed a wreck in that area. She stated that she did not have all the statistics as to how many wrecks had happened since that time, but that wreck had been horrendous. She stated that when she saw the medians going up, she just had a sense of calm about the way they were going to help direct traffic. She stated that safety was a paramount issue, and she did not believe their experts would install something if it were not for the betterment of the city.

Ms. Akridge reiterated that she appreciated Ms. Reed relaying the concerns of people who had complained to her about this matter but stated that she believed at times one needed to turn around to those people and say, "We have met the experts, and we have confidence in their direction."

Chairman Strong asked if there was anyone else in the audience who

would like to address the MPO.

Chairman Strong stated that seeing none and with no further business to come before the MPO, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman,
Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Secretary,
Metropolitan Planning Organization

(Meeting Adjourned at 4:40 p.m.)