

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting - August 28, 2019 - 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
Mr. Curtis W. Vincent	ALDOT/Guntersville

Members Absent:

Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads
Ms. Frances Akridge	Huntsville City Council

MPO Staff Present:

Mr. Dennis Madsen
Ms. Shontrill Lowe
Ms. Paige Colburn
Mr. James Moore
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 Mayor Finley, Mayor Battle, Director Vincent, and Chairman Strong.

Chairman Strong stated that the first item on the agenda was Approval of Agenda for the Wednesday, August 28, 2019, MPO Board Meeting.

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

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 next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2019, meeting of the MPO.

Mayor Battle moved for approval of the Minutes of the MPO meeting on May 22, 2019, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

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 next item on the agenda was Discussion - Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Colburn.

Ms. Colburn made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Colburn stated that when the MPO had met previously in May, she had talked about a consultant that would be coming on board to do the Year 2045 Transportation Plan. She stated that that consultant was Croy Engineering, and representatives of the company were present at this meeting, and if the MPO had any questions for them, they could ask them.

Ms. Colburn stated that the Draft of the document was due in January of 2020, and there would be a 45-day Public Comment period, after which the Final would be due in March of 2020. She stated that this body would adopt the Draft in January of 2020 and have the Final brought before them in March of 2020.

Ms. Colburn stated that between this date and January of 2020, Croy and the MPO staff would be working on public outreach. She stated that one of the ideas so far for the name of the document was "TRIP 2045," for "Transportation Regionally Innovative Projects."

Ms. Colburn stated that they were requesting that everybody on the MPO Board that were members of any organizations, churches, businesses, et cetera, invite the MPO staff to such organizations to talk about the TRIP 2045 Plan, what the next 25 years of transportation might be for the region, and to ask for public input. She stated that they were looking for public comments and public input as they developed the Draft over the next two to three months.

Ms. Colburn stated that they would be bringing the "Spend the MPO Money Board," where they would give every participant in the room \$500 million of MPO bucks to place in the different envelopes on the board that represented different popular MPO projects, such as the widening of I-565, the I-565 and Research Park Boulevard Interchange, the 80-mile Singing River Trail that many of the jurisdictions and regional areas to Athens and Decatur were involved in, as well as the Northern Bypass.

Ms. Colburn stated that there were all sorts of different projects there, and they would tell the public they could spend all of their MPO bucks in one envelope or spread them out across the 10 projects on the board. She stated that they would then tally up the results of all these, in charts and graphs, such as the one being displayed, and these would be published in the TRIP 2045 Plan. She stated that they were hoping to get a lot of public input this time. She continued that they were also talking about doing this as an on-line survey, as well as several other sorts of public input activities.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Adoption - MPO Self-Certification Question and Answer Form. He stated that Resolution No. 24-19 adopted the Huntsville-Area MPO Self-Certification process required by the federal government, that questions be answered pertaining to the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Process.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that this resolution was basically the Self-Certification for the MPO, certifying the MPO, that they had been going through the Metropolitan Planning process, pertaining to the State as well as the Federal Highway.

Ms. Lowe stated that these particular questions and answers were included in Appendix 3.7 of the Updated TIP, which was on the table for review.

Mayor Finley read and introduced a resolution amending the MPO Self-Certification section in the Adopted FY 2020-2013 TIP to include the attached Self-Certification Form, ADA Compliance Spreadsheet, and letters from MPO Member Jurisdictions, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 24-19)

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. 24-19, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Mayor Battle asked if the MPO had not passed the previous resolution, what would happen, since it was required by the federal government.

Ms. Lowe stated that their TIP would be delayed, as well as federal funds.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Adoption - Final FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He stated that Resolution No. 25-19 approved and adopted the Final FY2020 UPWP Program. He stated that the purpose of the UPWP was to outline multimodal transportation planning activities, within a financially constrained budget, to be conducted in the Huntsville-Area MPO Planning Area within the next fiscal year.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that the Final FY2020 UPWP was brought before the MPO so that the MPO could be transparent to the Board members, as well as the citizens and stakeholders, as to how they spent their Federal and State Planning Funds.

Ms. Lowe stated that they had several different tasks within the UPWP. She stated that an example of these was Task I, an Administrative Task, which she noted covered Contract Management, such as that with Croy, the Long-Range Transportation Plan Consultant. She stated that it also covered the Administrative portion, such as salaries and public outreach.

Ms. Lowe stated that Task II was the Data Development and Maintenance Task. She stated that this covered things such as Socioeconomic Forecasts, Travel Demand Models, et cetera, when it came to analyzing transportation data.

Ms. Lowe stated that Tasks III and IV were their Short-Range and Long-Range Planning activities. She stated that these included the

Transportation Improvement Program; the LRTP; the UPWP, this document; and it also included things such as their Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities, or plans.

Ms. Lowe stated that Task V covered Special Studies, such as other Corridor Studies, Congestion Management plans, which would be going out for bid later in the year.

Ms. Lowe stated, concerning the difference in the Budget from the current year's UPWP to the 2020 UPWP, that the current year's total was about \$651,524, and 2020 Program funds would cover about \$726,266 of Planning activities for the required tasks that she had just gone through, plus an additional \$325,000 on the Jurisdictional plans that jurisdictions had applied for.

Ms. Lowe stated that Madison County had applied for funding to cover a Transportation Master Plan and Implementation Study, and the City of Huntsville had applied for the Memorial Parkway Intersection Safety Study.

Ms. Lowe stated that if adopted, the 2020 UPWP would total about \$1.2 million in federal, state, and local funds.

Mayor Battle read and introduced a resolution adopting the Final Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2020, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 25-19)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Mayor Finley asked if as these projects were let, the accounting responsibilities would go back to the cities, or the municipalities, or the counties that were managing them. He asked what part the MPO core group

had in supporting that.

Ms. Lowe stated that would be when it came to a project overrun or if it came down to amendments to the TIP, when there were funds or dates that needed to be changed in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mayor Finley asked who was responsible for closing them out, if that was the municipality or if it was the MPO.

Ms. Lowe stated that closing out different projects was the municipality, talking with DOT, making sure those were closed out, and then they would funnel through to the MPO.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 25-19, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Adoption - FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that Resolution No. 26-19 adopted the Final FY 2020-2023 TIP required by the federal government that included Transportation projects within an urbanized area. He stated that the TIP must be fully updated and approved by vote at least every four years by the MPO Board.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that the Final 2020 Transportation Improvement Program was a Prioritized List of Approved Projects, developed by the MPO, with talks with their jurisdictions, such as the Board members. She stated that different projects within the Plan covered Resurfacing; Widening; Bike and Pedestrian, through their TAP funds. She stated that a lot of these projects were taken from their LRTP, as well as each of the MPO members'

jurisdictional Capital Improvement Plans.

Ms. Lowe stated that changes from the Draft to the Final included the MPO TAP projects, the Transportation Alternatives Section. She stated that in the current year, they had the City of Madison to be awarded the Mill Creek Greenway, Phase 2, project, and the City of Huntsville was awarded the Old Big Cove Pedestrian Bridge project. She stated that another change from the Draft to the Final was the Wall Triana Corridor Study. She stated that that had moved to 2020. She stated that she believed the City of Madison's Old Madison Pike/Slaughter Intersection Improvements was out of the TIP cycle, and they had moved it in, to about 2023. She stated that the City of Huntsville's Church Street Bridge at Big Spring Park was moved out to 2023, while they moved in to 2021 the City of Madison's Balch Road project. She stated that the City of Huntsville had also added in from the LRTP the Redstone Arsenal East Connector, Phase 1, from I-565 to Redstone Arsenal Gate 10, which she noted was the Patton Road gate.

Mayor Finley read and introduced a resolution adopting the Final FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 26-19)

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. 26-19, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Review of Administrative Modifications to MPO Documents Since Last MPO Meeting. He stated that there was the widening and realignment of Church Street, Phase 1,

from Monroe Street to East of Pratt Avenue, and the realignment of Pratt Avenue, including bridge replacement at Pinhook Creek, in the city of Huntsville.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lowe stated that the Administrative Modifications were part of the agenda because they were routine edits to the MPO's documents between meetings. She stated that since they met on a quarterly basis, ALDOT wanted them to practice reporting this to the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Technical Coordinating Committee, and the MPO Board.

Ms. Lowe stated that the Church Street project was about 50 percent complete. She stated that the overrun was about \$2 million, due to the purchase of the Sherman Concrete site that was not originally in the agreement. She stated that a question still lingering was that the CAC wanted to know about the duration of the project and the indefinite profits or nonprofits from that.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Finley asked if he could get a better understanding of the concrete plant and what they were doing concerning that. He stated that he was aware they had purchased right-of-way. He stated that that was, like, a lot. He asked how that was changed and why they changed it.

Ms. Lowe stated that she would defer to Mr. Dennis Madsen on that question.

Mr. Madsen stated that once they got into the details of the Church Street construction, ALDOT had really looked at the concrete plant and had said that in order to make this project work, they were going to have to buy

that out. He stated that that was a significant delta, in terms of not only the purchasing of the plant but the relocation, which also had to be part of the project. He stated that this was really something that ALDOT directed that the MPO and the City of Huntsville do.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Jurisdiction Reports.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any Jurisdiction Reports from Madison County, the City of Huntsville, the City of Madison, the Town of Triana, or the Town of Owens Cross Roads. He stated that persons who wished to speak should step to a microphone and identify themselves, and the MPO would let them provide an update.

There was no response.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was Agency Reports.

Chairman Strong stated that he did not see any representation for FHWA or the FTA.

Chairman Strong stated that he would call on the Alabama Department of Transportation, noting that he believed Mr. Les Hopson was going to provide an update.

Mr. Hopson made a PowerPoint presentation, Huntsville MPO Project Update, August 28, 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that the first project was Church Street, Phase 1, between Pratt Avenue and Monroe Street. He stated that this was well under way in construction and about 50 percent complete. He stated that they were

looking at a completion date sometime in 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was the Northern Bypass, from Pulaski Pike to US Highway 231/431. He stated that the plans were 80 percent complete, and the Right-of-Way acquisition was expected to be completed in the current year, with an anticipated start date of sometime in 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that the next project was Martin Road, between Zierdt Road and Laracy Drive. He stated that Phase 1 was under construction at this time, and that it went from Old Jim Williams Road to Zierdt Road. He stated that they were looking at a possible spring of 2020 completion. He stated that Phase 2 had not yet started, that they were looking at a possible letting in the spring of 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was North Parkway at Mastin Lake Road, which he noted was an Overpass. He stated that plans were 90 percent complete, and they were looking at letting a Clearing project in November of the current year. He stated that they would do that first, and then sometime in the following year, they would actually let the Overpass project.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Access Management on US 231, between Weatherly Road and Hobbs Island Road. He stated that the plans were about 30 percent complete, and they were looking at having a Public Involvement Meeting in the fall of the current year. He continued that they were looking at an anticipated start date in the summer of 2020. He stated that this was one of the 50-50 projects.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Cecil Ashburn Drive Improvements. He stated that the contractor was currently on schedule to have two lanes open in October of the current year, and then it would be another 8 to 10 months after that before the entire project would be completed.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Winchester Road from Dominion to Naugher Road. He stated that the plans were well under way, and the right-of-way acquisition was also under way. He stated that there was a possible start in the following year. He stated that they were probably looking at some kind of a Clearing and Grubbing and a Utility Relocation project. He stated that there was quite a bit of involvement on this.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was SR 255 Widening, from US 72 to south of Old Madison Pike. He stated that this project was just starting, and they were looking at a completion date of late 2021.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was US 72 West, between Providence Main and County Line Road. He stated that they were still looking at having another Public Meeting in the coming fall or winter. He stated that they had to meet back with Federal Highway, noting that they believed they had something worked out with them to save some money on this project. He stated that hopefully they would have the Public Meeting in the upcoming fall.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Zierdt Road, between Madison Boulevard and Martin Road. He stated that the last phase was under contract, and there was an anticipated completion date of early 2021.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Winchester Road, from Naugher Road to Riverton Road. He stated that this was under construction and about 15 percent complete, with a possible finish by spring of 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was the interchange at Blake Bottom Road and SR 255. He stated that they were looking at a possible completion date in the upcoming fall. He stated that it was 80 percent complete.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was four Bridge Replacements on Old Highway 431. He stated that this was set up for a September 27, 2019,

letting.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was I-565 Interchange Improvements at Greenbrier Road. He stated that this was 50 percent complete, and there was a possibility it would be completed by December 2019.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was I-565 Additional Lanes from I-65 to County Line Road. He stated that this was well under design, and they were looking at a letting date of spring of 2020.

Mr. Hopson stated that next was Jeff Road Additional Lanes from south of Capshaw Road to north of Douglass Road. He stated that this was still under design, and they were still trying to complete the Environmental document on it. He stated that there was a possible start date of Fiscal Year 2021.

Mr. Hopson stated that that completed his update.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hopson related to his update.

There was no response.

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

Chairman Strong recognized Mayor Finley.

Mayor Finley stated that since their last meeting, they had had a Work Session, and he believed that a lot of the changes that were made there were made after having good discussion, where they could, in many instances, move things in or out, and determine some things that were needed. He stated that he very much appreciated having that, and he hoped they could do it again at some point soon.

Chairman Strong stated that was absolutely correct.

Chairman Strong stated that the next item on the agenda was

Opportunity for Public Comment. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the MPO. He stated that if so, persons should come to a microphone, and when recognized, state their name and address, and they would have three minutes to address the MPO Board.

Ms. Jackie Reed, 303 Jack Coleman Drive, appeared before the MPO. She asked if all of the MPO members had the inputs that went into these things or if certain people made it up and gave it to them.

Ms. Reed asked if all of them were doing something concerning the traffic flow, from one town to another and from one street to another in the city. She stated that it was getting out of hand, and it did not seem like anybody was really taking care of it. She stated that traffic was terrible, and the streets were awful.

Ms. Reed stated that this brought her to the point of what she wanted to talk about, transportation money. She stated that it was mandatory that they had bicycle sidewalks, with transportation money, when the streets looked like they looked. She stated that she could not go along with that. She stated that she heard people fussing all over the city. She stated that they needed to have a vote, that this needed to be on a ballot.

Mr. Reed stated that she saw that they were going to have some committee or something about Greenbrier, with all the mayors and all the big boys, and they were going to put 70 miles from out at Greenbrier all over the city somewhere, 70 miles of bicycle sidewalks. She stated that she had been told that that was mandatory, that Trump and Kay Ivey were making them do that. She stated there was something wrong with government, and she did not think she could clean it up. She stated that if they looked at the streets and the traffic, what they had going on in the city, they were not moving fast enough,

or maybe they were moving too fast.

Ms. Reed stated that she lived in Huntsville, and she had never seen such government in the 30 years she had been standing in the Council Chambers. She stated that she loved the city, and she loved the people, but government needed to take a look and step up front and try to work for the people, that it was not all about the developers. She stated that she had recently been over to Martin Stove, and that in front of those businesses over there, it was a big, muddy mess, but down the street, next to Stone Middle School, they did everything. She asked why they were moving in front of that before they did it for other people, noting that they were in business, and they lived in the city.

Ms. Reed asked if anybody was watching what was going on around the town. She stated that she did not believe they had enough construction workers, taking the bids and doing the jobs because they had the whole city torn up.

Ms. Reed asked if they were building any more concrete like they had done on University Drive. She asked that they please not do that. She stated that she had been fussing about that at the last meeting, and so was everyone else that was in business that had been shut off.

Ms. Reed asked that they work for the public and the people, and the employees.

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

Chairman Strong stated that seeing none, the meeting was adjourned if there was no further business.

Chairman, Metropolitan
Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Secretary, Metropolitan
Planning Organization

(Meeting adjourned on August 28, at 4:30 p.m.)