

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

MINUTES

Regular Meeting - June 8, 2022 - 4:00 p.m.

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
Mr. Curtis Vincent	ALDOT/Guntersville
Ms. Frances Akridge	Huntsville City Council

Members Absent:

Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
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MPO Staff Present:

Mr. Dennis Madsen
Ms. Shontrill Lowe
Mr. James Vandiver
Mr. James Moore
Ms. Jo Beth Gleason

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Strong.

Chairman Strong stated that in attendance at the meeting were Mayor Finley, Ms. Akridge, Mayor Battle, Mr. Vincent, Mayor Craig, and Chairman Strong.

Chairman Strong stated the first item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on March 16, 2022.

Mayor Finley moved for approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on March 16, 2022, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Battle and was unanimously approved by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was the adoption of Draft FY 2023 UPWP, that Resolution No. 12-22 adopted and supported the annual DRAFT FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated that Resolution No. 12-22 was the annual list of tasks for the multimodal transportation planning activities they did yearly, noting that this gave stakeholders a transparent look at what they were doing, by the year. She stated these tasks included some contract management, a little bit of travel demand modeling, and their short- and long-range planning tasks, things like the Transportation Improvement Program, the TIP; and this, the Unified Planning Work Program; and also the Long-Range Transportation Plan; and other bike and ped planning activities.

Ms. Lowe stated that their budget was \$567,988 for Fiscal Year 2023. She stated this also included FTA 5303 Transit Planning funds, so they must have a Transit Task within their budget. She stated it also included different tasks, such as updating the TIP for the next four-year cycle, 2024-2027. She continued that they also had the adoption of the ADA transition plans for the MPO in each of the jurisdictions, and she stated she believed the date for updating that was by the end of the fiscal year, September 1, 2023.

Ms. Lowe stated they had a couple of new tasks, an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan and a Corridor Study, noting that the first one for this would be Old Big Cove Road, which was a multi-jurisdictional project.

Ms. Lowe stated that these activities would go from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution adopting the DRAFT

Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2023, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 12-22)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Ms. Akridge asked Ms. Lowe who the staff was that was conducting this Unified Planning Work Program.

Ms. Lowe stated that at this time they had four staff members, herself, James Vandiver, Dennis Madsen, and James Moore.

Ms. Akridge asked if this needed to include staff from other jurisdictions.

Ms. Lowe stated it somewhat did. She stated that the MPO utilized the City of Huntsville's GIS Department; the current Planning Department; and other departments within the City. She stated they utilized what they could and what they had at their disposal.

Ms. Akridge asked if anyone on the board had any objection to just those people on the staff.

Mayor Finley stated he believed what Ms. Akridge was asking was how the staff got information from the County and the cities, how they would, especially with these new things, do this, if they went out and had meetings with them or if they would call folks to them, just how that communication would work.

Ms. Lowe stated that each jurisdiction had planning meetings, that she was sure the City of Madison had City Council meetings, and Madison County had Commission meetings. She stated they attended those from time to time, if anything popped up on their radar, and they communicated back and forth,

via email, et cetera, so they were in constant contact with all of the jurisdictions, and if there was anything in specific, they noted those and talked on a higher level basis.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 12-22, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-203 TIP amendment, that Resolution No. 13-22 adopted and supported the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan Performance Measurement (PTASP) and Targets, as approved by ALDOT.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated that Resolution No. 13-22 was somewhat of a mandate, that it trickled down from the Federal Highway to ALDOT, and on to the local transit agency. She stated these were basically performance measures, for the rate of fatalities, the rate of injuries. She stated that John Autry from Huntsville Public Transit was present, and if anyone had any questions on specifics, he would answer them.

Mayor Craig read and introduced a resolution concurring with the recommendation of the Technical Coordinating Committee and adopting and supporting the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Performance Measurement and Targets, as approved by ALDOT, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 13-22)

Mayor Craig moved for approval of said motion, which motion was duly seconded by Mayor Finley and was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP amendment, that Resolution No. 14-22 adopted and supported the Transit Asset Management Performance Measurement (TAM) and Targets, as approved by ALDOT.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated that Resolution No. 14-22 was another one of the Performance Management Targets that were mandated by the federal government and passed down from ALDOT to the local transit agency. She stated this particular one was on the Facilities and Fleet performance. She stated that if anyone had any questions on this, Mr. Autry would answer them.

Ms. Akridge read and introduced a resolution amending the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with the inclusion of the Transit Asset Management Performance Targets and Measures, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 14-22)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Ms. Akridge asked Mr. Autry if this Transit Management Performance Measurement included goals for reducing carbon output.

Mr. Autry replied in the negative. He stated that the Transit Asset Management Plan was for the condition of the fleet's transit vehicles, as well as the facilities, which included their downtown transfer station and the station at Bridge Street.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 14-22, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP amendment, that Resolution No. 15-22 changed the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects section of the FY 2020-2023 TIP on Project #100074621.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated Resolution No. 15-22 was a new project, that it was a part of the resurfacing projects for the city of Madison approved at the last MPO meeting, in March.

Ms. Lowe stated that this particular project was the design for the intersection at Wall Triana and Madison Boulevard. She stated these were State Anywhere Funds.

Ms. Lowe stated what she was displaying at this time was a location map for this particular project.

Mayor Finley read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects section in the Adopted FY 2020-2023 TIP to add new PE Project #100074621, "TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, RESURFACING, AND TRAFFIC STRIPE AT MADISON BOULEVARD AND WALL TRIANA HIGHWAY SOUTHWEST/SULLIVAN STREET," as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 15-22)

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

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP amendment, that Resolution No. 16-22 changed the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects section of the FY 2020-2023 TIP on Project #100074622.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated that Resolution No. 16-22 was the Construction portion of the previous project. She stated this was the traffic signal replacement, drainage, resurfacing, and traffic striping at Madison Boulevard and Wall Triana Highway. She stated these were also State Anywhere Funds.

Ms. Lowe stated what she was displaying at this time was a location map for this particular project.

Mayor Finley read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance/Bridge Projects section in the Adopted FY 2020-2023 TIP to add new Project #100074622, "TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, RESURFACING, AND TRAFFIC STRIPE AT MADISON BOULEVARD AND WALL TRIANA HIGHWAY SOUTHWEST/SULLIVAN STREET," as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-22)

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

Chairman Strong asked if there was any discussion.

Ms. Akridge asked Ms. Lowe if she was saying "Stay Anywhere" or "State Anywhere."

Ms. Lowe stated that it was "State," that these were State Surface Transportation Project funds, so they could be used anywhere within the state

of Alabama.

Ms. Akridge asked how they had arrived at this particular site.

Ms. Lowe asked Mayor Finley if he would like to answer that.

Mayor Finley stated they had worked hard with ALDOT to secure it. He stated that that particular one was their highest accident intersection in the city. He stated that the entire project was the length of Madison Boulevard, from County Line Road all the way to Zierdt, that it was resurfacing and doing several of the intersections, to improve those, especially as Town Madison came up. He stated that what they were starting to see was the redevelopment of Madison Boulevard, and they wanted it done safely and appropriately.

Chairman Strong asked if there was any further discussion.

Chairman Strong called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-22, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO members present.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was a non-action item, that it was FY 2020-2023 TIP Administrative Modifications. He stated that Project #100073529 was a level of effort; change in funding, \$8,000, related to a rail safety project. He stated the next project was #100075005, a level of effort; change in funding, minus \$523,000. He stated the next one was 100074429, TAP funds, District 6, Madison County, Phase II. He stated the next one was #100072418, a TSMO project, already on STIP, a change in funding, plus \$1.5 million.

Chairman Strong recognized Ms. Lowe.

(Ms. Lowe made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Ms. Lowe stated that the first project, as Chairman Strong had mentioned, was a rail safety project along the Oakwood Avenue corridor. She stated it was a change in funding, with an increase of \$8,000.

Ms. Lowe stated she would remind everyone that Administrative Modifications were projects that happened in between the last MPO meeting and this MPO meeting. She stated the level-of-effort projects were smaller projects within a bigger scope of project.

Ms. Lowe stated the next one was a level-of-effort project from Limestone County, on 565, to just below Intergraph Way, and this was a decrease in funding.

Ms. Lowe stated the next project was TAP funds for District 6, Madison County, and this was Phase II, and the total for that particular Phase II project was \$400,000.

Ms. Lowe stated the next one was a TSMO project along a bigger project span, and it was adding \$1.5 million to this particular project.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was Agency Reports, and he recognized the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Mr. Lynn Wood stated he was standing in for Mr. Rod Ellis and would be making the Huntsville MPO Update presentation.

(Mr. Wood made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Wood stated the first project was Church Street, that it was under construction, the estimated cost was approximately \$15.5 million, and it was due to be completed in the current summer.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was the Northern Bypass, that the right-of-way acquisition should be completed soon, the utility relocation design work was under way, and the estimated cost was \$40 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next one was the Martin Road project, that it was two phases, and Phase I was 95 percent complete, and due to be completed in the current summer, and Phase II was scheduled for FY 2023. He stated that

both projects combined were at \$25 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was North Parkway at Mastin Lake Road, that utility relocation was under way, and the anticipated start date was anticipated for the current fiscal year, at an estimated cost of \$42.6 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Access Management on South Parkway. He stated this had gone through a public involvement process, which had been completed, and the estimated cost was \$15 million, with an anticipated start date of FY 2023.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Winchester Road, that the right-of-way acquisition was ongoing, the utility relocation design work should begin soon, and the estimated cost was \$15.5 million, with an anticipated start date of FY 2023.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Improvements to Balch Road, that the plans were at 65 percent complete, with an estimated cost of \$1.7 million, and an anticipated start date of FY 2023.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was SR255, Research Park Boulevard, widening, that it was 85 percent complete, and the project cost was approximately \$23.4 million, with an anticipated completion date of the current summer.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was a U.S. 72 West widening project, that this project had a Phase I that had been identified, that it was basically going to start at Providence and do the bridges and the approach work, and the estimated cost was \$85 million. He stated that additional phases had not been identified at this time.

Ms. Akridge stated the next project was Zierdt Road, that this was Phase IV, and the project was complete, at an estimated cost of approximately

\$27 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Four Bridge Replacements on Old Highway 431, that it was under construction and approximately 80 percent complete, with an estimated cost of approximately \$13.5 million, and an estimated completion date of the upcoming fall.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was I-565 Additional Lanes from County Line Road to Wall-Triana Highway, that it was in the design phase, and the projected start date was FY 2023, at an estimated cost of approximately \$46.8 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Jeff Road Additional Lanes, that the plans were 65 percent complete, and the projected start date was FY 2023, with an estimated cost of approximately \$13.5 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Intersection Improvements on Wall-Triana Highway, that bids were accepted in January of the current year and work should begin in late summer of the current year, and the estimated cost was approximately \$1.8 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was the Widening of Blake Bottom Road from Jeff Road to State Route 255, that the right-of-way acquisition was under way for this project, and the estimated cost was approximately \$8.7 million.

Mr. Wood stated the next project was Intersection Improvements on State Route 53, at three intersections along this route, that this project was in the preliminary engineering phase, and it was scheduled for FY 2023, at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

Mr. Wood stated that the next project was the Arsenal East Connector, that it was in the preliminary engineering phase, and the projected start date

was FY 2024, with an estimated cost of \$30 million.

Mr. Wood stated that was all of the current projects on the Update, and the estimated total cost of all these projects was in excess of \$410 million.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any questions for Mr. Wood.

Ms. Akridge asked, concerning the Arsenal East Connector, if they were in touch with people from both the Arsenal and the private sector, and Mayor Battle, in particular, as to whether or not they were still going to need this. She continued that there was a big question as to whether or not people would be commuting, be back at work, and if they really needed to get that much traffic off the highway, at \$30 million.

Mr. Wood stated he believed they were. He stated this was really an environmental study at this point.

Ms. Akridge asked if the study was \$30 million or if the projected construction was that amount.

Mr. Wood stated he believed that was the estimated cost of the total project.

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

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was an MPO Project Status Report, and he recognized Mr. Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated he wanted to quickly go through a new project the Huntsville MPO had been working on. He stated they might recall that in the past, the MPO staff had sent out a Project Status Update, and that was an Excel spreadsheet that printed out at 20 pages, and it was full of information about projects that were ongoing or proposed in the Huntsville area.

Mr. Vandiver stated they had been looking for something a little more user friendly, that they had been working on that for a while, and they had created a new Project Status page on the MPO website, and he wanted to show it to them.

Mr. Vandiver stated if they went on the MPO home page and then went to "News" and "Project Status," this page had all the ALDOT project updates that had been presented at all the board meetings since August of 2018. He continued that there was a link that would take them to a new "Project Status Updates" page, and it had every project that was currently under construction or proposed in the Huntsville MPO area.

Mr. Vandiver stated he would go down to one they had talked about in this meeting, the Madison Boulevard at Wall Triana Highway Intersection Improvements. He stated they could see on the display that they would have the status, whether it was in Planning; the total cost; Preliminary Engineering and Construction; and they would have the jurisdictions, the Madison County Commission, and the State House and State Senate districts; and they would have the phases; and it broke down the funding sources, that, for example, Ms. Lowe had talked about that this was Surface Transportation Any Area Funds; and the bids, the start and end dates, as reported by ALDOT; and then they had the status description, taking about the project; and then a map of the area of the project. He stated they had this for every project.

Mr. Vandiver stated that they could also print or email, share it with friends, any of these project pages or the full project list.

Mr. Vandiver stated that if the members found anything that was missing or needed to be added, they could send the MPO staff an email, and they would be happy to help them out.

Chairman Strong asked if there were any questions for Mr. Vandiver.

Ms. Akridge stated she just had accolades, noting that this would be so helpful, especially for local elected officials who heard "There is no plan." She stated there was, but it was just hard to find and hard to articulate. She stated she could not thank Mr. Vandiver enough for this, noting that it was a very valuable tool. She stated she hoped the mayors would have their communication departments widely share this particular tool, that it would be a very helpful way to engender more trust and respect for what this board and these staff members were doing.

Chairman Strong stated the next item on the agenda was Opportunity for Public Comment. He stated that anyone who would like to address the MPO board should go to one of the microphones and state their name and address, and they would be allowed three minutes to address the MPO board.

Chairman Strong stated that seeing none, the next item on the agenda was MPO Policy Board Member Comments. He asked if there were any comments from the board members related to any of the issues or any upcoming issues.

Chairman Strong stated he would like to thank Governor Ivey, Director Cooper, Mr. Vincent, Mayor Battle, and Mayor Finley, stating that persons would have seen in recent weeks an announcement by the Governor to address some transportation projects on top of what they were seeing at this meeting, to include Interstate 565 lane additions, from the Limestone County line to east of Wall Triana Highway; and also additional funding for University Drive widening project and bridge replacement from Providence Main to the Madison County/Limestone County line; and then Highway 53 widening, with potentially two phases there, one beginning at Jeff Road and

going north to Harvest Road, and potentially from Harvest Road to 850 feet past Old Railroad Bed Road. He stated it was a great meeting in Montgomery, and he thanked each of them for their participation.

Chairman Strong stated that with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman, Metropolitan
Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Secretary, Metropolitan
Planning Organization

(Meeting adjourned on June 8, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.)