

**HUNTSVILLE-AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting - February 15, 2023 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Huntsville, Alabama**

**Members Present:**

Mayor Paul Finley, Vice Chair	City of Madison
Mayor Tommy Battle	City of Huntsville
Mr. Mac McCutcheon	Chairman, Madison County Commission
Mr. Robin Rhoden (Proxy for Curtis Vincent)	ALDOT
Mr. John Meredith	President, Huntsville City Council

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Curtis Vincent	ALDOT
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads
Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana

**MPO Staff Present:**

Mr. Dennis Madsen  
Mr. James Vandiver  
Mr. James Moore

**Also Present:**

Mr. Rod Ellis	ALDOT
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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Finley.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the MPO Policy Board held on November 9, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment.

Vice Chair Finley recognized Mr. James Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated that Resolution No. 01-23 adopted and supported Statewide Safety Performance Measurement (PM1) Targets, as approved by ALDOT.

Mr. Vandiver stated that the PM1 Targets were safety targets, that they were annual targets to measure the effectiveness of safety improvements along Alabama's roadways, that these were statewide targets, and they were updated every year by all MPOs in the state of Alabama. He continued that the factors included Fatalities and Serious Injuries, both total and per 100 million vehicular miles traveled, and that this performance measurement included targets for both Motorists and Nonmotorists.

Mr. McCutcheon read and introduced a resolution concurring with the recommendation of the Technical Coordinating Committee and adopting and supporting the Statewide Safety Performance Measurement (PM1) Measures and Targets, as approved by ALDOT, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 01-23)

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

Vice Chair Finley asked if there was any discussion.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment, that this resolution adopted and supported the addition of Project #100076073 to the Transportation Alternatives section of the TIP.

Vice Chair Finley recognized Mr. Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated that this project was in the town of Gurley, that it was a TAP Project, a Transportation Alternatives Program project. He stated they had been awarded an ALDOT grant the prior year, and this was just the preliminary engineering phase of this project, and the total cost was \$86,121.55, that there were no MPO funds being used on this project, that the grant would pay for \$68,897.24 of this project, and the Town of Gurley would match \$17,224.31.

Mr. Vandiver stated this was for new sidewalks on five streets, including Section Line Street, 4th Street, Church Street, Gurley Pike, and Walker Street, and that this was for a portion of the Singing River Trail in the town of Gurley.

Mr. McCutcheon read and introduced a resolution amending the Transportation Alternatives section in the Adopted FY 2020-2023 TIP, to add FY 2023 Alabama Department of Transportation Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant project for the Town of Gurley, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 02-23)

Mr. McCutcheon moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was seconded by Mr. Meredith.

Vice Chair Finley asked if there was any discussion.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on Resolution No. 02-23, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment, that it was Resolution No. 03-23, adopting and supporting changes to the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance section of the TIP on Project #100004926.

Vice Chair Finley recognized Mr. Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated that this project was the Memorial Parkway Interchange at Mastin Lake Road, that it was the construction phase of this project, and that the total cost had increased from \$38,961,108 to \$47,965,282.86. He stated this was a revised estimate due to ALDOT going to bid letting later in the spring, noting that typically they revised estimates as they got close to the bid letting, and also because of the current condition of construction costs, with materials and labor. He continued that, also, the estimate had not been revised in several years, due to substantial utility work that had to be taken care of on the project.

Mr. Vandiver stated this project was scheduled to be bid in April, with construction starting in the upcoming summer.

Mayor Battle read and introduced a resolution amending the National Highway System/Interstate Maintenance section of the Adopted 2020-2023 TIP, with the total cost change on Project #100004926, "ADDITIONAL LANES ON SR-1 (MEMORIAL PARKWAY) FROM 0.31 MI S of CR-75 (MASTIN LAKE RD) TO CR-65 (WINCHESTER RD) INCLUDING AN OVERPASS AT CR-75 AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS TO CR-65," as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 03-23))

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

Vice Chair Finley asked if there was any discussion.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on the above resolution, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was an FY 2020-2023 TIP Amendment, that Resolution No. 04-23 adopted and supported the addition of Project #100075426 to the Other Surface

Transportation Program Projects section of the TIP.

Vice Chair Finley recognized Mr. Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated this was a new project in the TIP, that it was a TSMO Project, a Transportation Systems Management and Operations Project, on Interstate-65, between the Priceville exit, Exit 334, and US-31 in Athens, Exit 354. He stated the reason this was coming before the Huntsville MPO was because a portion of the affected portion of Interstate-65 was part of the MPO, specifically between Interstate-565, or Exit 340, and the Huntsville Browns Ferry Road exit, Exit 347. He stated this project included cameras, signs, motorist information tools, and this was just the PE phase, of \$500,000, and the funding would come just from the State, that there were no local funds involved in this project.

Mr. Meredith read and introduced a resolution amending the Other Surface Transportation Program Project section of the Adopted FY 2020-2023 TIP to add Project #100075426 - PE Phase of Advanced Corridor Management TSMO on I-65 from SR-67 (MP 334.000) to SR-3 (US-31) (MP 354.000), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 04-23))

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

Vice Chair Finley asked if there was any discussion.

Mayor Battle stated he believed there were some TSMO projects coming up in the City of Huntsville, 565, 72, Memorial Parkway, and he asked if those would be coming a little later in the upcoming summer, if they were already planned in the MPO.

Mr. Rhoden replied in the affirmative.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on Resolution No. 04-23, and it was unanimously adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated that next on the agenda was Nonaction Items. He stated that Mr. Vandiver would go over these items one by one, allowing discussion in between by any of the MPO Policy Board members.

Vice Chair Finley recognized Mr. Vandiver.

(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Vandiver stated these were for information only, so no action would be needed from the MPO Board.

Mr. Vandiver stated the first one was Administration Modification A, a cost increase to a level of effort project, a resurfacing project on SR-53 in the city of Huntsville, from Blake Bottom Road to one-half mile north of SR-255, Research Park Boulevard, that the old cost estimate for this project was \$2.2 million, and the new cost estimate was \$2,404,429.09, and there were no Local or MPO funds involved in this project.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification B was a cost increase to a project in the city of Madison, that it was a two-foot safety widening and resurfacing of Balch Road from one-half mile south of Browns Ferry Road to north of Gooch Lane, that the old cost estimate was \$2,049,330, and the new cost estimate was \$2,325,432.39, and the funding for this project was split between MPO, State, and Federal funds, with a local match on the MPO and State funds.

Mr. Vandiver stated that ALDOT and the City of Madison were working on some modifications to this project, and those would be announced at a future date, once they went through the ALDOT system.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification C was a new level of effort safety project in Madison County, that it was the installation of guardrail and guardrail end anchors at two bridges on Elkwood Section Road over Brier Fork Flint River and a bridge on Pulaski Pike over Beaver Dam Creek, that the total cost of this installation on all three bridges was \$400,142.60, and the bid date was August 2023.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification D was a cost increase to a level of effort project in the Meridianville area of Madison County, that it was resurfacing on US-231/US-431, from Cedarama Drive to Grimwood Road/Walker Lane, that the old estimate was \$5,732,743, and the new estimate was \$6,446,795.17, and there were no local or MPO funds involved in this project.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification E was a new level of effort safety project in Madison County, that it was Safety Improvements, including Rumble Strips, Striping, Pavement Markers, Signs, and Guardrail, along Countess Road, and the total cost of the project was \$131,657, with a bid date of August 2023.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification F was a cost increase to a project in the city of Huntsville, Railroad Crossing Improvements on Martin Road and James Record Road at the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority, that the old cost estimate was \$300,000, and the new cost estimate was \$600,000, and there were no local or MPO funds on this project, as it was a railroad safety project.

Mr. Vandiver stated that Administration Modification G was a cost increase to another railroad crossing project in the city of Huntsville, and it included two gates, LEDs, pavement markings and delineators on Pratt Avenue

at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing, that the old cost estimate was \$50,000, and the new cost estimate was \$700,000, and there were no local or MPO funds on this project.

Mr. Vandiver stated the reason there was such a large increase in this project was that Norfolk Southern had new requirements that required this increase in funds.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was Agency Reports, and he stated there would be a report from the Alabama Department of Transportation by Mr. Rod Ellis.

(Mr. Ellis made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Ellis stated the first project was the Church Street Phase I project in the city of Huntsville, between Pratt Avenue and Monroe Street, and that this project was substantially complete, that he believed the contractor was working through punch list items to wrap the project up, and the cost of the project was approximately \$15.5 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project, in the city of Huntsville, was the Northern Bypass, from Pulaski Pike to US Highway 231/431, that the plans for this project were 95 percent complete, the right-of-way acquisition was down to one or two tracts, and the utility relocation design work was under way, and the current cost estimate for this project was approximately \$47 million, and it was scheduled for bid sometime in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Improvements to Martin Road between Zierdt Road and Laracy Drive, that this was bid in two separate projects, and Phase I was substantially complete, that the contractor was addressing punch list items to wrap up the project, and Phase II was currently scheduled for letting in the current fiscal year, with the budget for both phases



being approximately \$25 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was the North Parkway Overpass at Mastin Lake Road, that the plans were complete and right-of-way acquisition was complete, and it was scheduled for bid, with an April 7th letting, and the current cost estimate was approximately \$48 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Access Management on US-231 between Weatherly Road and Hobbs Road, that the plans were approximately 65 percent complete, and they had completed the public involvement process and were working on completing the environmental document, and they were looking at coordinating the utilities, to relocate the areas where they had improvements. He stated the current cost estimate for this project was approximately \$15 million, and it was currently anticipated for bid sometime in Fiscal Year 2024.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Winchester Road from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road, in the city of Huntsville, that the plans were approximately 90 percent complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was ongoing, and the utility relocation design work should begin soon. He stated the cost estimate was approximately \$15.5 million, and it was currently scheduled for Fiscal Year 2024.

Mr. Ellis stated that next was Improvements to Balch Road in the city of Madison, from south of Browns Ferry Road to north of Gooch Lane, that the plans were approximately 90 percent complete, and the cost estimate was approximately \$2.3 million, and it was currently scheduled for later in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Improvements to State Route-255, Research Park Boulevard, and it was a city of Huntsville project, between

US-72 and Old Madison Pike, and it was substantially complete, that the contractor was addressing punch list items, and the project budget was approaching \$23.5 million.

Mr. Ellis stated that next was US-72 West widening between Providence Main and County Line Road, and that overall the plans were approximately 30 percent complete, and they had held an updated public involvement meeting in May of 2022.

Mr. Ellis stated this project was going to be broken into multiple phases, and the plans for Phase I, replacing the bridge at Indian Creek and improving the approaches, basically from Providence over to near the cemetery, were approximately 90 percent complete. He stated that the environmental document for this project had to cover the entire corridor, so that was kind of the critical path for letting the first phase, and they were working on the environmental document, and hopefully they would begin the right-of-way acquisition sometime later in the year.

Mr. Ellis stated the total cost for the entire corridor was approximately \$85 million.

Vice Chair Finley stated they had talked about, with the Chairman coming on board, that they would like to have a meeting as early as they could, especially to have a discussion on this project. He stated this was, without question, what they were hearing about the loudest, between the two municipalities and the county, as far as they had to get it going because it was going to take a while.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Four Bridge Replacements on Old Highway 431, that it was a Madison County project, and it was under construction and approximately 99 percent complete, that the project budget

was approximately \$13.5 million, and it was scheduled for completion in the winter of 2023.

Mr. Ellis stated that next was I-565 Additional Lanes from County Line Road to Wall-Triana Highway, that these plans were approximately 30 percent complete, that the project was scheduled to let later in the current fiscal year, and the cost estimate was approximately \$46.8 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Jeff Road Additional Lanes from south of Capshaw Road to north of Douglass Road, that this was a Madison County project, and the plans were approximately 70 percent complete, that a virtual public involvement had been held in April 2021, and the right-of-way acquisition should commence later in the current fiscal year, and construction was scheduled for FY 2025, with a current project budget of \$13.5 million.

Mr. Ellis stated that next was Intersection Improvements on Wall-Triana Highway at Graphics Drive, in the city of Madison, that this project was under contract, and it was approximately 5 percent complete, and the budget for the project was approximately \$1.8 million.

Mr. Ellis stated that next was the Widening of Blake Bottom Road from Jeff Road to State Route 255, that this was a Madison County project, that the plans were complete, and the right-of-way acquisition was under way, and it was currently scheduled for bid later in the current fiscal year, with a project budget of approximately \$8.8 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was Intersection Improvements on State Route 53 at Harvest, McKee, and Old Railroad Bed roads. He stated this was an ATRIP-II project, through the Madison County Commission, that the plans for this project were approximately 90 percent complete, and the County

was actively purchasing right-of-way for some of the improvements, and it was currently scheduled for bid later in the current fiscal year, with a budget of approximately \$5 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the next project was the Arsenal East Connector, in the city of Huntsville, that the preliminary engineering was under way, and it was currently scheduled for Fiscal Year 2024, with a budget of approximately \$30 million.

Mr. Ellis stated the total amount of work in design or under construction was approaching \$400 million.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was Nominations/Elections.

Vice Chair Finley stated this would be their election for the upcoming two years.

Vice Chair Finley stated the floor was open for nominations for Chairman of the Huntsville-Area MPO Policy Board.

Mayor Battle nominated Mac McCutcheon.

Vice Chair Finley asked if there were any further nominations.

Vice Chair Finley stated that hearing none, nominations were closed.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on Mac McCutcheon as Chair of the Huntsville-Area Metropolitan Policy Board for the upcoming two years, and he was unanimously elected Chair by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley congratulated Mr. McCutcheon.

Vice Chair Finley stated the floor was open for nominations for Vice Chair of the Huntsville-Area MPO Policy Board for the upcoming two years.

Mayor Battle nominated Mayor Finley for Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Finley asked if there were any further nominations.

Vice Chair Finley stated that hearing none, nominations were closed.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on himself as Vice Chair of the Huntsville-Area Metropolitan Policy Board for the upcoming two years, and he was unanimously elected Vice Chair by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated the floor was open for nominations for Secretary of the Huntsville-Area MPO Policy Board for the upcoming two years.

Chairman McCutcheon nominated Mayor Battle.

Vice Chair Finley asked if there were any further nominations.

Vice Chair Finley stated that hearing none, nominations were closed.

Vice Chair Finley called for the vote on Mayor Battle as Secretary of the Huntsville-Area Metropolitan Policy Board for the upcoming two years, and he was unanimously elected Secretary by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was Opportunity for Public Comment.

Vice Chair Finley stated that if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the MPO Policy Board, they should go to a microphone and state their name and organization, if they had one, and they would have three minutes to address the board.

Ms. Sara James appeared before the board, stating that she was the Economic Development and Planning Director for TARCOG, the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments.

Ms. James stated she just wanted to make a brief public comment on behalf of TARCOG's RPO, Rural Planning Organization. She stated that some of the members might be aware that they housed the RPO, which she guessed

they could say hugged the Huntsville Area MPO.

Ms. James stated that two weeks prior, they had been lucky enough to receive an Action Plan Award for Safe Streets and Roads for All, or SS4A, from the U.S. Department of Transportation. She stated that this was a new program looking at transportation safety nationwide, and they had received \$400,000 to do a regionwide action plan for their RPO region, which was a portion of Limestone County and the entirety of Jackson, DeKalb, and Marshall counties.

Ms. James stated she had just wanted to make everyone aware of this effort, noting that it would be getting under way very shortly. She stated she was really excited about what this meant for transportation safety in the region, and they looked forward to coordinating with the MPO as they moved through this planning process.

Vice Chair Finley asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address the MPO Policy Board.

Vice Chair Finley stated the next item on the agenda was MPO Policy Board Member Comments.

Vice Chair Finley congratulated Speaker McCutcheon, now Chairman McCutcheon. He stated there had been a swearing-in earlier in the day, and they were thrilled to have Chairman McCutcheon on board with the MPO Policy Board, and now as their Chairman, and they would continue to work hard with the County and the two cities, to continue to do all they could.

Mr. Meredith requested the slide deck from Mr. Ellis and asked for a meeting with Mr. Vandiver.

Mr. Vandiver stated the slide deck would be on their website, [huntsvillempo.org](http://huntsvillempo.org), as of the following day.

Chairman McCutcheon stated it had been a very eventful day, having been sworn in and people being supportive, that it was good to be Chairman of the Madison County Commission, and it was also good to be a part of the MPO. He stated that transportation was something that had been very important to him in his legislative duties, and now he was back in Madison County working on that. He thanked them for all the work that had been done through the MPO and the research data that had been collected, and he stated that as they moved forward with this, it was very important to them in Madison County that they start addressing their needs in such a way that they could keep traffic moving, because as growth continued, congestion would mount. He stated he was glad TARCOG had that grant, that he thought those studies and that data would be helpful moving forward.

Chairman McCutcheon thanked the members for electing him Chairman of the MPO, and he stated he would serve to the best of his ability.

Vice Chair Finley stated that with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Vice Chair, Metropolitan  
Planning Organization

ATTEST:

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Secretary, Metropolitan  
Planning Organization

**(Meeting adjourned on February 15, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.)**