

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

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting - May 21, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall, Council Chambers  
Huntsville, Alabama**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Mac McCutcheon,  
Chairman  
Mayor Tommy Battle  
Mayor Paul Finley  
Mr. Curtis Vincent

Chairman, Madison County  
Commission  
City of Huntsville  
City of Madison  
ALDOT

**Members Absent:**

Mayor Mary Caudle  
Mayor Tony Craig  
Ms. Michelle Watkins

Town of Triana  
Town of Owens Cross Roads  
Huntsville City Council

**MPO Staff Present:**

Mr. Dennis Madsen  
Mr. James Vandiver  
Mr. Kevin Bernard  
Mr. James Moore

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**Chairman McCutcheon** called the meeting to order the time and place noted above.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the MPO Policy Board held on March 19, 2025, were approved as submitted.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**Draft FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

**Chairman McCutcheon** recognized **Mr. Kevin Bernard**, MPO Staff.

**(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Bernard** said Resolution No. 2025-06 adopted the draft FY 2026 UPWP. He said this was the MPO's annual planning and administrative budget, along with the day-to-day operations, and the total funding for FY 2026 was \$1,389,423.

**Resolution No. 2025-06, adopting the Draft FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

**Motion by Battle/Second by Finley/Unanimously Adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.**

**(RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06)**

**FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Revision 1.**

**(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Bernard** said Resolution No. 2025-07 adopted and amended the FY 2025 UPWP, to include Federal Highway Administration mandated revisions.

**Resolution No. 2025-07, amending the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), to discontinue all expenditures of PL funds on tasks related to Climate Change, Electric Vehicles, or Environmental Justice. Additionally, the current UPWP document will be updated to remove the Planning Emphasis Areas and any associated tasks on these topics, with unspent funds reallocated to other initiatives.**

**Motion by Finley/Second by Battle/Unanimously Adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.**

**NON-ACTION ITEMS.**

**FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications.**

**(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (a)** was a new level-of-effort bridge painting project, for a bridge spanning over Frontage Road, the overpass between Drake Avenue and Airport Road. He said the project estimate was \$500,000, with a target start date of July 25, 2025.

**Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (b)** was a new level-of-effort sign replacement project along I-565, all within Madison County, and it was for new signage, including the preliminary engineering and also the construction cost. He said the estimate for the preliminary engineering was \$50,000, and the construction estimate was \$883,750. He said the target start date was June 1, 2025, for the preliminary engineering, and the construction was due to start June 26, 2026.

**Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (c)** was new level-of-effort Transit Projects, for the City of Huntsville Transit and for Madison County bus acquisitions.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS.**

**Chairman McCutcheon** said rather than item (a), a presentation by the Alabama Department of Transportation, they would go to item (b), TMA Certification Review Report.

**Chairman McCutcheon recognized Mr. James Vandiver, MPO Staff.**

**(Mr. Vandiver made a PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Mr. Vandiver said this was their Transportation Management Area 2025 Federal Certification Review**, and he would provide a brief overview of the TMA Certification Review report they had received earlier in the month from their partners at FHWA and FTA. He said the MPO Policy Board members might recall that back in March, they had done a TMA

Certification Review, which was a requirement for all MPOs that had an urban area population greater than 200,000. He said this was done every four years, and it ensured MPO compliance with Federal Transportation Planning regulations, that it was basically an audit of their Transportation Planning practices, and it included Commendations, Recommendations, and Corrective Actions. He said he would cover the Commendations, which was the good news, and the Corrective Actions, which were some things they needed to fix before the next TMA Certification Review in 2029.

Mr. Vandiver said the commendations were the things the FHWA and the FTA thought they had done a really good job with, as an MPO. He said included were their MPO 101 sessions for new board members, noting that for any new board member coming on any of their boards, they offered these sessions, to get them informed about the MPO and what they did.

Mr. Vandiver said they were also impressed with their Updated 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which was adopted back in March. He said that in particular, they were very impressed with their robust Public Involvement, noting that they had had several public meetings, as well as some online public involvement. He said that, also, they had an Updated Congestion Management Plan included in that LRTP, and they were impressed with their data collection on that. He continued that they were impressed with their coordination with Huntsville Transit. He said John Autry and his team were very helpful and instrumental in getting the data, and also participating in the TMA Certification Review.

Mr. Vandiver said that, also, they gave them commendations for their website, the ease of use and the information included on the website.

Mr. Vandiver said they had given them two Corrective Actions, that the

first one was an Indirect Costs Statement, that they required that they should have an Indirect Costs Statement in their Unified Planning Work Program, for their budget that was just passed. He said they had included that Indirect Costs Statement, noting that they did not include indirect costs in their budget, but they wanted something saying that in their budget, that said they did not include indirect costs. He said this was a very simple fix, and they had fixed it with Resolution No. 2025-07, which was just passed by the board.

Mr. Vandiver said, concerning the second Corrective Action, that they were looking for a more robust discussion of environmental mitigation activities in their Long-Range Transportation Plan, that they felt their discussion on things like wetlands and historic preservation needed to be beefed up. He said they had already planned an amended 2015 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which would be coming before the board either the last meeting of the current year or the first meeting of the upcoming year.

Mr. Vandiver said that originally that was just for the MPO Bike Plan, that they were going to add the MPO Bike Plan, which would be wrapping up soon, that they were going to amend the LRTP to include the projects that were recommended in that, and they would add the environmental mitigation language as well, to satisfy that.

Mr. Vandiver said that by this time in the upcoming year, they should have corrected all their Corrective Actions and should be back in the good graces of FHWA and FTA.

**Chairman McCutcheon recognized Mr. Rod Ellis for the report from the Alabama Department of Transportation.**  
**Huntsville MPO Project Update.**

**Northern Bypass from Pulaski Pike to US Highway 231/431.**

**Mr. Ellis** said they were having a problem displaying the slides, but the first project was the Huntsville Northern Bypass, and on this project, they were continuing to work on utility relocation, and he thought the focus with the construction was on the intersection around 231. He said they should be installing a temporary signal soon, if they had not already done so, and shifting the traffic to the exterior of the highway and working on the interior part, for the intersection improvement. He said he did not recall the percent complete on the project, but he thought it was around 20 to 25 percent.

Mr. Ellis said for Winchester Road, the City was continuing to buy the right-of-way, and that project was scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year.

**(At this point, the PowerPoint presentation begins.)**

Mr. Ellis said they had talked about the **Northern Bypass**, and it was about 40 percent complete.

**Chairman McCutcheon** asked if Mr. Ellis could give him a brief explanation of how the traffic signal that was going to be put in there was going to work.

**Mr. Ellis** said that, regretfully, he could not, being that it was a City project. He said he thought the temporary signal had been added after there had been some other issues. He said it would be hard for him to explain exactly how that was going to work, but he could find out and get back with Chairman McCutcheon.

Chairman McCutcheon said he could do some further checking, that he just thought there might have been a plan in place.

**Martin Road between Zierdt Road and Laracy Drive.**

Mr. Ellis said Phase I was complete, and for Phase II, utility work was continuing, and the bridge contractor was working on the substructure for the

bridge, foundation, columns, vents, and the roadway work had started on the east side of the project. He said the project was approximately 25 percent complete.

**North Parkway at Mastin Lake Road.**

Mr. Ellis said the project was approximately 45 percent complete, that the service road part of the project was essentially complete, and they had shifted the traffic out, and the contractor was working on constructing the overpass and the retaining walls to hold the earthfill for the new roadway for the overpass. He said the budget was about \$44 million.

**Access Management on US 231 between Weatherly Road and Hobbs Road.**

Mr. Ellis said the plans were about 85 percent complete, and they hoped to begin right-of-way acquisition soon. He said they had been working through some issues around Hobbs Road, with real estate being so tight, for their improvements. He said there were some large utilities in there that would be at a fairly substantial cost to move, so they were trying to look at redesigning some things to keep their costs down and avoid those utility relocations. He said they thought they had worked through that, and they should be moving forward to right-of-way acquisition soon. He said the project was scheduled for FY 2026.

**Winchester Road from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road.**

Mr. Ellis said their plans were 90 percent complete, that the City was continuing to acquire right-of-way, and the utility relocation design work should begin soon. He said the project was scheduled for FY 2026.

**US 72 West between Providence Main and County Line Road.**

Mr. Ellis said this was Phase I, basically the bridge replacement. He said

he had a little bit of good news, that they were hoping to get the draft EA in the current week, and they would submit it to their Environmental Technical Section, and it would go to Federal Highway for review. He said there would probably be some back-and-forth comments to complete the draft, and they would have to have an additional Public Involvement meeting at some point, after the draft was finalized. He said this project was scheduled for 2027. He said they had about 12 tracts of right-of-way they would have to buy with Phase I, and they would move through that to get to the utility work, and then the construction phase.

Mr. Ellis said Phase II was from Walnut Street to Huntsville Memory Gardens, and they had their consultant under contract, to pick up the 30 percent plans they had and move this forward. He said he was hoping they could advance that design rapidly, to get it to a right-of-way phase quickly and start buying that right-of-way, perhaps possibly before they finished buying the right-of-way for Phase I. He said this project was currently scheduled for 2029.

Mr. Ellis said for the final phase, from County Line Road to Walnut Street, the preliminary engineering was currently scheduled for the current fiscal year. He said because this would be the same consultant, they might delay it until the next fiscal year, to allow them to advance Phase II to the right-of-way phase first, and that would give them some time to back up and start on this section.

### **SR-53 Widening from Taurus Drive to Harvest Road.**

Mr. Ellis said right-of-way acquisition was ongoing, that they had a couple of tracts they were trying to close out, noting they were what they called "temporary construction easements," which they had to have completed before



they could bid the project. He said the utility work was under way, and it was his understanding that Huntsville Electric had finished their relocation. He said there were several telecoms that would have to follow them, on their poles, and Harvest-Monrovia Water should be starting on their relocation soon. He said this project was currently scheduled to bid later in the current fiscal year, maybe August, or possibly September.

**Madison Boulevard from Westchester Road to Flagstone Drive.**

Mr. Ellis said this project was approximately 95 percent complete, and his understanding was they were just waiting on some of the signal equipment to come in to finish the signal improvements at Wall-Triana. He said he thought these were the only remaining items to complete this project.

**I-565 Additional Lanes from County Line Road to Wall-Triana Highway.**

Mr. Ellis said the contractor was progressing the roadway work from west to east, and the bridge contractor had started on the bridges over Intergraph Way, and the project was approximately 15 percent complete.

**Jeff Road Additional Lanes from South of Capshaw Road to North of Douglass Road.**

Mr. Ellis said the plans were 85 percent complete, that the Environmental document had been recently approved, and the County should begin right-of-way acquisition later in the current year.

**Widening Blake Bottom Road from Jeff Road to SR 255.**

Mr. Ellis said the plans and right-of-way acquisition were complete, and utility work was under way. He said it was his understanding that that work should probably be completed toward the end of the calendar year, and

hopefully the project would be bid right around the end of the current year.

**Intersection Improvements on SR 53 at Harvest, McKee, and Old Railroad Bed Roads.**

Mr. Ellis said this project was about 75 percent complete. He said he thought they had started the final paving in the current week, and once they finished that, they should be activating the signals for the turn lanes at some point. He said that, hopefully, that project would be wrapping up in the next four or five weeks.

**Arsenal East Connector.**

Mr. Ellis said this project was in the Preliminary Engineering phase, and it was currently scheduled for FY 2028.

**I-565/Memorial Parkway Interchange Modification Study.**

Mr. Ellis said this was the study of the interchange of I-565 and Memorial Parkway. He said they had their consultant under contract, that he had completed the traffic counts and should begin his analysis of that data, to pick up the concepts and start refining those, to then bring them back to them to look at, and then to involve the board to look at them as well, and they would progress it from there. He said this was about \$1.5 million.

**Chairman McCutcheon** asked if Mr. Ellis had any timeline on when they might have that ready for the board members to look at

**Mr. Ellis** replied in the negative, noting that they had just gotten started, that they wanted to get the traffic counts in before schools got out so they had that. He said he would talk to them and see what they thought their effort was going to look like, to get them something back to look at.

**Mr. Ellis said the total amount of work in Design and Construction was approaching \$390 million.**

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

There were no public comments.

## **MPO POLICY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.**

**Chairman McCutcheon** said they wanted to recognize and thank one of their own who was going to be leaving them. He said to Mr. Vincent that they had a joint Proclamation, and he wanted to read it.

Chairman McCutcheon said this was from the City of Huntsville, the City of Madison, and Madison County, and he read from it, saying Curtis Vincent had dedicated more than three decades of distinguished service to the Alabama Department of Transportation, culminating in his role as the Northern Region Engineer, where he had advocated and directed some of the most transformative infrastructure projects in North Alabama, and his leadership had directly contributed to economic growth and improved safety, and enhanced the quality of life across Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, and the broader Tennessee Valley region; and his tireless work on projects such as the I-565/Greenbrier Parkway interchange, the widening of US 72, adding additional lanes to I-565, and multiple other critical corridor improvements strengthened regional connectivity and laid the foundation for future generations.

Chairman McCutcheon said Mr. Vincent had demonstrated exceptional commitment to public service, exhibiting integrity, technical expertise, and a collaborative spirit that exemplified the highest standards of civic duty, and the cities of Huntsville and Madison, and the Madison County Commission, on behalf of their citizens, wished to formally recognize Mr. Vincent's profound and lasting impact on their infrastructure, community development, and regional progress. He said they were proclaiming May 21, 2025, as

"Curtis Vincent Day" in Huntsville, Madison, and Madison County, Alabama, and they were encouraging all citizens to join in celebrating the legacy of a true public servant and transportation leader whose contributions had helped shape the future of the region.

**Chairman McCutcheon** presented the proclamation to Mr. Vincent and congratulated him.

**Mr. Vincent** expressed appreciation for the recognition.

Mr. Vincent said they had accomplished a lot of great things in North Alabama, even though they had not accomplished everything they wanted to. He said he was leaving behind a great staff that would continue to work with them and continue to pursue the projects that were needed in North Alabama, that they would be in good hands. He thanked them for 37 years and 4 months of relationships, noting that it had been a pleasure.

**Mayor Battle** said they had just been looking at photographs of I-565 being built, in 1988, to 1994. He continued that he believed it was at that time the biggest project ever taken on by the State.

**Mr. Vincent** said there were about seven to ten projects involved in this, and at the time, it was the largest dollar amount in a project the State had ever let to contract, seven bridges and about five bridge culverts, at \$43 million.

Mayor Battle asked if they could imagine if at this time, they did not have I-565, and he said that because of Curtis Vincent's work, they had I-565, as well as work on other roads throughout this area, and this work had made the city be able to grow. He said that on behalf of the 245,000 people in the city of Huntsville, he wanted to thank him, noting that a lot of these people would not be in the city if not for Mr. Vincent's work.

**Mayor Finley** said he would echo everything that had been said, and he continued that one thing he had always appreciated about Mr. Vincent was that whether they called him or he called them, they could always count on what he was saying, and if they needed help, they could get it. He thanked him for all he had done.

**Chairman McCutcheon** said that in working with Mr. Vincent, one thing that had resonated with him was that Mr. Vincent was always upfront, honest, and forthright, noting that when they were making some big changes in ALDOT from the State perspective, Mr. Vincent was a good ally and had given them good information to help navigate through that. He continued that then they had moved to Rebuild Alabama, and a there was a lot of work that Mr. Vincent had done on that, that there were times when he had made some phone calls to Mr. Vincent, and he had always gotten good information.

**Chairman McCutcheon** said the meeting was adjourned.

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Chairman, Metropolitan  
Planning Organization

ATTEST:

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Secretary, Metropolitan  
Planning Organization

**(Meeting adjourned on May 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.)**