HUNTSVILLE-AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

MINUTES

Regular Meeting - August 26, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.

City Hall
Huntsville, Alabama

Members Present:

Mr. Rex Vaughn, Chairman	Chairman, Madison County Commission
Mayor Ranae Bartlett	City of Madison
Ms. Kathy Martin (Proxy for Mayor Tommy Battle)	City of Huntsville
Ms. Michelle Watkins	Huntsville City Council
Mr. Derrick Wilson	ALDOT

Members Absent:

Mayor Mary Caudle	Town of Triana
Mayor Tony Craig	Town of Owens Cross Roads

MPO Staff Present:

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

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at the time and place noted above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the MPO Policy Board held on May 20, 2026, were approved as submitted.

ACTION ITEMS

FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment

Chairman Vaughn recognized Kevin Bernard, MPO Staff.

(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Bernard said Resolution No. 2026-113 adopted and supported the addition of projects #100081927, #3100081957, #100081958, and #100081922 to the Other State and Federal Aid Projects section of the 2024-2027 TIP, that the members might recall that at their last meeting, in May, they had done a resolution to receive approximately $5.5 million that was appropriated for road widening on Capshaw Road, that they had not yet had the project, but they needed to receive the funds, and this was a continuation of that, that they at this time had the project, the widening of Capshaw Road and Old Monrovia Road from Nance Road to Hunting Trail, in the system, and the cost of the different disciplines had been assigned, and the project would not have any MPO funds assigned to it.

Resolution No. 2026-13, amending the "Other State and Federal Aid Projects" section of the FY 2024-2027 TIP to add projects #100081927 (PE), #100081957 (RW), #100081958 (UT), and #100081922.

Motion by Watkins/Second by Bartlett/Unanimously Adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

Final FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Bernard said Resolution No. 2026-16 adopted the FINAL FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program, that the UPWP was the annual planning and administrative budget, that it not only entailed the budget but also talked about what they had done previously, and all the plans for the current year, that for each task, a certain amount of money was designated, noting that this format was required by ALDOT and the federal government, to show the federal allotment and also the match, which was an 80/20 split, and that the budget for

FY 27 was approximately $2 million and had money in it that was carried over from previous years that was not used.

Mr. Bernard said there were a few things that had changed, mostly increases in the budget, noting that the budget was substantially larger than the prior year's budget, that they could see on the displayed screen the various tasks, noting that they had Administration and Management, Staff Training Activities, Data Collection and Analysis, and some others, where there had been increases from the previous year, but there was a reduction in the Intercity Passenger Rail Study they had embarked on, that they did not foresee having to spend as much money in the upcoming year, so that had been significantly reduced, and those funds had been appropriated to other tasks within the budget.

Resolution No. 2026-16, adopting the FINAL FY 2027 United Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Motion by Watkins/Second by Bartlett/Unanimously Adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment.

(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Bernard said Resolution No. 2026-17 adopted and supported the addition of project #100081679 to the Other State and Federal Aid Projects section of the 2024-2027 TIP, that this project was resurfacing and drainage improvements on G. Carpenter Road in the Town of Owens Cross Roads, that the town was awarded a FY 2026 Rebuild Alabama grant for this project, which extended all the way across G. Carpenter Road, from Old Highway-431 to US-431, approximately one-half mile in distance, and the total construction cost was $392,000, and the grant award was $321,000, and the local match, by the

Town of Owens Cross Roads, was $71,000.

Resolution No. 2026-17, amending the "Other State and Federal Aid Projects" section of the FY 2024-2027 TIP to add project #100081679 (CN).

Motion by Bartlett/Second by Watkins/Unanimously Adopted by the MPO Policy Board members present.

FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment.

(Mr. Bernard made a PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Bernard said Resolution No. 2026-18 adopted and supported the addition of project #100073527 to the Safety Projects section of the 2024-2027 TIP, that this was for transportation improvements, that by adding this project, they would be improving the railroad crossing at the intersection of Norfolk Southern Railroad and Salty Bottom Road, near Gurley, that the improvements would include signals with bells, gates, signs, markings, and legends, and preemptive signal coordination, and the total cost of the project was $360,000, which would be 100 percent federal funding, with no local match or MPO funds required.

Chairman Vaughn asked if this was the railroad crossing where there had been a tragic accident.

Mr. Bernard replied in the affirmative.

Resolution No. 2026-18, amending the "Safety Projects," section of the FY 2024-2027 TIP to add project #100073527 (CN).

Motion by Watkins/Second by Bartlett.

Chairman Vaughn asked if there were any comments or any questions for Mr. Bernard.

Ms. Watkins said a couple of months prior, the family had come before

the Huntsville City Council and expressed their concerns about the safety at the railroad crossing, and when they had sent emails out requesting assistance, everybody had jumped into action, and she wanted to thank everybody involved from the City and County, as well as the State, that getting safety measures in place at that crossing was very important.

Resolution No. 2026-18 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 an increase in cost to project #100074512, Winchester Road widening, with additional lanes from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road, that this was a revised estimate, prior to bid, that the Old Cost Estimate, for the Utility phase, was $6 million, and the New Project Cost Estimate was approximately $9.5 million, a difference of approximately $3.5 million, and the MPO would fund this project at 80 percent, and the City of Huntsville would provide the local match of 20 percent.

Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (b) was the addition of projects #100081768 and #100081769, that this was resurfacing on I-565, from approximately a quarter mile east of Intergraph Way to a quarter mile west of the Triana Boulevard Overpass, that this was a new resurfacing project, and no MPO funds would be used on it.

Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (c) was at the intersection of Wall Triana Highway and Yarbrough Road, that they were adding projects #100082072, #100082073, #100082074, and #100082075, for

a roundabout at the intersection of Wall-Triana Highway and Yarbrough Road, that it was a new safety project, and it would be funded using federal funds, Highway Safety funds, at 90 percent, with a local match, as required, of 10 percent, from Madison County, that no MPO funds would be used on this project, and the total estimated cost was approximately $1.5 million.

Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (d) was adding project #100080478 to the TIP, that this was resurfacing on SR-53, from approximately one-half mile north of SR-255 to Jeff Road, that no MPO funds would be used on this, and the projected cost estimate was $6,063,579.44, with a target start date of February 26, 2027.

Mr. Bernard said Administrative Modification (e) was an increase in cost to project #100080361, for signage replacement on I-565, only within the borders of Madison County, that it would be in both directions, that along the highway, they were replacing the signs, that these were not electronic signs, just the static signs, and the Old Project Cost Estimate was $892,587.00, and the New Project Cost Estimate was just shy of $2.1 million, with a difference of $1,195,083, with a projected start date of December 4, 2026.

AGENCY REPORTS.

Chairman Vaughn recognized Mr. Travis Kilgore, for a report from the Alabama Department of Transportation, Huntsville MPO Project Update.

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

Mr. Kilgore said the Utility work was nearing completion, that the contractor was continuing to work on the new roadway west of Derwent and also working on southbound Memorial Parkway, that the curb and gutter and paving was complete from Derwent to US 431, and the project was approximately 75 percent complete, with an estimated cost of $43 million.

Martin Road between Zierdt Road and Laracy Drive.

Mr. Kilgore said this was a two-phase project, and the first phase, from Zierdt Road to Old Jim Williams Road, was complete, and the second phase, from Old Jim Williams Road to Laracy Drive, was approximately 85 percent complete, that the bridge was substantially complete, with three lanes of traffic opened, between Wall Triana and Old Jim Williams, that the outside lanes were still closed, that they were waiting for the contractor to finish some miscellaneous items, the concrete slope paving, seeding and mulching, topsoil items, that the next phase of the work would be the railroad crossing on the west end of the project, expected to start sometime in September, and the project was 85 percent complete, with a projected cost of $42 million for both phases.

North Parkway at Mastin Lake Road

Mr. Kilgore said the bridge structure was substantially complete, that the contractor was working on the lighting foundations and barrier rails and some of the final layers of asphalt on the mainline, and once traffic was switched over to the mainline, the northbound on-ramp would be constructed, and the project was approximately 85 percent complete, with a projected cost of $44 million.

Access Management on US-231 Between Weatherly Road and Hobbs Road

Mr. Kilgore said the plans were approximately 85 percent complete, that right-of-way acquisition was expected to begin soon, and the estimated cost was $16 million, with an anticipated start date of FY 2028.

Winchester Road from Dominion Circle to Naugher Road

Mr. Kilgore said the plans were approximately 90 percent complete, with right-of-way acquisition nearing completion, that the Utility design work was

ongoing, and they anticipated authorization from Utilities soon, with relocations to start sometime in the upcoming fall, and the estimated cost was $28 million, with an anticipated start date of FY 2027.

US 72 West between Providence Main and County Line Road

Mr. Kilgore said Phase I of this project was Huntsville Memory Gardens to Providence Main, that they expected the final draft of the Environmental Assessment to be submitted to Federal Highway for review by the end of the current month, that construction of Phase I was scheduled for 2027, and the plans were approximately 90 percent complete, with an estimated cost of $18 million.

US 72 West between Providence Main and County Line Road

Mr. Kilgore said Phase II was from Walnut Street to Huntsville Memory Gardens, that the plans were approximately 65 percent complete, and they were working toward a Plan-in-hand review, with construction scheduled for FY 2029, at an estimated cost of $36 million.

US72 West between Providence and County Line Road

Mr. Kilgore said Phase III was from County Line Road to Walnut Street, that the preliminary engineering was scheduled to start in FY 27, and construction was planned for 2030, at an estimated cost of $38,000,000.

SR-53 Widening from Taurus Drive to Harvest Road

Mr. Kilgore said work had just gotten started approximately a month prior on this project, and it was about 5 percent complete, with the contractor working on clearing and grubbing, and the estimated cost was approximately $10 million.

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

Mr. Kilgore said the median work on the west end of the project was substantially complete, that the contractor was starting to move the barrier rails from the inside to the outside, and they would start work on widening on the outside, on the west end of the project, and they were continuing to work and finish up the bridges over Bradford Creek, and then they would move to the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge at Intergraph Way, and continue widening in the median, toward Intergraph Way, that the project was approximately 45 percent complete, and the estimated cost was $42 million.

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

Mr. Kilgore said the plans were approximately 85 percent complete, the environmental document was approved, appraisals were currently being reviewed, right-of-way acquisition was expected to start soon, and the projected start date was sometime in FY 28, at an estimated cost of $13.5 million.

Widening Blake Bottom Road from Jeff Road to SR 255

Mr. Kilgore said the Utility work was ongoing, with some of it nearing completion, that the construction project was anticipated to be bid by the County in the fall of the current year, at an estimated cost of approximately $21 million, and construction would start sometime in 2027.

Arsenal East Connector

Mr. Kilgore said the preliminary engineering was under way, that the proposed alignment had been submitted to Redstone Arsenal for their review and approval, and the estimated cost was $30 million, with an anticipated start date of 2028.

I-565/Memorial Parkway Interchange Modification Study

Mr. Kilgore said a Traffic Microsimulation Model and Origin Destination

Study had been sent to ALDOT's Traffic Design and Federal Highway for review and approval, that once that was approved, the next phase would be working on some preliminary designs for some of the alignment configurations, and the estimated cost of that study was $1.5 million.

I-565/Madison Boulevard Interchange, Phase I

Mr. Kilgore said the plans were approximately 30 percent complete, that the estimated cost was $10 million, with an anticipated start date of FY 2027.

Mr. Kilgore said the total amount of work in design and construction was approximately $393 million.

Chairman Vaughn asked Mr. Kilgore, on Highway 72 West, just west of the Providence Main intersection, where the creek was, how they proposed to re-route that traffic when those bridges were removed.

Mr. Kilgore said he would ask some of his counterparts present about this, if Chairman Vaughn did not mind.

A member of the audience said when they were building part of the new structures to the north there, the traffic along there would be in one direction, that the eastbound traffic would stay where it was, and they would tear out the current westbound bridge, finish the new bridge, and it would be wide enough to accommodate both directions, and they would then tear out the other bridge and finish it.

Chairman Vaughn asked if any of the board members had any questions for Mr. Kilgore.

Ms. Watkins thanked Mr. Kilgore for the update, and she asked if he would mind sharing the presentation with them, as well, for the projects.

Ms. Watkins said Mr. Kilgore had said the Mastin Lake Overpass was 85 percent complete, and she asked what the projected completion date was.

Mr. Kilgore said it would be difficult to give an answer on that.

Ms. Watkins said Mr. Kilgore could just estimate it.

Mr. Kilgore said he would say sometime early in the upcoming year.

Ms. Watkins said if Mr. Kilgore could wait after the meeting, she had a few questions for him.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MPO POLICY BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Dennis Madsen, Huntsville Area MPO, said the main thing he wanted to do was to give an update on a Regional Transportation Summit that Launch 2035 was hosting on Monday, September 14, that it would start around 8:30 in the morning and would end probably right after lunch, and if it involved transportation in the North Alabama Region, they were going to talk about it, that there were multiple panels, including things like alt modes, bike and greenway improvements, discussions on the marine mode of travel, any sort of highway work they were doing, and any transit work.

Mr. Madsen said he would be moderating a panel on transit, and it would feature some of the other members of the MPO, that the real highlights of the event would be breakfast and lunch because there would be a pair of keynote speakers, that the morning would be opened by a former MPO Chair, Dale Strong, who was at this time Congressman Strong, who had done some wonders in terms of bringing transportation dollars to the region, and they would wrap up with Alabama Transportation Secretary John Cooper, who would give his thoughts on transportation in North Alabama. He said if one went to the Launch 2035 website, they could sign up for tickets there.

Mr. Madsen said one final item, that if someone was interested in the

ALDOT presentations, anytime they did them quarterly, they would typically post them on the MPO website within a few days afterward.

Chairman Vaughn asked when the next MPO meeting would be.

Mr. Vandiver said it would be November 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on August 26, 2026.

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Chairman, Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

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Secretary, Metropolitan Planning Organization