

**Gadsden / Etowah Area  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Citizen Advisory Committee Minutes  
Meeting held---January 6, 2009**

Kathy Ellzey	City of Gadsden
Barry Hill	City of Glencoe
Thomas Barnes	City of Gadsden
Myra Whitt	City of Hokes Bluff
Jeff Cheatwood	City of Hokes Bluff
Wiley McLain	City of Rainbow City
Carolyn Parker	Etowah County
Jon Noojin	City of Attalla

Chairman, Mr. Barry Hill, called the meeting to order. Mr. Hill welcomed all those attending the January CAC meeting. Introductions were made of all attendants. Mrs. Kathy Ellzey conducted a roll call of voting members and a quorum was present. Mrs. Ellzey said she would like to share with the CAC members that she received a telephone call from Mr. Wayne Farley, who represents the City of Glencoe who said he was resigning from the CAC membership due to family sickness. Mr. Farley said he has an elderly Mother who needs his assistance and his wife has an elderly Dad who they are also assisting with. Mr. Farley said he thoroughly enjoyed serving on the CAC board and hopes that he will be available to serve again at a later date. Mr. Farley said he will be in contact with Mayor Gilchrist and ask his assistance in finding a replacement. Minutes of the November 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Hill asked Mrs. Ellzey to proceed with Project Planning updates. Mrs. Ellzey explained that Mr. Tabengwa had prior commitments and that she would be temporarily filling in during his absence at this meeting. Mrs. Ellzey said before reviewing MPO project updates she would like to share with the committee activities that are ongoing with the City of Gadsden and the Transportation Department. Mrs. Ellzey said the updated FY 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was reviewed by ALDOT and FHWA. Comments were sent to the Transportation Department which they addressed and ALDOT approved the document. Mrs. Ellzey said the City of Gadsden is in the process of finalizing a contract with the consulting firm of Jacobs to update the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The City of Gadsden submitted the agreement to Jacobs and the contract is under review by Jacobs attorneys. Mrs. Ellzey said the City of Gadsden signed a contract with Gresham, Smith & Partners to prepare a Public Transportation Needs Assessment for the Gadsden area. Mrs. Ellzey said the City of Gadsden Transportation Department recently took delivery of three new smaller trolleys for public transportation. These new buses should enhance ridership considerably and be more cost effective to operate.

Mrs. Ellzey instructed the members to review the MPO minutes from November 13, 2009 for a project update and asked for comments or questions in regards to any of the projects. Mr. Barnes said he would like to mention that the Duck Springs Road project has a great crew handling that project. He said traffic is being directed with a minimum

of problems. The Highway 411 project was mentioned and noted that progress is on-going. Mr. Barnes asked about a Black Creek trail update. Mrs. Ellzey said the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways Advisory Committee (BPGAC) met yesterday but was unable to proceed with a meeting due to lack of a quorum. Mrs. Ellzey said that grants have been applied for to fund this project. The City of Gadsden is waiting notification on application status. The Safe Routes to School Grant was briefly discussed as to how it might be incorporated into joining trails together and Mrs. Ellzey gave a brief explanation of how surveys are taken and how that information is implemented into the grant application. Mr. Cheatwood voiced his concerns with the railroad crossing at Meighan Boulevard near Goodyear and the damages vehicles have sustained due to the crossing. He asked how the CAC as a committee could help to get this problem alleviated. Mrs. Ellzey suggested that CAC members attend the next MPO meeting on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and pass this information on to ALDOT who in turn could contact the railroad which would hopefully stress the importance of the problem being rectified. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was briefly discussed. Mr. Barnes asked about the process of implementing projects into the LRTP. Mrs. Ellzey advised the CAC of the need to be involved with the 2035 LRTP update from the beginning until the plan is complete. This enables citizen's input and the prospect of including new projects into the plan as funding allows. Mr. Hill said in regards to the LRTP, bicycle lanes or alternative transportation projects need to be included with roadway projects that are eligible for MPO funding. Mrs. Ellzey agreed with Mr. Hill and said that all transportation projects whether they affect the MPO budget or not have to be approved by the voting members of the MPO. Mr. Hill asked if there was anything else that needed to be brought before the committee. Mr. Cheatwood asked about the Rocky Ford Road project and the procedure entailed for a project to be waiting on the notice to proceed from ALDOT such as this project. Mrs. Ellzey said waiting on a notice to proceed from ALDOT means that contracts have been executed and the project is ready for construction to begin as soon as ALDOT issues the notice to proceed. Mrs. Ellzey said the Rocky Ford Road project was let to McCartney Construction and will be under the seasonal limitations which means construction will possibly begin April 2009

Mrs. Ellzey said this concluding the project planning updates; enclosed inside of your folders you will find an insert with the cover page reading Gadsden Etowah Metropolitan Planning Organization. This will be a brief presentation of the MPO planning process. Mrs. Ellzey along with the CAC members discussed the MPO planning process thoroughly. Mr. Barnes said he had another concern which involved the Mitchell School flow of traffic into Noccalula Road. Mrs. Ellzey said she would have to find out who is responsible for routing traffic around the school. She also suggested he mention this at the MPO meeting on Thursday if he is available to attend.

Mr. Hill asked if there were any other projects for discussion, or any comments. Mr. Hill said the next CAC meeting will be March 3, 2009 and will be sponsored by Vulcan Materials with lunch provided. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Barry Hill, Chairman