

Minutes
MPO Meeting
Meeting Held---March 12, 2009

Meinrad Tabengwa	City of Gadsden
Kathy Ellzey	City of Gadsden
Nick Hall	City of Gadsden
Jeramy Ward	City of Gadsden
Curtis Vincent	ALDOT – 1 st Division
Johnny Harris	ALDOT – 1 st Division
Ben Thackerson	ALDOT
Dave Hyatt	Gadsden State
Tim Choate	Etowah County
Willie Brown	Etowah County
Jane Phillips	City of Attalla
Jeff Cheatwood	City of Hokes Bluff
Kerry Pope	Alagasco
Terry John Calhoun	City of Rainbow City
Robert Nail	Etowah County
Joe Meads	Sain Associates, Inc.
Gary Spradlin	Carr & Associates
Charles Gilchrist	City of Glencoe
Jana Monday	CDG Engineers
Andy Powell	Gadsden Times
Eric Wright	Gadsden Times
Dorothy S. Robinson	Tourism
Ed Whatley	BPGAC
Tom Barnes	CAC
Jack Plunk	EAC / MPO
Jill Albert	KPS Group
Larry Payne	Etowah County
Wally Burns	City of Southside

Chairman, Mayor Wally Burns called the meeting to order. Mayor Burns welcomed everyone attending the March MPO meeting. Mrs. Kathy Ellzey conducted a roll call of voting members. A quorum was present. Minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Chairman then proceeded with the meeting agenda:

- 1) Replace bridge at Chestnut Street and Black Creek (Gadsden): Mr. Vincent said the PS&E review was held on this project during the week of March 2, 2009. Comments were addressed and plans were submitted to ALDOT today for QC submittal. After the QC submittal there will be one final construction review. The project letting is scheduled for summer 2009.
- 2) Extend Black Creek Parkway South to Steele Station Road (Rainbow City): Mr. Vincent said the plans for this project had already been submitted for the QC review. The QC comments were sent back to JBW&T. ALDOT is waiting on plans to be submitted for the final construction review. ALDOT needs plans back by March 20th in order to meet the current May letting date.

- 3) Widen Steele Station from Sutton Bridge Road to SR-77 (Rainbow City): Mr. Vincent said there is no change to report. ALDOT has a right-of-way map and cost estimates that have been submitted for authorization. The right-of-way budget has not been authorized and the letting is scheduled April 2009.
- 4) Replace Bridge on S. 11th Street: Mr. Ward said hydraulics is complete, the project is ready for utility re-location and bridge borings should begin in approximately two weeks.
- 5) Resurface Rocky Ford Road: Mr. Nail said the project is on hold due to seasonal limitations. Work should commence around April 15, 2009.
- 6) Resurface Steele Station Road from St Clair County Road to Pleasant Valley Road: Mr. Nail said there is no change due to the project being scheduled in FY 2011.
- 7) Replace Bridge on CR-290 (Moon Road) over Black Creek: Mr. Nail said the project is still in the initiation phase.
- 8) Resurface CR-211 (Duck Springs Road) from US 431 to CR-612 (Horton Gap Road): Complete.
- 9) Widen and Resurface South 11th Street from CR-203 (Black Creek Parkway) to near Piedmont Avenue: Mr. Ward said there is no change to report at this time.
- 10) Widen and Resurface Brown Avenue from CR-203 (Sutton Bridge Road) to SR-25 (US 411): Mr. Ward said there is no change due to the project being scheduled in FY 2011.
- 11) Resurface CR-206 (Cleveland Avenue) from SR-1 (US 431) to eastern city limits of Attalla: Mr. Vincent said Mayor Phillips requested the use of a consultant for this project and he met with Mayor Phillips and Mr. Jenkins on project site to get a scope review. Mr. Vincent said ALDOT recently sent a letter back to Mayor Phillips requesting a fee proposal to review. Mr. Jenkins delivered the fee proposal and a copy was submitted to Mayor Phillips today. ALDOT will begin reviewing the fee proposal and engineering work should begin soon. The construction date is scheduled for fall 2009.
- 12) Resurface CR-206 (Forrest Avenue) from 7th Street to 12th Street: Mr. Ward said there is no change due to the project being scheduled in FY 2011.
- 13) Replace Bridge at CR-159 (Steele Station Road) at Rook Creek: Mr. Nail said this project has been initiated.

Alabama Department of Transportation Briefing:

- A) I-759 Extension: Mr. Vincent said he spoke with ALDOT's Design Bureau Chief in Montgomery and he is in the process of setting up a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office and FHWA to review the environmental document and iron out the last concerns and comments. He is planning this meeting within the next two weeks. At this meeting he plans to discuss a preferred alternate and to include the preferred alternate in the document. If all these issues are met, he has agreed to come and talk to City of Gadsden officials before the document is submitted and then Public Involvement Meetings will begin.
- B) SR-77, Steele Station Road to I-59: Mr. Vincent said ALDOT has been working with the consultant to update plans to get ready to let to contract. ALDOT's Traffic Engineer is in the process of completing signal warrants for a location needing new signals. Mr. Vincent said the value engineering study is complete and ALDOT received comments last week. The plans should be complete next month and the letting is scheduled for the summer 2009.

- C) SR-77 (Sunset Drive to Green Valley Road): Mr. Vincent said there is no change due to the construction being scheduled in FY 2014.
- D) SR-77, I-59 to US 11 (Attalla): Mr. Vincent said there is no change to report. The consultant continues to work on the plans.
- E) US 411 (North Gadsden, Turkeytown to Cherokee County): Mr. Vincent said on the North Gadsden to Turkeytown section that work is proceeding and is approximately 40-55% complete. The grade and drain portion of this project is projected to be complete by December 2009. Mr. Vincent said on the Turkeytown to Cherokee County section that ALDOT has authorized some utility work that spills from the southern project on to the northern project.

Other projects of interest:

- 1) I-59 Pavement Rehab from .4 miles south of Attalla northern city limits to .7 miles south of Steven Gap Road Overpass: Mr. Vincent said this project was let last year and ALDOT went in and done some shoulder repair and some grinding to existing concrete. There was an overlay that was to go over the concrete but due to some limitations and issues the wearing surface was pulled out and let under a different contract. It is called a paver laid surface treatment and the project was let on February 27, 2009 with Good Hope Contracting being the low bidder at \$1,607,000. Mr. Vincent said work should commence in approximately 2½ months.
- 2) I-59 Pavement Rehab from south of Hwy 77 at milepost 181 to milepost 184 then jumps to milepost 194 to DeKalb County Line: Mr. Vincent said the plans are complete and have been reviewed. This is a stimulus package funded project and a special letting will be held on April 10, 2009. Mr. Vincent said the cost of this project is approximately \$70 million. Due to the project cost a PE study and value engineering study is required.
- 3) SR 77 Bridge, over the Coosa River: Mr. Vincent said field work has begun, the environmental work is proceeding and there is some right-of-way needing to be acquired.
- 4) Concrete Pavement and Slab Removal Project on I-59 from Etowah County Line to Georgia Line: Mr. Vincent said this project was let in February 2009 to RE Grills Construction Company who was the low bidder at \$524,732. Work should commence in 2-2½ months.

Transportation Planning Updates:

Mr. Tabengwa said the contract for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has been submitted to ALDOT for review and approval. Once ALDOT approves the contract a notice to proceed will be sent to Jacobs Engineering to start the Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Mr. Tabengwa said the agreement with Gresham, Smith & Partners for the transit needs assessment was approved by ALDOT and a notice to proceed has been sent to Gresham, Smith & Partners. Mr. Tabengwa said a kick off meeting for this project is scheduled for next week.

Mr. Tabengwa said the City of Gadsden received just over \$856,000 from the Federal Transit Administration as part of the stimulus package. These funds are to be used for capital projects which are necessary to sustain the transit system.

Mr. Tabengwa said the Gadsden Etowah MPO is still waiting in regards to the stimulus funds from ALDOT for MPO projects. Mr. Vincent informed us that the MPO is in line for approximately \$2 million but the MPO has not received official confirmation. Once official confirmation is received a special MPO meeting will probably be scheduled to discuss how to distribute these funds among the MPO projects.

Urbanized Transit Program Report: Waiting for final federal budget to be approved to apply for transit grant.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Updated FY 2009 TIP approved.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Work to commence on the Draft FY 2010 UPWP after instructions are received from ALDOT.

Resolutions: Amend TIP / New Projects; Resolution 0309-01: Approved.

Other Business:

Mr. Ed Whatley representing the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenways Advisory Committee (BPGAC) announced that the City of Gadsden received a \$100,000 ADECA grant to begin Phase I of the Black Creek Trail. Mr. Whatley said that the BPGAC ask that the MPO get behind this project and if appropriate add it to your project list. Mr. Whatley stated that petitions have been placed throughout the City of Gadsden for signatures of those interested in supporting the development of the Black Creek Trail and other bicycle pedestrian trails. Mr. Whatley said in the past three weeks there has been a lot of response and interest even though people haven't started getting outdoors yet. Mr. Whatley said he would like to ask and recommend that the MPO when considering new highway projects and street resurfacing projects include alternative transportation routes in those projects. The FHA requires that alternative transportation considerations be given. Basically, what we are striving for are bicycle routes throughout the county.

Mr. Cheatwood said on behalf of the Citizen's Advisory Committee we would like to thank all City Officials and all Alabama Department of Transportation employees who were involved in the action taken in contacting the railroad and requesting repairing the railroad crossing on Meighan Boulevard at Goodyear. The response time was great and now we have a smooth surface to cross as we travel through that area.

Mayor Burns said he would like to thank everyone for attending the March MPO meeting and the next meeting will be on May 14, 2009 at the Chamber of Commerce. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Wally Burns, Mayor of the City of Southside
MPO Chairman