

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
REVIEW & EVALUATION FORM**

(Under SAFETEA-LU (PL-109-59§ 6001 (135) (d)) the planning factors for statewide and metropolitan planning have been combined.)

NAME: Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

DATE: FY 2023 (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023)

1. List the members of your MPO and indicate the percentage of minority and female representation:

16 of 44 members = 36%

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE 2023

Last Name	First Name	Representing	Minority/
Al-Dakka	Jehad	Jefferson County - Hoover	X
Alexander	Wardine	City of Birmingham	X
Armstrong	Allen	Blount County Public Transportation	
Bell	Denise	City of Birmingham	X
Bittas	Andrè	Shelby County - Pelham	X
Bolin	Michael	Unincorporated Jefferson County	
Brasseale	Jerry	Jefferson County Municipalities - Pleasant Grove	
Brocato	Frank	Jefferson County Municipalities - Hoover	
Choat	Buddy	Jefferson County Municipalities - Trussville	
Cochran	Joe	Jefferson County Municipalities - Pinson	
Curry	Ashley	Jefferson County Municipalities – Vestavia Hills	
Davis	Julio	Jefferson County Municipalities - Graysville	X
Fowler	James	City of Birmingham	
Graham	Stephen	St. Clair County	
Hanner	Gary	St. Clair County	
Hatcher	Chris	City of Birmingham	X
Hawkins	Fred	Shelby County - Alabaster	
Hester	Christie	Shelby County	X
Hogeland	Stan	Jefferson County Municipalities – Gardendale	
Holcomb	Larry	Jefferson County Municipalities - Fultondale	
Holladay	Scott	Shelby County	
Jacks	Tim	St. Clair County Public Transportation	
Knight	Joe	Unincorporated Jefferson County	
Leonard	DeJarvis	ALDOT East Central Region	X
Markert	Cal	Unincorporated Jefferson County	
Martin	Mac	Jefferson County - Hoover	
Mitchell	Chaz	City of Birmingham	X
Nicholson	Chris	Unincorporated Jefferson County	
O’Quinn	Darrell	City of Birmingham	
Perkins	Theoangelo	Jefferson County Municipalities – Harpersville	X
Ragland	Johnny	Jefferson County Municipalities - Warrior	

Reeves	Chris	Shelby County - Hoover	
Richardson	Gary	Jefferson County Municipalities - Midfield	X
Scott	Bobby	Jefferson County Municipalities – Center Point	X
Shepherd	Rick	Shelby County Commission	
Smith*	Theodore	Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority	X
Smitherman	Crystal	City of Birmingham	X
Stephens	Jimmie	Unincorporated Jefferson County	
Thomas	Katrina	City of Birmingham	X
Ware	Steve	Jefferson County Municipalities - Hueytown	
Washburn	Nick	Blount County	
Webster	Charles	Jefferson County Municipalities - Clay	
Willingham	David	Shelby County	
Woodfin*	Randall	City of Birmingham	X

2. Indicate the percentage of representation of minorities and females on your Technical and Citizens Committees:

Technical Committee: 6 of 41 = 15%

Citizens Committee: 8 of 18 = 44%

3. How are the MPO members selected?

Appointed by geographic area.

4. Are minorities and females included in this process?

Each authority appoints a representative to serve on the MPO.

5. What was the total dollar amount received from the Department of Transportation?

U.S. DOT funds received under Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs totaled \$1,768,500 federal in the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

6. Are dollars designated for special project(s) or at the discretion of your MPO?

Planning and grant funding are designated in the UPWP. Construction dollars are authorized by the MPO through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

7. What was the total number of competitive contracts awarded?

22

8. What is the process by which contractors are selected?

Professional and consultant services are procured through either the ALDOT consultant selection process or the USDOT/FTA third-party contracting procedures.

9. How many contracts were awarded to minorities and females?

4 or 18%

10. What was the total dollar amount awarded to minorities and females?

\$128,131 or 15%

11. What type of contracts were awarded?

Professional/consultant services and independent contractors

12. Does your MPO maintain an active list of contractors?

No. On some projects, the MPO compiles a list of qualified contractors for specific tasks.

13. What types of programs or projects are placed on the MPO bid list?

Planning and professional services.

14. What strategies and efforts have the planning process developed for ensuring, demonstrating, and substantiating compliance with Title VI?

The Birmingham MPO emphasizes the requirements of Executive Order 12898 to protect minority communities/citizens from disproportionate adverse impacts based on planning and implementation of projects and programs.

MPO activities include a public involvement process that considers and includes minority populations. Documents are translated to other languages upon request. The RPCGB also uses interactive participation technology to ensure all participants can provide input.

Further information is available in the Birmingham MPO's Public Involvement Plan and the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Appendix C – Environmental Justice Report.

15. Has the planning process developed a demographic profile of the metropolitan planning area or State that includes identification of the locations of socio-economic groups, including low-income and minority populations as covered by the EO on EJ (12989) and Title VI provisions?

Yes; mapped and documented in the 2050 RTP, Appendix C - Environmental Justice Report.

16. Have there been provisions made to ensure compliance with EP 13166, Limited English Proficiency, within the planning process?

The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan addresses Birmingham MPO's responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance. The LEP Plan is part of the Public Involvement Plan.

17. What strategies, if any, have been implemented to reduce participation barriers?

Public meetings are held at a time and place that is accessible via public transit. Information is presented in layman's terminology for increased awareness and understanding. Language interpreters are available with a 3-day advance notice.

18. Is there routine coordination with Indian Tribal Governments in statewide metropolitan planning?

The RPCGB is not responsible for statewide metropolitan planning. There are no Indian Tribal Governments possessing land in the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area.

19. What efforts by the MPO have been made to engage low-income and minority populations in the certification review process?

The federal review team held a public involvement meeting on February 25, 2020 to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the planning process.

20. What were the public outreach efforts?

According to the MPO's adopted public involvement procedures, notices were mailed and emailed to the MPO's contact list, which includes agencies/organizations assisting individuals who are underserved, transient, low-income, disabled, and/or minority. Flyers were also mailed to neighborhood associations, libraries, and local municipal offices throughout the MPA asking them to notify their patrons/citizens.

21. During public forums, what issues have been raised, how are their concerns documented, and how do they reflect on the performance of the planning process in relation to Title VI requirements?

A public involvement meeting was held in April 2023. No issues were raised.

22. Are the social, economic, and environmental (SEE) impacts being identified and described consistently?

SEE impacts are identified and described consistently. Population maps by race and ethnicity are updated to reflect current census data. Current employment data is used to reflect the MPA's employment distribution and characteristics. Finally, the Birmingham MPO's traffic analysis zones, primarily used in regional travel demand forecasting, have been updated to reflect changes in population and employment.

23. Are there contracting opportunities for planning studies, corridor studies, or other work being provided to minorities and women?

Professional and consultant services are procured through either the ALDOT consultant selection process or the USDOT/FTA third-party contracting procedures.

a. What efforts if any? Please describe in detail.

The proposal process for contractor selection identifies DBE as one of the evaluation criteria in the ranking of proposals. For FY 2023, \$847,237 was paid to contractors, with \$128,131 of that amount (15%) paid to DBEs.

24. Are minority and diverse language media appropriately included in all notification processes for public meetings or public review of agency documents?

The agencywide contact list and MailChimp distribution list are updated on an ongoing basis and used for notification of public meetings and to disseminate general information. Organizations representing these populations are included.

25. Is technical information available in formats and in places and times conducive to review by the public? (This may require ADA accommodations, or provision of information to people with visual impairments, non-English and LEP speakers, or to persons without extensive formal schooling).

All public meeting announcements and advertisements include a point of contact for anyone requiring special accommodations, including interpretation.

26. Have there been any American with Disabilities Act (ADA) updates or improvements to any facilities?

No. All facilities are and have been ADA accessible.

27. Do meeting formats encourage participation by minorities or people with disabilities?

Public meetings allow for one-on-one discussion of displays and meeting materials. All participants are encouraged to engage in the question/answer segment of the meetings. Participants are also encouraged to fill out comment sheets and are provided additional time after the meeting to submit questions and/or comments. Anyone can participate in the MPO committee meetings in person or online. All meeting facilities are ADA accessible.

28. Are persons traditionally underserved by transportation systems such as low-income, minorities, or LEP persons actively sought out for involvement?

Announcements are placed in public areas and sent to agencies targeting this group of individuals. Public meetings are held in locations accessible to public transportation and all locations are ADA accessible.

29. Does the planning process seek to utilize demographic information to examine the distributions across these groups of the benefits and burdens of the transportation investments included in the plan and TIP (or STIP)?

Demographic distributions of RTP projects for: (1) minority percentage of population; (2) percent of families below poverty; and (3) total households with no vehicle are mapped and documented in the 2050 RTP, Appendix C - Environmental Justice Report.

a. If imbalances are identified, how does the planning process respond?

As noted under question 14, RTP projects are first compared against the distribution of environmental justice populations. Projects, particularly capacity expansions or other capital improvement projects that have the potential to be disruptive to the community, are flagged for more detailed evaluation if it appears that they will have potential impacts to environmental justice communities. This includes minorities, low income, elderly, and disabled.

Concerning mobility and accessibility, RTP projects are assessed by using a Congestion Index and its inverse, the Travel Time Index, in the project priority process. Projects that address mobility and accessibility through actions that increase the use of transit or other modes, improve mobility within existing communities, or improve accessibility by eliminating physical barriers receive higher priority.

CERTIFICATION

The Metropolitan Planning Organization of Birmingham, Alabama assures that no persons or business enterprise shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, or national origin, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any project in federally-assisted programs. It also assures that the project, when formulated, was designed to pay particular attention to the existence, composition, and distribution of minority population groups and disadvantaged business enterprises in the project service area.

**Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
as staff for the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization**



Charles Ball, Executive Director

Date: September 30, 2023