UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
for the
Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

FY 2016
October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

Prepared By The
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Adopted: June 10, 2015
Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Fiscal Year 2016

This document is posted at
http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/upwp/

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Date adopted: June 10, 2015

This document was a cooperative effort of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and prepared by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, as staff to the Birmingham MPO, in partial fulfillment of Task 3.0 of the FY2014 UPWP and requirements set forth in amended Title 23 USC 134 and 135 (MAP-21, Sections 1201 and 1202, July 2012). The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the USDOT.
Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Membership

Fiscal Year 2016

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Chair: Mayor Thomas Henderson, City of Center Point
Vice Chair: Mr. Tim Westhoven, City of Hoover
Secretary: Honorable William Parker, City of Birmingham

Transportation Citizens Committee
Chair: Ms. Jackie Dye, Shelby County
Vice Chair: Mr. Willie Osborne, City of Birmingham

Transportation Technical Committee
Chair: Mr. Greg Dawkins, Birmingham Traffic Engineer
Vice Chair: Mr. Rod Long, City of Hoover, Engineer

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Staff to the MPO
Mr. Charles Ball, Executive Director
Mr. Scott Tillman, Director of Planning and Operations
Mr. Darrell Howard, Deputy Director of Planning
TRANSPORTATION CITIZENS COMMITTEE (TCC)  
June 2015

Chairman:  Jackie Dye  
Vice-Chairman:  Willie Osborne

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### TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TTC)
#### June 2015

Chairman: Greg Dawkins  
Vice-Chairman: Rod Long  
* Indicates Non-voting members

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## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
### Policy Committee
#### June 2015

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* Serves on MPO Advisory Committee
** Indicates Non-voting members
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RESOLUTION 2015-0610

Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Adopting the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of the State of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for implementing the applicable provisions of amended 23 USC 134 and 135 (MAP-21, Sections 1201 and 1202, July 2012); 23 CFR 450 and 500; 42 USC 7401 et al.; 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation requires all urbanized areas, as established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, doing area-wide urban transportation planning that involves more than one Department of Transportation operating administration, to submit a Unified Planning Work Program as a condition for meeting the provisions of Title 23, U. S. Code, Section 134; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the declaration of these provisions, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, has prepared a Unified Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2016; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its duties, functions, and responsibilities, the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization, in session this 10 day of June, 2015, did review and evaluate the aforementioned Unified Planning Work Program, summarized on the attached pages; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that the same does hereby adopt said Unified Planning Work Program for FY2016.

ADOPTED, this the 10 day of June, 2015

Mayor Tom Henderson, Chairman
Policy Committee
Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Charles Ball, Executive Director
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Date 6/10/2015
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THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
For the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area

Overview
As a condition to the receipt of federal highway and transit capital or operating assistance, each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to have a transportation planning process. This process, in general, includes the development of a long-range or regional transportation plan, a short-range transportation improvement program, a plan to promote attainment of air quality standards, a human services coordinated transportation plan, and a planning work program, which includes planning and project development activities to address other transportation issues.

Certification of the transportation planning process is conducted every four years by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the requirements of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and is necessary to receive surface transportation program, air quality, national highway system, interstate maintenance, state bridge replacement, and transit capital and operating funds. A decertified process would result in the loss of approximately $50,000,000 per year. The Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) membership is geographically representative of the metropolitan planning area; the entire boundaries of Jefferson, Shelby, and portions of Blount and St. Clair Counties, based upon the most recent decennial U. S. Census (2010). The MPO is responsible for the development of the required products.

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) is the designated recipient of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) planning funds used to assist the MPO in the performance of its responsibilities. These funds are designated by the State in agreement with local governments. The MPO’s multi-jurisdictional responsibility is provided by the RPCGB. Two additional committees provide information and recommendations to the MPO Policy Committee; the Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC) and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC).

Work tasks described in this report are conducted on a continual basis. An agreement among the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA), RPCGB, Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH), and the MPO outlines the responsibility of each organization in the transportation planning process.

Purpose
The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the document that guides the MPO in fulfilling its planning responsibilities for the upcoming year. The primary objective of the UPWP is the development of an integrated planning program that considers the planning activities of each modal group and coordinates these activities to produce a total transportation plan serving all segments of the population. The UPWP presents the budget and work tasks necessary to accomplish and maintain the transportation planning process within the Birmingham metropolitan planning area for FY 2016.

Title VI in the Preparation of the UPWP
It is the policy of the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide a planning process that is open to public input in the preparation of plans and programs and is consistent with the eight planning factors required under the new transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), also known as Public Law 112-131, signed into law July 6, 2012. The Federal interpretive regulations remain as 23 CFR 450, and Public Participation Plan requirements are in 450.316.
1. Open Process: To have an open planning process that encourages early and continued public participation
2. Information Access: To provide complete and timely information regarding the plans, programs, procedures, policies and technical data produced or used during the planning process to interested parties and the general public
3. Notice of Activities: To provide timely and adequate public notice of meetings, reviews and major document availability.
4. Public Input and Organization Response: To demonstrate consideration and recognition of public input and to provide appropriate responses to public input
5. Inclusive Process: The Birmingham MPO places emphasis on the commitment mandated in Executive Order 12898 to protect low income and minority communities/citizens from disproportionate adverse impacts based on planning and implementation of projects and programs identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO provides for considerable participation activity towards this environmental justice goal through the opportunity, both formal and informal, for these identified citizens to share their ideas and concerns throughout the planning and decision making process.

Additionally, the Birmingham MPO is and will be compliant with and follow all Title VI laws, processes, and programs to include the following:

- **Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d, et seq.** which prohibits exclusion from participation in any federal program on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- **23 USC 324** which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, adding to the landmark significance of 2000d. This requirement is found in 23 CFR 450.334(1).
- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 701 Section 504,** which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability, and in terms of access to the transportation planning process.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** which prohibits discrimination based solely on disability. ADA encourages the participation of people with disabilities in the development of transportation and paratransit plans and services. In accordance with ADA guidelines, all meetings conducted by the MPO will take place in locations which are accessible by persons with mobility limitations or other impairments.
- **Executive Order 12898** or referred to as Environmental Justice, which requires that federal programs, policies and activities affecting human health or the environment will identify and avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. The intent was to ensure that no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from government programs and policies.
- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** which is required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 13166, and FTA Circular C 4702.1B, October 2012. The Birmingham MPO has completed a Four Factor Analysis of the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) to determine requirements for compliance with the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) provisions. A Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan has been developed and can be accessed as part of the Public Participation Plan at [http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/regional-transportation-plan/public-involvement/](http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/regional-transportation-plan/public-involvement/)

The MPO is responsible for the development of a Unified Planning Work Program. The UPWP is the primary structural document for establishing MPO work tasks and assigning costs for performing those tasks based on allocated federal Planning Funds (PL). The UPWP is developed annually with all of the transportation planning agencies in the MPO area. The UPWP is made available on the RPCGB website prior to being introduced for discussion at committee meetings. All committee meetings of the MPO are
preceded by notices that include the agenda, date, time, and location of the meeting. The notice is provided at least one week prior to the meetings or as designated in committee bylaws. The notice is provided to local media representatives and groups that address the needs of low-income individuals, minorities, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The notice requests that interested individuals who need special accommodations notify the RPCGB at least three business days prior to the date of the meeting, so necessary arrangements can be made. The notice is posted on the internet. The public is allowed to participate in discussions held at the committee meetings. Detailed public participation procedures are outlined in the 2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP) which can be found at http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/regional-transportation-plan/public-involvement/

**Scope of the Planning Process**

The planning tasks for FY 2016 reflect the original Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) eight planning factors and these planning factors are retained in MAP-21 as the Scope of the Planning Process. The United States Code (USC) or law, is found under 23 USC 134(d)(1) A-H. The interpretative Codes of Federal Regulations (CFRs) remain in 23 CFR 450.306(a).

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The committee process is the basis for conducting UPWP tasks. Meetings of the Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, MPO Advisory Committee, and the MPO Policy Committee are held monthly or as needed. In addition to the four transportation committees, subcommittees and joint committees are regularly used for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), congestion management activities, and major transit projects.

Most traditional tasks are funded with planning funds (PL). Specialized tasks related to ridesharing, air quality, and local land use/transportation, utilize supplemental funds from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program (STP). Large-scale transit planning projects are funded through the FTA and Congressional Earmarks.
Planning Emphasis Areas
On April 23, 2014 FHWA distributed a memorandum to state DOTs to encourage MPOs to identify tasks associated with Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The following lists the three PEAs as defined by FHWA, as well as the sections of this UPWP that address these PEAs:

- **MAP-21 Implementation** – Transition to Performance Based Planning and Programming.
  - Performance measures, Performance Indicators, and Livability Principles are discussed in Tasks 2.1 through 2.4, and again in Tasks 5.1 through 5.8, as well as the next section of this introduction to the UPWP.

- **Models of Regional Planning Cooperation** – Promote cooperation across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning.
  - Activities defined in Task 1.4 allow staff of the MPO to be an active members of the Alabama Transportation Planning Association and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, which provide opportunities for this PEA.
  - Tasks 2.2, 5.1, and 7.2 all consider a larger regional perspective. The work planned for each of these tasks will cross boundaries and reach out to sister agencies in support of this PEA.

- **Ladders of Opportunity** – Access to essential services – as part of the transportation planning process, identify transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services.
  - Much of the work described in Task 5.4 - Public Transportation Planning relates to this PEA. The primary focus of the efforts in this task is to ensure essential services are being provided. In addition, identifying transportation connectivity gaps is also one of the goals of the Building Communities Program defined in Task 6.2.

Livability Principles and Indicators
Increasingly, federal and state agencies are using Performance Measures as a way of ensuring greater accountability for the expenditure of public funds in an ever growing number of programs and activities across a variety of disciplines. Within the transportation sector and the planning processes associated with transportation infrastructure development, ALDOT has adopted the Livability Principles and Indicators as a sustainability measurement against future actions.

All planning tasks will be measured against these Livability Principles:

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.

As a measure of sustainability of these principles, the MPO has developed a candidate list of Livability Indicators:

1. Mode Share – percent of travelers using different travel modes.
2. Jobs/Housing Balance – total number of jobs/total housing by area.
3. Travel Time Index – congested vs. free-flow travel time.
4. Number of crashes/incidents by travel mode (community safety emphasis).
5. Project Funding Diversity – percent of transportation projects utilizing multiple funding sources (federal, state, local).
6. Partnerships and Public Involvement – number of partnerships and documentation of PI Activities.
The Indicators will be used in the development and presentation of data for the following plan documents: Long Range or Regional Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Public Participation Plan, Congestion Management Plan (TMAs only), and the Air Quality Conformity Report (as applicable).

**Vision**
Following is the vision statement for the Birmingham metropolitan area:
*Transportation has become the connective tissue of the region. By foot, by bike, by car, or by public transportation, residents experience reduced congestion and higher mobility, both of which are the result of four important decisions:*

1. Preserving and improving the existing local and interstate highways;
2. Developing a responsive, efficient, and highly effective public transportation system;
3. Supporting the use of alternative transportation modes; and
4. Encouraging sustainable development patterns.

The UPWP, as outlined in this document, contains work tasks necessary for the RPCGB, BJCTA, and ALDOT to conduct transportation planning activities for the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a Transportation Management Area (TMA) according to 49 USC 5303.
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TASK 1.0: ADMINISTRATION

1.1 MPO Administration

Objectives
To provide transportation committees, agencies, governments, and the general public with transportation-related information, education, and training, to support emergency transportation operations, and to promote federal, state, and local transportation initiatives.

Previous Work
- Prepared for and attended monthly committee meetings; participated in meetings with various local, regional, and state organizations
- Attended RPCGB Board meetings and Annual Meeting
- Prepared and submitted invoices to ALDOT and reviewed RPCGB financial statements
- Provided information to the RPCGB auditors and reviewed audit report
- All agreements were reviewed for consistency with bylaws
- Provided information and assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, and committees
- Participated in cooperative efforts with agencies and organizations

Proposed Work
MPO Meetings
Monthly business (MPO Policy Committee) and committee (MPO Transportation Citizens, Technical, and Advisory) meetings

Ad Hoc Committees
Periodic MPO ad hoc committee (TIP Subcommittee, Congestion Management, Active Transportation, and Transit) meetings

RPCGB Board, Committee and Annual Meetings
Attend RPCGB Board Meetings, Finance Meetings, Program Budget Meetings, and RPCGB Annual Meeting.

Financial Administration
- Invoicing - Prepare and submit monthly invoices to ALDOT and review the RPCGB monthly financial statement.
- Audits - Provide information to the RPCGB auditors and review the draft and final audit report.
- Agreements - Review agreements for consistency with bylaws.

Information and Technical Assistance
Provide information and assistance to individuals, businesses, organizations, and committees.

Coordination and Cooperation
Participate in cooperative efforts with agencies and organizations. Some activities for FY 2016 include meetings and committee participation with various local, regional, and state organizations.

Products
- Committee agendas, notices, resolutions, and minutes
- Invoices to ALDOT
- Staff services necessary to ensure certification of the transportation planning process
**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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1.2 Unified Planning Work Program

**Objectives**
To produce a document that outlines work and identifies the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within the Birmingham MPA.

**Previous Work**
- A UPWP, which identifies tasks and funding sources, was adopted by the Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee.
- Two Semi-Annual reports were produced for ALDOT review, noting the status of tasks and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation.

**Proposed Work**
- Task Development - The UPWP activities are identified by using the planning emphasis areas for expenditure of planning (PL) funds and tasks programmed in the TIP. Priorities for funding are determined from the National Planning Goals and federal planning factors, the interests of the transportation committees.
- Two semi-annual reports will be drafted, April and October 2016, noting the status of tasks and the DBE participation. Staff will complete the reports and submit to ALDOT for review.
- Prepare a Draft and Final FY2017 UPWP

**Products**
- Draft and Final UPWP for FY 2017
- Semi-annual reports, with DBE participation

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
- Draft and Final FY2017 UPWP, Summer 2016
- FY 2016 Semi-annual reports, with DBE participation - April and October 2016

**Financial Responsibility**

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1.3 Capital and Operating Purchases

Objectives
To maintain, upgrade, and purchase software and hardware for the purpose of gathering information, simplifying tasks, and articulating data to support transportation planning functions.

Previous Work
Purchased demographic information.

Proposed Work
- Software purchases, including license/maintenance fees and upgrades, are regularly made for geographic information systems, surveys, databases and spreadsheets, graphics, and operating systems.
- Capital purchases to include servers, personal computers and peripherals, and hardware/software for field data collection.

As outlined in the Agreement for Administering U.S. Department of Transportation for Financial Assistance for Transportation Planning between the State of Alabama and the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, Article 21 states, in part, “All purchases over $1,500 must be approved by the State, in advance, in writing, to be eligible for reimbursement.” Further, ALDOT requires anticipated purchases in excess of $5,000 to have a line item entry in the UPWP.

The following capital and operating equipment is programmed:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>UPWP Task</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tr>
<td>ArcEditor CU/SU</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Desktop software licenses for GIS analysis and mapping.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArcView CU</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
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<td>Desktop software licenses for GIS analysis and mapping.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArcView SU</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Desktop software licenses for GIS analysis and mapping.</td>
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<td>Spatial Analyst</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Desktop extension license for GIS analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network Analyst</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Desktop extension license for GIS analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Analyst</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Desktop extension license for GIS analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ArcServer Enterprise Basic</td>
<td>$3,400</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>GIS server software application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLM Map Publisher</td>
<td>$549</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Desktop extension license for GIS map production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ArcGIS Online</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>GIS subscription service for cloud-based map publishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESRI Community Analyst</td>
<td>$3,995</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>GIS subscription service for data profiles and analysis.</td>
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<td>CommunityViz</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Desktop software license for GIS data analysis and modeling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Exposure Information</td>
<td>$1,050</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Construction Permits and Housing Market Data for socioeconomic and economic forecasting/analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adobe Cloud</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Software subscription for online map publishing and document production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InfoGroup</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Employment data purchase for GIS analysis.</td>
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<td>Geolytics</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Demographic and socioeconomic data purchase for GIS analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods and Poole</td>
<td>$395</td>
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<td>Demographic and socioeconomic data purchase for analysis and forecasting.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Economic analysis tool subscription for industry specific</td>
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<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>UPWP Task</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subscription</td>
<td></td>
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<td>ESRI CityEngine</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3D desktop modeling software for GIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>LRS Data Acquisitions</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Transportation data purchases for LRS event table production, GIS analysis, and model forecasting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MioVision Scout Cameras</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<td>Traffic cameras data collection</td>
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<td>Sketchup Pro</td>
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<td>3D modeling software</td>
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<td>Responseware Seat License</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Software licensing and technical support for online public engagement</td>
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<td>Server upgrade for GIS</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
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<td>Server upgrade for GIS/Transportation/Planning VM’s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment for Planning</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
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<td>Surface Pros, Projectors, kiosk mounts for public input, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS</td>
<td>$113,889</td>
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**Products**
- Software and upgrades
- Hardware and servers
- License and maintenance fees

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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1.4 Education and Training

**Objectives**
To develop and maintain technical proficiency of staff in order to enable proper guidance and development of the planning process.

**Previous Work**
Staff members attended, made presentations at, hosted, and assisted with organization of workshops, conferences, and trainings. Subscribed to and read relevant professional publications.

**Proposed Work**
Attend, make presentations, host, and/or assist with organization of workshops, conferences, and trainings. Subscribe to and read relevant professional publications.

**Products**
- Knowledgeable staff
- Annual Transportation/Planning Conferences
- Bi-monthly (6 total) Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Seminars
- Quarterly training for Elected Officials, Municipal staff, and Consultants
- Cube Training, Travel Demand modeling
- Other workshops, conferences, and trainings

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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1.5 Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

Objectives
To maintain and update the COOP for the Birmingham MPA, which will allow for rapid recovery from a disaster to resume the transportation planning process.

Previous Work
Tested data implementation of COOP and found issues in activation. Proposed changes for system to be enacted in 1st quarter of FY2016.

Proposed Work
- Implement COOP activities, including procedures, activation, alternate operations, reconstitution and termination, and information technology.
- Upgrade software and data capacity of the COOP system in final quarter of FY2016.

Products
- COOP implementation activities
- COOP training and exercises
- Upgrade software and data capacity of the COOP system

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility
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TASK 2.0: PLANNING INFORMATION

2.1 Data Collection and Management

Objective
To collect, create, and maintain data in support of local and regional transportation and community planning projects.

Previous Work
The RPCGB has purchased data and data subscriptions from vendors including ESRI, InfoGroup, Geolytics, and other supplementary data services such as HERE transportation data. The Regional Trends report has been updated to reflect current updates to specified county and regional trends. Additional county reports and comparison profiles have been generated as necessary to support planning efforts. Continued data collection activities have focused on population and socioeconomic datasets, transportation infrastructure, travel characteristics, and employment characteristics.

The maintenance and expansion of event tables for use in the regional LRS is necessary to better manage and analyze transportation issues. The RPCGB has continued to collect and build transportation data to improve the capabilities of the LRS. Event tables specific to transit routes, the HERE (travel time and freight) datasets, the TIP, and functionally classified roadways have been evaluated for incorporation into the LRS.

RPCGB continues to expand its GIS resources. Through the sustained production and maintenance of demographic, socioeconomic and transportation data, RPCGB has advanced its GIS library and has added cloud-based mapping functionality and the development of a linear referencing system (LRS) to its GIS resources. Mobile GIS resources have additionally been utilized.

Proposed Work
The RPCGB will purchase data from vendors such as ESRI, InfoGroup, Geolytics, Southern Exposure, Woods and Poole Economics, Multiple Listing Service, and other supplemental data services such as AirSage origin and destination data, HERE and/or Inrix (to support travel time data collection efforts for functionally classified non-National Highway System roadways), and Strava to support non-motorized transportation. Reports generated will address demographic/socioeconomic trends, county profiles, comparison reports, socioeconomic datasets, transportation system inventories, travel characteristics, and infographics. Additional data collection activities may include, but are not limited to: physical data collection, industry subscriptions, online data purchases, and data services.

The RPCGB will work with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to coordinate and align the RPCGB’s LRS with ALDOT’s LRS in order to create a near seamless data flow between the two systems. The RPCGB also will maintain and expand event tables for use in these LRS as it is necessary to better identify, analyze, and manage transportation issues. The RPCGB will continue to collect and build transportation data to improve the capabilities of the LRS. Event tables specific to transit routes, the HERE (travel time and freight) datasets, the TIP, and functionally classified roadways will be incorporated into the LRS.

The RPCGB will endeavor to expand its web presence through the redevelopment of its website data page and the incorporation of cloud-based mapping functionalities with a GIS data portal. This web enhancement will provide easier public access to tabular and spatial data in order to better facilitate data sharing and decision making. In addition to the provision of maps, map services, downloadable spatial
data, traffic counts, transit ridership, and associated reports, this web page will provide a single-source point for information to the public, elected officials, and the development community.

The maintenance and expansion of event tables for use in the regional LRS is necessary to better manage and analyze transportation issues. The RPCGB will continue to collect and build transportation data to improve the capabilities of the LRS.

The RPCGB will continue to expand its web presence through the incorporation of cloud-based mapping functionalities and public access to selected GIS features, layers, and map services. This web enhancement will provide spatial data to the public domain to better facilitate data sharing and decision making.

The MPO will collect, maintain, and report on performance indicators, to include metrics to support the Federal Livability Principles, for use in benchmarking transportation system performance and informing the decision-making process. This would include project prioritization and project selection as directed by Congress with MAP-21 and regulated by the FHWA, and in support of other tasks within this document.

**Products**
- Spatial data expansion and maintenance through necessary development, purchases, and partnerships.
- The production of demographic, socioeconomic, economic, transportation and other planning-related data files.
- The production of regular regional reports that compare the selected data and regional development characteristics. These products will include demographic and socioeconomic regional trends, regional population and employment projections, county and local profiles, and both themed analytical data reports and maps.
- Reporting on local roadway facility traffic counts, transit ridership, non-motorized travel information, and other transportation and planning statistics for incorporation into the LRS. Other information collected includes, but is not limited to: freight/goods movement, incident management, travel times, congestion by travel mode, and transportation system management and operations (TSMO), and regional roadway characteristics.
- Redevelopment of the RPCGB data page.
- The expansion of the online map gallery to make selected thematic maps readily available for public use through the RPCGB website.
- The development of an online GIS data portal to incorporate the existing map gallery and to provide spatial data to the public domain.

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor, and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None
**Financial Responsibility**

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2.2 Data Analysis and Forecasting

Objectives
To collect, create, and maintain current and forecasted demographic and socioeconomic data that is used for the transportation demand model and other planning activities.

Previous Work
The RPCGB has continued to develop demographic and socioeconomic data in support of its transportation and community planning efforts. In addition to the development of a 2010 base year and 2040 projection year traffic analysis zone (TAZ) datasets, several intermediate year datasets have been developed, including those for 2014, 2015, 2024, and 2030. This data was developed for multiple census geographies, including TAZ, Block Group, Census Tract, Planning District, and County levels, and has been utilized for travel demand evaluations, as well as local area projects and publications. Continued refinement and maintenance of these forecasts has included data purchases, such as those from InfoGroup and Geolytics. The data has been used in projects and publications, including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the State of the Region Report, a Regional Trends Report, and in support of other agency planning objectives.

The RPCGB has continued to collect a variety of data, such as Census, Economic, Natural Resources, Transportation, Transit, and related demographic and socioeconomic data, for use within the overall local and regional planning environment.

The RPCGB developed and maintained a regional transportation demand model for the Birmingham MPA, which is a primary screening tool used to identify deficiencies in the future transportation system. The Cube Voyager (Avenue) modeling software was used for travel demand modeling and all other applicable processes, up to and including air quality conformity analysis in support of budget-based estimate preparation using the MOVES2010a (currently using 2010b version) software. This protocol was used for all future regional and project-specific conformity analyses, to include annual updates and amendments of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and existing TIP, required through development of the annual Air Quality Conformity Report, and draft and final 2040 Regional Transportation Plan documentation.

Proposed Work
Proposed work includes the continued refinement and maintenance of population and employment datasets. Proposed work also includes the development, maintenance, and reporting of regional performance indicators. Toward this effort, additional data may be purchased from selected vendors for use in the development of the forecasts, and may include, but not be limited to, such vendors as: ESRI, InfoGroup, Woods and Poole, Southern Exposure, Geolytics, and/or other appropriate economic and/or employment forecasting tools.

In support of the PEA – Models of Regional Planning (referenced on page 2), the proposed forecasting will consider data and projections outside the MPO boundaries. The RPCGB will also coordinate with appropriate agencies beyond the MPO boundaries in this effort.
Products
- Socioeconomic, demographic, and economic datasets (base year and forecast) by TAZ, planning district, census tract, county and region
- Regional Projections Report
- Special Reports
- Support of other agency reports and studies.

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility
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2.3 Geographic Information Systems

Objectives
To provide spatial data resources, including software, hardware, and data, to support agency operations for both program management and project analysis.

Previous Work
The RPCGB has been successful in developing and expanding its GIS capabilities, including ESRI cloud-based mapping services. This mapping service has enabled the RPCGB to publish interactive thematic maps in a public domain gallery. In addition to the visual dissemination of regional data, users are able to query data and incorporate published features into their own maps.

RPCGB has continued to expand its library of GIS datasets, including county parcel updates, street centerlines, building footprints, and transit routes. Continued utilization of the SDE catalog system has provided a secure and organized platform to house critical GIS datasets. RPCGB upgraded to ArcMap 10.3 and has remained current on maintenance through its participation in the state Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) program. The RPCGB has also continued to utilize mobile GIS technology in order to enhance data collection efforts.

Proposed Work
- The RPCGB will continue to develop and expand its GIS capabilities specific to the ESRI cloud-based map service platform and mobile application needs.
- The RPCGB will continue to build its inventory of GIS datasets, including both raster and vector datasets.
- The RPCGB will seek to participate in a regional acquisition program plan for routine imagery and planimetric data updates through the establishment of a consistent funding mechanism.
- Continued acquisition, development, and maintenance of GIS related data for use in the spatial analysis and visual display components of transportation and community planning projects.
- The RPCGB will advance development of an online GIS data portal site to enable public access to selected GIS datasets (public domain) in order to promote data sharing and use of common datasets.
- Additional training and/or GIS-related software or hardware, applications, extensions, or licenses may be acquired once evaluated and determined to be necessary and appropriate to fulfill project or staff expectations.
- Map Services

Products
- Map production, data analysis, and partnerships
- The continuation of data collection, development, and maintenance
- The continued expansion of the GIS system including the cloud-based platform environment
- The expansion of GIS capabilities through training, conferences, workshops, and product evaluations
- Local government planning assistance
- ESRI maintenance of the GIS system, map services and analysis tools (ESRI ArcMap, ArcGIS Online and ESRI Community Analyst)
- The identification and acquisition of additional GIS visualization and analytical tools such as ArcGlobe, ArcScene, and City Engine.
**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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2.4 Model Development Program

Objectives
To develop and maintain traffic models, air quality emission models, land use/indicator models, and economic analysis model for the transportation planning process.

Previous Work
Cube Voyager is the primary travel demand modeling software in use by the Birmingham MPO. It is used to analyze travel demands within the new Census 2010 Birmingham metropolitan planning area (MPA), network travel demand modeling, and in support of air quality conformity estimate preparation using the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES2010b) software. The highway network expanded by including portions of Blount and St. Clair Counties based on the Census 2010. Within the Birmingham MPA, both Cube Voyager and MOVES2010b are used for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and for Air Quality Transportation Conformity Determination, respectively. The MOVES2010b has been updated to the latest version of Air Model from EPA, MOVES2014. The MOVES2014 is used as the regional transportation conformity air model for the plan updates.

In FY 2011, Cube Avenue was purchased and has been successfully tested for subarea traffic simulation. The Cube Avenue model was successfully expanded and applied at the regional level, enabling the Birmingham MPO to evaluate the specific impacts of projects at a larger geographic scale, as well as the ability to conduct before and after studies.

In FY 2015, Synchro Studio was purchased and has been installed successfully for corridor traffic simulation.

Proposed Work
The RPCGB will maintain the Cube Voyager and Air Model for the short and long range transportation plans. In recognizing the changes affecting the Greater Birmingham region, and the changing needs of the metropolitan planning area as it relates to transportation planning, the RPCGB will develop a complete modeling program. The model development program will address regional travel demands. It will also consider the interaction of land use and transportation, identifying and monitoring land use indicators for transportation.

Specific work tasks that will be conducted by the RPCGB include:

- Continue the development and maintenance of the regional travel demand model for the Birmingham metropolitan planning area, as needed for 2040 RTP and TIP updates.
- Continue training of staff to utilize the best modeling practices.
- Utilization of the model in support of existing projects and scenario planning.
- Continue the development and maintenance of MOVES2014. Update MOVES input files with all local datasets, and validate speed profiles based on local observations. Emissions factors will be developed in accordance with MOVES2014 to meet the requirements set forth in 40 CFR 51 and 93.
- Cooperate with ALDOT, ADEM, and other agencies to oversee/share the data collections, methodologies of data development, documentations, and modeling practices.
- Use Synchro Studio to enhance analyses of existing traffic conditions and if necessary, operational and scenario planning in the corridor studies and the transportation sectors of the Comprehensive Plan.
Products
- Travel Demand Model
- MOVES Air Quality Model
- Area wide/System Performance Indicators
- Econometric Model
- Synchro Traffic Simulation Model

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Timeline for Proposed Work
None

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TASK 3.0: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Objectives
To maintain a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, elderly and other interested parties, and any other interested parties with sufficient opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process.

Previous Work
The MPO website is maintained and updated with links to specific projects. Several public involvement meetings were conducted. A public involvement meeting was conducted for the Draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, Updated FY2012-2015 TIP, and the 2014 Air Quality Conformity Report and adopted in January 2015. A public involvement meeting was conducted July 2015 for the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and adopted in September 2015. Visualization and interactive exercises are used extensively with outreach activities. Social media is used to communicate with the public and online participation for ongoing planning activities is encouraged.

The MPO facilitated, participated, and/or hosted several training opportunities, including the RPCGB Annual Conference, Strong Towns workshop, CommuteSmart workshops, APCA workshops, and other opportunities for education regarding bicycles and pedestrians.

The Title VI, Americans with Disabilities Act, and DBE policy continue to be posted on the MPO website. A Title VI report was completed September 2015.

Proposed Work
Public Participation Activities:

- MPO website continuing update. Links provided to project specific websites.
- MPO public participation database update and maintenance.
- Meetings and meeting announcements, including monthly committee meetings, public involvement meetings, project meetings, and community outreach, as needed.
- E-News Connections sent monthly by the RPCGB and project specific newsletters.
- Direct mailings, e-mail announcements, press releases, flyers, notices, and fact sheets.
- Setup and facilitate technical workshops. Costs to include, but are not limited to, speakers, logistics, handouts, etc: $10,000
- Building Communities Conference, $10,000
- Setup and facilitate/host virtual meetings, to include live, interactive online surveys.
- Comment forms and surveys.

Title VI, Americans with Disabilities Act, and DBE Activities:
- Documentation of minority representation.
- Documentation of third-party DBE activities conducted for FHWA and FTA funded projects.
**Products**
- Documentation of public involvement meetings
- Project specific public involvement outreach activities and collateral materials
- Project specific public involvement documentation and reporting
- Title VI Report
- DBE Report (provided with UPWP semi-annual report)
- Transportation planning/project specific webpages
- MPO member training and education events/courses

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
- Title VI Report – September 2016

**Financial Responsibility**

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4.1 Air Quality Planning

Objectives
To achieve and maintain compliance with national air quality standards in the Birmingham nonattainment area of Jefferson and Shelby Counties, to protect and improve public health, to minimize the economic impacts on existing businesses, and to support economic growth consistent with clean air goals.

Previous Work
Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) have worked many outreach efforts throughout the year, particularly in the business and civic community. APCA continues to conducting voluntary emission testing, promotes idle-free zones and facilitates a Car Care program. A report documenting the program and funding activities of APCA was completed for the period October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015.

Proposed Work
The following activities will be conducted by the APCA, with assistance provided by the RPCGB:

- Public Outreach and Marketing educates the general public about air quality issues and the consequences that individual choices have on air quality.
- Employer and employee outreach to get major employers involved in air quality issues and encourages employees to travel to work by modes other than single-occupant vehicles.
- Science and Environmental Education teaches children about air pollution, its health impacts, and how it can be prevented.
- Clean Cities and Alternative Fuels program is to reduce emissions from fleet vehicles through the use of hybrid technology and alternative fuels. The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition is lead partner.
- Voluntary Emissions Testing and Vehicle Repair provides a free emissions check for vehicle owners and encourages owners of high emitters to have their vehicles serviced.
- Program Administration includes managing all air quality contracts, processing invoices, monitoring performance and execution of contracts, and providing support to the APCA.

Note:
1. The Alabama Department of Transportation – Environmental Technical Services (ALDOT ETS) shall remain the sole arbiter of environmental issues on state and federal projects in Alabama, and must be consulted in all instances. ALDOT may seek consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on certain matters and will seek federal approval on a project only when all issues have been addressed.
2. With the exception of certain duties and responsibilities extended to the Birmingham MPO in writing and specific to a particular project and/or a consultant representing an MPO for a specific project, all other actions are the province of ALDOT ETS.
3. Early or initial environmental coordination relating to a specific project with state and federal resource agencies shall only be carried out by the ALDOT ETS.

Products
Annual Report documenting contract performance of organizations, including emissions reductions for the previous fiscal year.
**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
Annual Report – April 2016

**Financial Responsibility**

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4.2 Environmental Consultation Process

**Objectives**

To link the transportation planning and environmental assessment processes early in the project development phase. To inform the project development and NEPA processes with the results of the environmental consultation process. To establish inter-agency, cross-disciplinary communication and education. To identify and pursue collaborative, cross-disciplinary environmental mitigation strategies and funding opportunities.

**Previous Work**

- Collected a Brownfields database for the Voluntary Cleanup Program locations.
- Participated in the Brownfield Task Force.
- Consulted with federal and state resource agencies regarding the development and advancement of federal-aid, and state/locally funded transportation projects.

**Proposed Work**

- Environmental Mapping - continuous updates and refinements to the environmental maps.
- Environmental data collection to catalog and update information specific to:
  - Hazardous Waste Air Release
  - Superfund Sites
  - Toxic Release Inventory
  - Brownfields
- Continue to participate in and provide support to Brownfield planning efforts.
- Promote consistency between the RTP and state and local land use plans and plans for conservation and development.
- Outreach and Education Activities - Provide educational opportunities and training to state and municipal governments environmental planning topics.

**Note:**

1. The Alabama Department of Transportation – Environmental Technical Services (ALDOT ETS) shall remain the sole arbiter of environmental issues on state and federal projects in Alabama, and must be consulted in all instances. ALDOT may seek consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on certain matters and will seek federal approval on a project only when all issues have been addressed.
2. With the exception of certain duties and responsibilities extended to the Birmingham MPO in writing and specific to a particular project and/or a consultant representing an MPO for a specific project, all other actions are the province of ALDOT ETS.
3. Early or initial environmental coordination relating to a specific project with state and federal resource agencies shall only be carried out by the ALDOT ETS.

**Products**

- Environmental Maps
- Outreach and Education Activities
Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility
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4.3 Advanced Planning, Programming, and Logical Engineering (APPLE)

Objectives
To improve the quality and timelines of the overall project development process by:

- Assisting local governments in determining project feasibility specific to both non-motorized and multimodal travel corridors in advance of entering into an expensive and extended project development process.
- Assisting project sponsors in better articulating project scope and understanding both the planning considerations and potential costs.
- Assisting the project development process by educating local governments about the ALDOT project development process.
- Providing information to the Birmingham MPO in order to better manage uncertainties in program funding.

Previous Work
Completed and Ongoing APPLE Projects to Include:

- City of Vestavia Hills - Cahaba Liberty Trail Project (complete)
- Homewood Intersection and Corridor Traffic Operational Study (complete)
- St. Clair County US 411 from CR 10 (Park Avenue) to Kerr Road (complete)
- Mountain Brook Traffic Study
- Pelham Trails and Greenways Study
- Pelham New Roads Study
- Helena School Intersections Study

Proposed Work
The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham will continue to assist local governments and small project sponsors in assessing a project’s feasibility. The feasibility assessment will better inform the local governments and small project decision-making process, and aid them in determining their level of commitment for advancing the project. The goals of the APPLE program will be accomplished in several ways, including:

- Funding consultant/contractor work activities that directly develop of APPLE reports
- Managing the feasibility assessment process for small municipalities/local governments
- Support consultant/contractor activities as related to the development of APPLE reports
- Educating project sponsors and contractors about the ALDOT project development process, to include education of the NEPA process

Note:
1. The Alabama Department of Transportation – Environmental Technical Services (ALDOT ETS) shall remain the sole arbiter of environmental issues on state and federal projects in Alabama, and must be consulted in all instances. ALDOT may seek consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on certain matters and will seek federal approval on a project only when all issues have been addressed.
2. With the exception of certain duties and responsibilities extended to the Birmingham MPO in writing and specific to a particular project and/or a consultant representing an MPO for a specific project, all other actions are the province of ALDOT ETS.
3. Early or initial environmental coordination relating to a specific project with state and federal resource agencies shall only be carried out by the ALDOT ETS.
**Products**
- Project Specific Advanced Planning Reports and Technical Memoranda
- Project status Reports
- Project Development Educational Workshops and Seminars

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, ALDOT, direct contract labor, and/or 3rd party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

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4.4 Climate Change

**Objectives**
- Develop Climate Change evaluation metrics.
- Evaluate the Regional Transportation Plan’s impact on climate change.
- Evaluate planned and programmed transportation projects’ impact on climate change.
- Provide guidance about regional strategies for air quality and congestion mitigation, as well as energy efficiency in order to reduce the Birmingham MPA’s carbon footprint.

**Previous Work**
No work was performed in FY15. Previous work produced a report titled *Climate Change Considerations and On-Road Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area.*

**Proposed Work**
The Birmingham MPO has reassessed its approach to climate change, and how it will incorporate climate change into the metropolitan planning process. As such, the Birmingham MPO has chosen to narrow its focus, and will address road infrastructure vulnerability. The RPCGB will conduct a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of transportation infrastructure by performing a thorough inventory and analysis of current road culverts/road crossings and report on the current status and conditions of these assets. An element of this assessment will include the evaluation the impact of storm events and future climate change scenarios on the assets. The process for completing this project is to emulate, or follow, FHWA’s current Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Conceptual Model and to utilize other studies that have taken place in the region in order to promote consistency of data.

Other climate change evaluation activities will consider:
- Update GHG inventory, and specifically the contribution of mobile source emissions.
- Evaluate and monitor mobile source energy consumption.
- Develop Climate Change Performance Measures - Establish GHG emission and mobile source energy consumption baseline measures.
- Integrate Performance Measures - Incorporate GHG and mobile source energy consumption measures into the MPO’s transportation system performance metrics.
- Develop GHG and Energy Consumption Targets - Develop a recommended GHG emissions and mobile source energy consumption targets.
- Identify a menu of potential climate change adaptation strategies.

**Products**
- Vulnerability analysis of transportation infrastructure to climate change and weather hazards
- Baseline climate change performance measures

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**
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5.1 Regional Transportation Plan

**Objectives**
To ensure that the MPO maintains a long range transportation plan for the Birmingham MPA that is:
- Technically based on the latest available data for land use, demographics, and travel patterns.
- Comprehensive in nature and supports the development of a multimodal transportation system.
- Philosophically based on regional goals and values, and are informed by the Federal Planning Factors and Livability Principles.
- Financially based on predictable, reliable funding sources.

To ensure that the RTP promotes a performance-based planning approach, is consistent with local comprehensive plans and goals, and supports federal Livability Principles for communities.

**Previous Work**
- Completed the 2040 RTP
- Public Involvement Activities and Collateral Materials
- Coordinated with State and Federal Agencies

**Proposed Work**
- Amend the 2040 RTP Capacity Project List and Maps as appropriate to be consistent with the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Continuation of data collection for use in RTP reports and analysis of proposed project and policy recommendations.
- Performance Measures – continue to develop and refine performance measures that will be consistent with the Federal Livability Principles and the Livability Indicators. Performance measures will also support the federal Planning Factors and other MPO directed indicators.

In support of the PEA – Models of Regional Planning (referenced on page 2), the continued development of the RTP will consider the transportation system outside the MPO boundaries. The RPCGB will also coordinate with appropriate agencies beyond the MPO boundaries in this effort.

**Products**
Amended 2040 RTP Capacity Project list and maps

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

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5.1.1 Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Reporting (RTP)

Objectives
To demonstrate that the Regional Transportation Plan, and the funded projects and programs contained within it and the Transportation Improvement Program, conform to the approved regional air quality standards as determined by the Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP), and are consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1990.

Previous Work:
- The RPCGB worked with the IAC to review proposals related to air quality and to recommend ways to reduce emissions and congestion.
- Air quality model runs via MOVES2010b/MOVES2014 were conducted for the ground-level ozone, annual PM2.5, and 24-hour PM2.5 standards.
- A public involvement meeting for modifications to air quality conformity report was held in November 2014.
- The Air Quality Conformity Determination Report for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Jefferson and Shelby Counties and a portion of Walker County in Alabama, was drafted and will be ready for approval by the Birmingham MPO by September 2015.

Proposed Work
- Continue the involvement and cooperation with IAC to monitoring air quality for the MPA.
- Continue the air quality conformity analysis and the air quality conformity determination reporting to comply with changes in the regulations governing air quality and transportation planning.
- Update input files of MOVES with local data collections when they become available. Complete the 2015 emission rate runs for Jefferson and Shelby Counties.
- A quantitative demonstration will be conducted for the geographic area designated as nonattainment to determine if motor vehicle emissions exceed the established budget.
- Climate Change will be supported (see Task 4.4 for details).
- Adjustments will be made in the conformity determination process to accommodate schedule changes in highway capacity projects, conformity years, and other modifications to the network.
- Amendments to the Regional Plan and the FY 2016-19 TIP will be done as needed and in accordance with the ALDOT and FHWA/FTA Memorandum of Understanding May 2015.

Products
- An Air Quality Conformity analysis that demonstrates the total projected emissions are within the allowable limits or as needed based on modifications to the RTP.
- Emission Rate Datasets for Jefferson and Shelby Counties

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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5.1.2 Regional Transportation Plan Project Listings for Air Quality Conformity

**Objectives**
To amend the Regional Transportation Plan as required by additions and deletions to the Regional Transportation Plan project and program listings, and modifications to existing project scopes of work and budgets.

**Previous Work**
- Monitored the proposed projects and changes of project scopes of work.
- Identified capacity projects to be included in the conformity analysis.
- Selected capacity project based on the air quality conformity analysis years.
- Completed the draft capacity project listings for 2040 RTP April 2015 and the process for approval.

**Proposed Work**
- Continue monitoring the capacity project changes.
- Identify new highway capacity projects to be added to the 2040 RTP/TIP.
- Monitor highway capacity project schedule changes crossing the conformity analysis years.
- Review and document proposed new highway capacity projects constituting a Plan amendment that are subject to assignment to an air quality conformity year and a system level conformity determination.

**Products**
- Capacity Project listing tables
- Project maps
- Revised financial tables based on the Capacity Project listings

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
Updated capacity project listing table when needed.

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5.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Objectives
To develop a list of federally-funded transportation projects to be completed by the ALDOT, the BJCTA, local governments, and other project sponsors. Monitor the Financial Constraint, the status of projects programmed (to include advancement) under the STPBH, and the CMAQ, and achievement of the federal Livability Principles and Indicators. Administer TIP amendment requests, and ensure that the Transportation Improvement Program is advancing the goals, objectives and priorities of the RTP.

Previous Work
- Develop a FY 2016-2019 TIP
- Coordinate TIP development with ALDOT and project sponsors
- TIP Amendments - the RPCGB processed TIP amendments as needed.
- Continued to maintain TIP financial constraint
- Annual Obligations Listing - the RPCGB developed and published a list of obligated projects for the previous fiscal year.
- Continued to monitor the status of CMAQ and STPBH projects.
- Updated and refined on-line interactive TIP map.
- Livability Indicators - the RPCGB prepared and presented data within the TIP in accordance with the Livability Principles and Indicators guidelines.

Proposed Work
- TIP Amendments - the RPCGB will process TIP amendments as needed.
- Continue to maintain TIP financial constraint
- Annual Obligations Listing - the RPCGB will develop and publish a list of obligated projects for the previous fiscal year.
- Continue to monitor status of CMAQ and STPBH projects.
- Update and refine online interactive TIP map.
- Livability Indicators - the RPCGB will prepare and present data within the TIP in accordance with the Livability Principles and Indicators guidelines.

Products
Annual Listing of Previous Year Obligated (Authorized) Projects

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Timeline for Proposed Work
Annual Obligations Listing – Fall 2016

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5.2.1 Amend TIP Project Listings for Air Quality Conformity

Objectives
To amend the Transportation Improvement Program, both annually and as required, according to additions and deletions to the Regional Transportation Plan project and program listings and modifications to existing project scopes of work and budgets.

Previous Work
Completed the annual CMAQ obligated project emissions report on February 2015. Selected the existing and committed projects for plan updates.

Proposed Work
- Continue annual summary reporting of emissions reductions to document reductions achieved through projects obligated with CMAQ funding.
- Continue monitoring the capacity project changes.
- Identify new highway capacity projects to be added to the 2040 RTP/TIP.
- Monitor highway capacity project schedule changes crossing the conformity analysis years.
- Review and document proposed new highway capacity projects constituting a Plan amendment that are subject to assignment to an air quality conformity year and a system level conformity determination.

Products
- Project listings
- Project location maps
- Annual obligated project emissions report for FHWA that documents total emissions achieved for projects funded with the CMAQ program

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

Timeline for Proposed Work
- E+C project list on October 2015
- Annual CMAQ obligated project emissions report – February 2016

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5.3 Thoroughfare Planning

Objectives
To develop and maintain a map that articulates the vision for the region’s ultimate build-out of major roadway network, defines the roadway functional classification, the relationship to the public transportation system, and the non-motorized transportation network.

To provide a basis for roadway designs that address multimodal mobility, congestion management for non-motorized transportation, public transportation, access management, and innovative intersections.

To provide a physical framework from which to monitor and analyze transportation system performance, and to identify opportunities to coordinate roadway development with transportation system management and operations strategies.

To provide guidance to local governments for developing community-focused, long-range transportation plans that identify the location and type of roadway facilities needed to meet projected long-term growth and development needs, and enabling them to preserve future corridors for transportation system development and appropriately-sized transportation facilities as the need arises.

Previous Work
- Development of a Linear Reference System
- Local Thoroughfare Plan Development Guide
- Regional Thoroughfare Plan Map
- Roadway Functional Classification Map (updated)

Proposed Work
Regionally Significant Arterials (RSA) – RPCGB staff will work in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and all local governments to develop, maintain, monitor, and amend, as needed, a RSA system for Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area. Anticipated activities and products include:

- Development of an RSA geodatabase to be incorporated into the Linear Referencing System (LRS) and Cube Voyager modeling environments, and
- Coordination meetings with local governments in the planning and staging of transportation improvements

Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS) - Staff will continue to work in cooperation with federal partners, in addition to the East Central ALDOT region, to maintain the FFCS for the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area. This element includes monitoring roadway system function to determine necessary mid-cycle amendments, as needed, to the FFCS.

Anticipated products of this element include:

- Inventory of roads included in FFCS
- Amendments, as needed, to the roadway system to correct, remove, or add roadways
- Maps
- Presentations demonstrating location, function, and justification for amendments

Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual - Creation of a Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual to provide guidance to local governments, particularly those that have adopted, or are considering adopting,
a Complete Streets ordinance, or developing a comprehensive plan, city transportation plans, and/or non-motorized facility (bicycle, sidewalk, and trail) master plans.

As envisioned, the Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual will provide roadway and/or street design guidance, as well as intersection design guidance, based on the street/intersection type, context, and use. The Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual also will provide guidance for determining street typologies, highlight design considerations, and provide model policies and standards for implementation. The Manual will be available for use by local governments and is intended to assist them with implementing Complete Streets when considering and/or advancing local street construction, reconstruction, or resurfacing projects. The document also will be available to public and private developments.

**Corridor Planning** - The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham will assist local governments in developing corridor management plans for specific arterial and collector roadways, and continue to support continued corridor planning work conducted under the Building Communities and/or APPLE programs. Specific corridor plans developed under this subtask include:

- U.S. Highway 78 West Corridor Plan - Reevaluation of recommendations to expand capacity along U.S. Highway 78 West in light of the opening of Corridor X (I-22), a new interstate that parallels the U.S. Highway 78 corridor.

**Local Thoroughfare Plan Development Assistance** - The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham also will provide assistance to local governments in developing the transportation component of comprehensive plans or in the development of citywide transportation plans through the delivery of travel forecasts and technical support for these efforts.

**Products**
- Regional Thoroughfare Plan (map) to Include Regionally Significant Arterials
- Federal Functional Classification System Inventory (tabular and map)
- Complete Street Policy and Design Manual
- U.S. 78 West Corridor Plan
- Local Thoroughfare Plan Development Assistance

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
Complete Street Policy and Design Manual - Fall 2016
U.S. Highway 78 West Corridor Plan – Fall 2016

**Financial Responsibility**

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5.4 Public Transportation Planning

**Objectives**
To promote a regional public transportation system by working with existing and potential public transportation providers on evaluating multi-modal needs, deficiencies, and opportunities.

To assist with existing and potential public transportation services through planning, service delivery, and long term financing strategies.

As previously described, FHWA distributed a memorandum to state DOTs to encourage MPOs to identify tasks associated with Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). One of the PEAs is titled - *Ladders of Opportunity* – which is defined as: access to essential services – as part of the transportation planning process, and identifying transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services. The work defined in this task not only supports this PEA, but is also the primary focus of these efforts.

**Previous Work**
- Assisted the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA) in assessing local bus routes
- Developed maps and other analytical tools
- Assisted BJCTA with analyzing route performance
- Evaluated and proposed new service routes and re-designed some existing routes
- Work on transit corridor studies
- Coordinated meetings between BJCTA and the Federal Transit Administration
- Participated in regular meetings with the BJCTA
- Updated the transit section of the long range transportation plan
- Assist BJCTA in the administration of Section 5310, 5316, and 5317 grants
- Work with agencies and potential transportation providers regarding mobility management
- Coordinate with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs’ (ADECA) Passenger Rail Division regarding the feasibility of regional/local rail service

**Proposed Work**
Provide technical assistance to transportation providers, including assistance with data collection and analysis; identifying and evaluating local bus and paratransit needs, assisting with coordination of elderly and disabled transportation services and programs. Specific work will be provided for the following:

- Assist in the assessment and recommendations of service provision, routing, funding opportunities, and structure
- Provide maps and demographic data as needed
- Other technical assistance efforts will include:
  - Study initiatives to close gaps and enhance service
  - Promote transit oriented development, districts, and corridors
  - Assess opportunities for alternate transit services and modes
Coordinate with the City of Birmingham and the BJCTA on:
- Intermodal Transportation Center
- Placement and development of SuperStops (intermediate transfer centers)
- In-Town Transit Partnership project
- Direct service between Downtown and the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport
- Bus Rapid Transit on US 11

Assist in the development of a Regional Express Bus Service Plan.
- Identify routes, operating hours, headways, and service standards
- Develop long-term financial plan
- Develop capital purchasing plan

The RPCGB will Maintain/Update Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan

Provide administrative and technical assistance for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (5310) including:
- Sending invitations
- Reviewing projects
- Including approved projects in the TIP and STIP

**Products**
- Maintain/Update Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan
- Transit Data Collection
- Route and System Maps (as requested)

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, transportation providers, contract labor and/or third-party contractors.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
5310 Call for Projects – August 2016

**Financial Responsibility**

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5.5 Active Transportation Planning

Objectives
To support regional connectivity and active transportation networks utilizing multimodal streets, greenways, parks, and other public greenspace by establishing short-term and long-term implementation strategies that address the federal Livability Principles.

Previous Work
- Produced Active Transportation Plan
- Facilitated multiple meetings with the MPO’s Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Hosted Bike-to-Work Day and Walk-to-School Day activities
- Worked with Active Transportation Committee on strategies to accomplish regional goals
- Facilitated or helped to facilitate several workshops/conferences, such as Building Communities, Complete Streets, Safe Routes To School (SRTS), and local projects
- Coordinated with Fresh Water Land Trust to implement Red Rock Ridge and Valley Plan
- Participated in State-wide trails conference

Proposed Work
General Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning - respond to requests from Birmingham MPO member government for assistance in planning bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Facilitate the Birmingham MPO’s Active Transportation (formerly Bike/Ped) Advisory Committee as needed.

Implement Active Transportation Plan – begin promotion and implementation of the Birmingham Regional Active Transportation Plan, to include data collection (bike/ped traffic counting) and direct actions to incent/advance transportation infrastructure development; e.g., pop-up infrastructure, and strategies to incorporate the federal Livability Principles. Continue to work on a needs assessment of the region and prioritize projects as able to provide connectivity to other networks.

Support Implementation of Red Rock Ridge and Valley Plan – support and assist with the development and implementation of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Plan.

Safe Routes to School Assistance – support and assist local efforts associated with the Safe Routes to School Program. Continue to implement data collection strategies and use the information to help make the case for additional schools to participate in the program. Work on adding more participating schools to the program.

Local Planning Assistance - Coordinate with non-profit and advocacy bicycle, hiking, pedestrian and public transit groups in order to provide assistance with planning and development of greenways and/or trails, on-street bike and sidewalk facilities and transit facilities. MPO staff will provide planning and project development assistance to local project sponsors. This includes project scoping and funding development assistance to communities working to develop their segments of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Plan and/or the Alabama Department of Transportation’s statewide trail plan. Birmingham MPO staff will also provide assistance as time allows to local trail initiatives that are located in the Birmingham metropolitan planning area.
Education and Outreach Activities - Assist local governments and other stakeholders with planning, funding, and implementing bikeways, walkways, and other non-motorized transportation projects. This includes support for ongoing programmatic activities associated with improving non-motorized transportation on a regional level are important, assistance with coordinating regional events for Bike/Walk to Work Day and coordinate and providing support to CommuteSmart Birmingham. Activities include the Share the Road outreach campaign and sign placement program, and the Regional Bicycle Route Map and interactive website/webpage development.

**Products**
- Active Transportation Plan Implementation
- Bike/ped traffic counting program
- Project scoping assistance
- Documentation of annual Bike/Walk to Work Day events
- Documentation of participation in regional trails initiatives
- Documentation of assistance to local communities
- Education events, workshops, outreach, and webpage development

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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5.6 Logistics Systems Planning

**Objectives**
To develop a regional intermodal goods movement transportation strategy that will identify improvement for freight movements and address the federal Livability Principles.

**Previous Work**
- Freight related employment and economic activity mapping
- Stakeholder outreach
- Met with I-20/I-22 corridor partners
- Participated in Megaregional planning activities
- Developed Freight element of Long Range Transportation Plan

**Proposed Work**
Freight System Data Collection and Performance Measures (see Task 2.1 – Data Collection and Management)

Stakeholder Outreach - Stakeholders will be engaged in order to assess needs and continue established dialogue.

Freight Profile and Framework Plan - The RPCCB will expand on the freight portion of the LRTP, and begin measuring the freight system performance with indicators identified in that document. The plan will address all freight modes, including motor carrier, air, barge, and rail, as well as the intermodal movement between them. The Freight Plan will identifying freight assets that currently exist in the region as well as characteristics of freight movements into, out of, and through the area. To this end, the RPCCB seeks to develop a baseline assessment of freight infrastructure and activity that will be compiled into a Regional Freight Profile. The Freight Profile will consist of the following information for each of the major freight modes in the four county region of Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Blount:

- Description of existing infrastructure
- Volume of freight moved
- Commodities moved
- Economic impact
- Planned infrastructure changes

Using the Freight Profile as a baseline of information, the RPCCB will develop a Regional Freight Plan. The freight plan will act as the guiding document for the implementation of freight projects in the region. It will include short, medium, and long term goals, objectives, and performance measures. It will set policy priorities and include recommendations for policy changes at the local and state level. Finally, it will include a listing of prioritized projects with specific freight benefits. The various components of the freight plan will need to be created and vetted through consultation with regional stakeholders, including partner agencies, freight system users, and the general public. The consultant will not create the freight plan as part of this scope of work; however, the consultant will develop a strategic framework and recommendations for the future development of the freight plan.
Interstate 20 / Interstate 22 Freight Corridor Strategy - Continue developing the I-20 Freight Corridor Strategy to assist the RPCGB’s understanding of freight movement along the corridor in order that cross-regional strategies might be developed and advanced. Expand the corridor to potentially include I-22 to Memphis. The strategy will engage other regional councils of government potentially in other states as well as Alabama. This outreach should include their respective metropolitan and rural planning organizations, as well as freight movers, businesses, and other stakeholders to establish an ongoing dialogue about how both public and private resources might be leveraged in order to improve goods movement and enhance economic opportunities. Ideally, strategy also will inform the State Freight Plan and the goods movement strategies of neighboring regional councils of governments and industry concerns.

Interstate 65 Freight Corridor Strategy - Following the I-20/I-22 Corridor Strategy, the RPCGB will begin to develop an I-65 Corridor strategy to assist with RPCGB’s understanding of freight movement along the corridor that leads from the Port of Mobile into America’s heartland. The strategy will engage other regional councils of government, to include their respective metropolitan and rural planning organizations. It will identify freight movers, businesses, and other stakeholders to establish an ongoing dialogue about how both public and private resources might be leveraged in order to improve goods movement and enhance economic opportunities. This activity will lay the groundwork for a strategy to inform local, regional and state plans and goods movement strategies among the corridor partner.

**Products**
- Freight Data Collection
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Freight Profile and Framework Plan
- I-20/I-22 Freight Corridor Strategy
- I-65 Corridor Engagement

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
None

**Financial Responsibility**

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5.7 Transportation System Performance Management and Monitoring

Objectives
To identify and/or develop appropriate measures to monitor the performance of the transportation system in accordance to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) goals and objectives, the Congestion Management Process (CMP), Federal and State performance targets, and supporting/complementary planning functions; i.e., economic development or land use.

To provide sufficient information to inform the transportation decision making process, to include project prioritization and selection.

To develop and maintain an inventory of transportation system infrastructure and services in order to inform asset and performance management systems.

Previous Work

- Congestion Management Process Committee Coordination
- Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Strategy
- Regional Thoroughfare Plan
- Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse Agreement Modification (UAB Transportation Data Center)
- Bi-annual congestion report

Proposed Work

Proposed work for fiscal year 2016 includes:

Congestion Management Process Update - The Congestion Management Process (CMP) enables the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization to comply with federal regulations for Transportation Management Areas having populations of 200,000 or more. It empowers the RPCGB, acting as the Birmingham MPO, to identify and/or develop performance metrics on which to monitoring and compare congested conditions year after year. The information gathered is also used to inform the transportation decision-making process, in particular providing a framework within which the Birmingham MPO can come together to discuss and evaluate merits of applying federal transportation funds to roadway capacity projects. The CMP is intended to be updated every four years in advance of the development of the metropolitan transportation plan in order that it might inform this plan’s development. However, the Birmingham CMP has not been updated since 2008, and does not include Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) provisions. It is envisioned that the CMP update will be all encompassing, and include the following elements:

- CMP Administration - The CMP update is three-years overdue and there are several components that need to be included, as they were either previously omitted or not required at the time. This would include: modification and/or clarification of the CMP administrative and interagency/inter-jurisdictional coordination process. It is envisioned that as part of administering the CMP, that written documentation of how the CMP might be applied to the Birmingham metropolitan planning area will developed and provided as guidance for the Birmingham MPO. The CMP update also will expand the congestion monitoring network. Finally, the CMP will provide written guidance for project prioritization and selection, incorporating TSMO considerations, congestion measures, and other performance metrics into the overall process.
Transportation Systems Management and Operations (Phase 2) - In 2014, as part of the Birmingham 2040 Regional Transportation Plan update, the RPCGB completed Phase 1 of a Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) strategy. Phase 2 will provide a program description and prioritize corridors within which to apply a Regional Transportation Operations Program (RTOP). Building off of the success of the Birmingham MPO regional signal retiming corridor project and the lessons learned from the U.S. 280 Corridor Management, RTOP is envisioned to be a multi-jurisdictional, corridor management program that will address signal timing, signal maintenance, traveler information, and incident management with the goal of improving traffic flow and reducing vehicle emissions. TSMO Phase 2 also will identify strategies to implement other recommendations from TSMO Phase 1. TSMO Phase 2 will be coordinated through the Congestion Management Process, and be provided oversight by the CMP’s Committee.

Transportation System Performance Monitoring and Reporting - Building off of previous work and following the guidance of the U.S. Department of Transportation as it relates to the implementation of MAP-21, the Birmingham MPO will identify a series of performance measures to address MAP-21 and State DOT performance criteria, the regional transportation plan goals and objectives, federal Livability Principles, and mode specific metrics; e.g., public transportation, non-motorized transportation, and freight. The work in this task will support, and is supported by the work identified in Task 2.0, Planning Information, as well as the work identified in Task 5.3, Thoroughfare Planning. Performance metrics will be presented in a variety of formats to include online presentation of information and written reports.

Household Travel Survey - RPCGB will conduct a household travel survey in order to gain a statistically significant picture of travel within the region. Data obtained from the household travel survey will help guide future transportation planning, providing the RPCGB with additional functionality to assist the MPO with both long and short-range transportation planning activities; to enable the MPO to assist local governments in determining which transportation improvements will best benefit them, and; to inform transportation performance measurement and air quality analysis. Data obtained from the household travel survey also will be used in updating and calibrating the travel demand models (auto ownership, trip generation, mode choice, destination choice). Data that is collected will be catalogued, analyzed, and documented within a detailed report.

Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse Modification/Expansion - Building upon the relationship that has been established between the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Birmingham MPO will make modifications to the existing Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse. Where feasible, the Data Clearinghouse will be expanded to incorporate transportation research. The Transportation Data Clearinghouse will provide efficient access to comprehensive data sets that contain current and historic information on the land development characteristics, as well as the character and performance of the region’s transportation system. As its name suggests, data will be made available to the ALDOT, the region’s transportation agencies, local governments, RPCGB and Birmingham MPO stakeholders, and the general public. Key tasks and/or programmatic activities to be included within the Regional Transportation Clearinghouse function include:

- Regional Traffic Count Program - Primarily focused on the secondary roadway system (county and local roads), the Regional Traffic Count Program’s primary purpose is to (a) increase the amount of information available about vehicular traffic traveling on the region’s roadways, (b) improve data collection regularity, and (c) improve the quality of data collected by establishing consistent standards. The RPCGB will take steps to obtain traffic count data (including turning movement counts) on both a regular basis in order to monitoring the transportation system, and as may be required to support program and project studies (to be determined).
Transit Data Collection Program - The primary purpose of the Transit Data Collection Program is to improve information about transit ridership. The program will identify and maintain transit networks within the RPCGB’s GIS and travel demand mode. It also will obtain transit ridership data to include boarding and alighting information, trip making matrices, transit user characteristics.

Origin/Destination Snapshot - The Birmingham MPO will develop a snapshot of household trip origins and destinations in order to supplement the regional travel demand model and to develop both regional and sub-area specific profiles of household trip making characteristics.

Freight System Data Collection Program – Collect freight system data utilizing both publicly available and privately held data. This will include developing an inventory of freight trip generators and attractors.

Trail Count Program - conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts along both regional and local off-road trails and on-street bicycle facilities. Counts will be collected using infrared and magnetic counters. Data will be downloaded, tabulated and assessed in order to evaluate usage and demand characteristics.

Products

- Congestion Management Process Update
- Household Travel Survey
- Traffic Counts Map
- Transit Profile
- Origin/Destination Snapshot
- Freight Data
- Non-motorized Facility Inventory and Utilization Map
- Transportation System Monitoring and Performance Report
- Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse Administration

Staffing

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities and organizations identified under Proposed Work.

Timeline for Proposed Work

Congestion Management Process Update
- TSMO Phase 2 Implementation Program - Winter 2016

Performance Metric Identification and Reporting
- Metric Identification - Spring 2016
- Reporting - Fall 2016

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5.8 Transportation Safety and Security Planning

Objectives
To incorporate transportation safety into the planning process and improve transportation safety in the community. To provide support and coordination for the transportation sector’s role in overall regional emergency preparedness planning. MAP-21 requires metropolitan planning to increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users. These and other factors, along with heightened awareness of the safety problem, have demonstrated the need for the regional transportation safety planning program.

MAP-21 also requires that the metropolitan planning process address the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users. Transportation security addresses a much larger regional emergency preparedness planning program primarily funded outside the UPWP by U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Transportation security considerations often include specialized needs for transportation sector involvement in Homeland Security-directed preparedness activities.

Previous Work
- Reviewed safety data, analyzed and documented in the safety section of the 2040 RTP
- Coordinated MPO safety planning efforts with ALDOT
- Helped setup and hosted Regional Safety Planning Meeting with ALDOT Safety Engineer, University of Alabama, Cambridge Systematics, and several local officials.
- Assisted in drafting an outline and scope for a Regional Safety Plan to be developed by University of Alabama and Cambridge Systematics.
- Supported pedestrian and bicycle safety outreach campaigns including Public Service Announcements.

Proposed Work
- Continue to coordinate safety planning efforts with ALDOT
- Work with municipal stakeholders to determine the Birmingham MPO’s roles (if any) in declared emergencies and catastrophes – Region 1 Emergency Planning Team.
- Continue to support pedestrian and bicycle safety outreach campaigns, to include Public Service Announcements to educate non-motorists and motorists about behaviors impacting traveler safety
- Monitor the federal rulemaking on performance measures for safety.
- Continue to support the Jefferson State College transportation safety education programs.
- Continue to assist with the development of the Regional Safety Plan which will be used to create the Statewide Safety Plan.
- Participate as a stakeholder on a committee to be developed by ALDOT for the Statewide Safety Plan.

Products
None

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility

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5.9 Technical Assistance for Local Communities and Agencies

Objectives
To provide technical assistance, and/or support to local entities (governmental and non-governmental), and the general public for any planning-related issues and requests that are either too small in scope or too short-lived to rise to the level of requiring a formal scope and budget.

To account for staff time spent addressing technical assistance and support requests as described above may include:

- Staff time to participate in technical review committees and task forces
- Developing monthly progress and budgetary reports
- Technical quality control
- Data/document request fulfillment

Previous Work
- Meeting attendance
- Assistance to local governments
- Data mining and report processing
- Document printing and delivery
- Printing maps
- Meeting facilitation/organization

Proposed Work
The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham will assist local governments, small project sponsors, and non-governmental organizations by providing general planning support and technical assistance on an as-requested basis, and when financially and technically feasible. This includes:

- Attending City Council, local Planning Commission, neighborhood association, and other community and/or organizational meetings as requested
- Providing comments/input to reports, correspondence, and discussions on transportation related topics on specific transportation issues or items
- Mapping assistance
- Data assistance

Products
- Assistance with project management and implementation as necessary
- Analyses and planning assistance as requested
- Reports and memoranda related to local assistance as required.
- Attendance at meetings as requested.
- Attendance, if available, at workshops, conferences, and training to improve efficiency and skills under this work program task

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility
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6.1 CommuteSmart Program (Rideshare)

**Objectives**
To reduce reliance on the single-occupant automobile through programs that result in air emissions reductions and continue to address the federal Livability Principles.

**Previous Work**
Ongoing activities have been conducted for employer-based outreach programs, vanpool operations services, and park-and-ride lot development. An annual report documenting accomplishments was prepared and printed.

**Proposed Work**
- Outreach and Marketing Activities - Designed to increase the number of employers who encourage use of commuting alternatives and the number of participants in the program.
- Turn-Key Vanpool Operations Services
- Park and Ride - Increase number of locations for park and ride, install directional signs on roadways, and increase marketing efforts.
- Work on steps to implement and promote a bikeshare in downtown Birmingham.

**Products**
- Document emissions reduction estimates – February 2016
- Outreach and marketing of vanpool and rideshare programs
- Outreach and marketing of park and ride program
- Annual Report – February 2016

**Staffing**
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work, Enterprise Leasing Company, South Central LLC $400,000, marketing, media $150,000 and Third Party Contract $45,000.

**Timeline for Proposed Work**
- Document emissions reduction estimates – February 2016
- Annual Report – February 2016

**Financial Responsibility**
- Total $1,300,000
- STPBH (FHWA) $1,300,000
- Local $0
6.2 Building Communities Program

Objectives
To provide grants to local communities within the Birmingham MPA for projects, strategies, and services that support the Scope of the Planning Factors and meet the federal Livability Principles, including transportation and land use integration, economic vitality, safety and security, accessibility and mobility, environmental/air quality, and system preservation.

Previous Work
City of Birmingham - Framework Plans
- North Birmingham Community Framework Plan
- Titusville Community Framework Plan
- Western Area Framework Plan

Proposed Work
A negotiated process between the RPCGB and MPO governments is used to develop Building Communities projects consistent with eligible transportation and land use activities. Land use and transportation needs are identified, a determination is made for consistency with Building Communities’ goals, a project scope of work and budget are developed, and a cost sharing agreement is made. The MPO will document projects in the semi-annual report.

Projects currently in progress in FY 2015 and scheduled to be completed in FY 2016 include:
- City of Alabaster Comprehensive Plan Update
- City of Irondale Comprehensive Plan
- City of Birmingham
  - Form Based Code
  - Northeast Area Framework Plan
  - Southwest Area Framework Plan

Projects currently being negotiated in FY 2015 to begin in FY 2016 and be completed during FY2016:
- City of Birmingham - Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Shelby County – County Transportation Plan
- City of Homewood - Downtown Redevelopment Plan

Products
Plans and programs suitable for implementation

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, direct contract labor and/or third-party contractors for activities, and organizations identified under Proposed Work

Timeline for Proposed Work
None

Financial Responsibility
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7.1 U.S. 11 East / U.S. 78 East Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Objectives
Provide transportation alternatives to improve travel in the U.S. 11/U.S. 78 East corridor and addresses federal Livability Principles.

Previous Work
- Public engagement and stakeholder outreach
- Data collection and analysis
- Proposed modification of routes
- Proposed BRT route along US Hwy 11
- Coordination with Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA) and City of Birmingham on:
  - Proposed modification of existing routes
  - Proposed BRT route along US Hwy 11
  - Proposed SuperStop locations and station development

Proposed Work
Work activities will consider alternatives that augment, support, and complement existing transit services, non-motorized travel, and roadway operations and management. The study will also provide land development/redevelopment scenarios for the corridor. Specific activities include:

- Continued public engagement and stakeholder outreach
- Identification of locally preferred alternatives
- Corridor-wide land use and multi-modal transportation vision, alternatives, and feasibility
- Integration with other corridor studies (I-65, US11 West)
- Continue working with BJCTA and City on route modifications/additions and SuperStop development
- Implementation plans and funding strategies

Products
- Public and stakeholder outreach events
- Map products
- Feasibility of locally preferred alternatives
- Implementation plan and funding alternatives

Staffing
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and third-party contractors
**Timeline for Proposed Work**
Feasibility of Alternatives – Fall 2015

**Financial Responsibility**

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TABLE 1
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
FY 2016
(Organizational Responsibility)
Federal Dollars ($) Only

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<th>TASKS</th>
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<th>RPC</th>
<th>STATE PLANNING AND RESEARCH FUNDING (SPR)</th>
<th>CONTRACTOR</th>
<th>TOTAL FEDERAL $</th>
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### TABLE 1

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
FY 2016  
(Organizational Responsibility)  
Federal Dollars ($) Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>PL*</th>
<th>RPC</th>
<th>STATE PLANNING AND RESEARCH FUNDING (SPR)</th>
<th>CONTRACTOR</th>
<th>TOTAL FEDERAL $</th>
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<td>4.1 Air Quality Planning</td>
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<td>$2,500</td>
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</table>

5.0 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

| 5.1 Regional Transportation Plan | $20,000 | $20,000 | | $20,000 |
| 5.1.1 Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Reporting | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.1.2 Regional Transportation Plan Project Listing for Air Quality Conformity | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) | $80,000 | $80,000 | | $160,000 |
| 5.2.1 Amend TIP Project Listings for Air Quality Conformity | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.3 Thoroughfare Planning | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.4 Public Transportation Planning | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.5 Active Transportation Planning | $70,000 | $20,000 | Third party contractor | $90,000 |
| 5.6 Logistics Systems Planning | $140,000 | $60,000 | Third party contractor | $200,000 |
| 5.7 Transportation System Performance Management and Monitoring | $115,000 | $40,000 | Third party contractor | $155,000 |
| 5.8 Transportation Safety and Security Planning | $10,000 | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| 5.9 Technical Assistance for Local Communities and Agencies | $20,000 | $20,000 | | $40,000 |

6.0 PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

| 6.1 CommuteSmart Program (Rideshare) | $685,000 | $400,000 | Enterprise | $1,085,000 |
| 6.2 Building Communities Program | $440,000 | $160,000 | Third party contractor | $600,000 |

7.0 CORRIDOR PLANNING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

| 7.1 U.S. 11 East / U.S. 78 East Corridor Alternatives Analysis | $100,000 | $1,700,000 | Third party contractor | $1,800,000 |
| State Planning and Research Funding (SPR) | $200,000 | $200,000 | | $400,000 |

**Total** | $1,172,975 | $2,171,864 | $3,921,111 | $6,292,955

*FTA 5303 is consolidated into a single funding category with FHWA P*
# TABLE 2

**UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

(FY 2016)  
*(Funding Sources)*

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<th>CMAQ: SLS</th>
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</table>

*PL= $847,975 (annual FY 2016 mark) + $325,000 projected carryover from FY 2015 = $1,172,975
Building Communities is a multi-year agreement
*FTA 5303 is consolidated into a single funding category with FHWA PL
MPOs may carry over funds for 3 years. The oldest unexpended funds will be returned to the funding pool for reallocation.
The staff of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham also serves as staff to the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization.

- **Decision Makers**
- **Voting Committees**
- **Formal Subcommittees**
- **Ad Hoc Advisory Committees**

**Diagram Details:**
- **Formal Connections**
- **Ad Hoc Connections**
BIRMINGHAM MPO AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
AND URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARY

Legend
- Urbanized Area
- MPA Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Highway

Source: MPO Staff

*Based on 2010 Census data.
May, 2013 - G:/ProjectData/MPO/MPA
2010MPA8x11.mxd

Miles
Livability Indicators

1. **Provide more transportation choices.**
   Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.

   **Performance Indicator: Mode Share**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Daily Work Trips by Travel Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Census: 2009-2011 3-years average for Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Blount Counties

2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.**
   Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

   The map on following page illustrates the performance indicator.
Performance Indicator: Jobs/Housing Balance
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.**
   Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.

   **Performance Indicator: Travel Time Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congested Lane Miles, Daily</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>% for AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>% for PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interstates</td>
<td>150.6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterials</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Source: based on Travel Time Index, Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham’s congestion management process 2012 report for Jefferson and Shelby Counties

4. **Support existing communities.**
   Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.

   **Performance Indicator: Percentage of Projects that Include Air Quality Mitigation**

   The FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes 23 projects that are designed to improve air quality out of 174 total projects. This equates to **13 percent** Air Quality Mitigation projects.

5. **Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.**
   Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

   **Performance Indicator: Project Funding Diversity**

   | Total Projects in TIP (Inclusive of All Phases) | 137 |
   | Project with More than 2 Funding Sources        | 60  |
   | Percent of Total                                | 43.8% |
6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.**
Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

**Performance Indicator:** Partnerships and Public Involvement
Number of Partnerships and Documented PI Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Involvement Activity Type</th>
<th>Public Involvement Activity</th>
<th>Total Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPO Committee and Policy Board Meetings</td>
<td>Transportation Citizens Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Transportation Policy Committee</td>
<td>20 Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Buildings</td>
<td>Technical Training Workshops</td>
<td>Complete Streets, Bike Safety Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>• MPO 101 Training • RPCGB Annual Meeting • Brown Bag Series • Popup Avondale • Popup Bessemer</td>
<td>7 Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Related Public Meetings</td>
<td>• Homewood Stakeholder meeting/public meetings • Vestavia US 11 stakeholder meeting/public meetings • US 11 Southwest Corridor meetings • US 11 Southeast Corridor meetings • Titusville Neighborhood meetings • Gardendale meetings • Center Point meetings • Thomas Neighborhood • Montevallo ATP • Helena APPLE Meetings</td>
<td>28 Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webpages and Web Presence</td>
<td>• Think Forwards 2040 • MindMixer Online Discussion Forum • US 31 Vestavia Hills Video • West Homewood FBC Video • Helena APPLE Webpage/Survey • Popup Webpage • Brown Bag Presentations (4 posted to web) • MPO 101 Presentations (5 presentations)</td>
<td>15 Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Community Outreach</td>
<td>Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) community events</td>
<td>12 Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Activities**: 84

Source: MPO Staff