

**Rural Planning Organization Meeting
September 26, 2018 2:00 PM
Central Baldwin Annex, Robertsdale, AL**

Members Present:

**Richard Spraggins – Mobile County
Larry White – Escambia County Commissioner
Adam Spence - ALDOT
John Reece - ALDOT
Chad Christian – City of Foley
Clint Colvin – City of Gulf Shores
Amber Alvarez – Poarch Creek Indians
Taylor Rider - BRATS
Joey Nunnally – Baldwin County Commission
Jim Staff – City of Atmore
John F. Rhodes - SARPC
SARPC Staff Present:
Tom Piper
Monica Williamson**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tom Piper.

The second item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the September 21, 2017 meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Taylor Rider with a second by Commissioner White. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was to review and adopt the Fiscal Year 2019 Work Program.

Mr. Piper said this is the Fiscal year 2019 Work Program. We do this every year. It's basically our budget. This year, we have a new task. It's task 5. The state is going to be doing the Fiscal Year 2020 to 2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and they have asked us to help facilitate the public meetings in our region this year. We're going to be having meetings in each county to solicit comments from the public and local municipalities and county commissions as far as what projects need to be put in the upcoming statewide transportation improvement program. That's the four-year plan that the state does. Every four years, it gets updated. That's a change to this work program. We've never had that in there before. Everything else is pretty much the same. Our funding went down a little bit. It's slightly less than last year, but it's not a big change. You can see it on the back page. That's the totals. The state gives us \$49,400 and we have local funding of \$12,350.

Motion was made by Mr. Richard Spraggins to adopt the work program with a second by Mr. Joey Nunnally. Motion was approved.

The next item on the agenda was to amend the Transportation Plan List of Projects.

Mr. Piper said the transportation plan list of projects is what we put together every year. It's been a running list of projects that we've had since 2006. It lists current needs, future needs and then what projects are underway and what on the list has been completed. It is broken down by county. If anyone has any projects they would like to add to the list or something that has been completed that we need to mark as being completed, we can do that now or if it's something that you have typed up and you want to send it to me, that's fine. This project list will be updated and then we will send it to ALDOT at the region and Montgomery. It just let's them know what our regional project needs are. It covers road projects, bridge projects, bike/ped projects, transit projects.

Mr. Nunnally said you didn't happen to have a list of the MPO area with you. The reason I asked is that we have a bridge on County Road 32 over Fish River. I know that's going to be close to the line. I don't know if it's on one side or other. I don't see it on the list.

Mr. Piper said I don't have that handy. You can send it to me and if it's in the urban area, I'll let you know. If it's not, I'll put it in here.

Mr. Nunnally said we've typed up some comments on our stuff. That is not on the comments. I am going to hand write that in and give it to you if that's okay.

Mr. Piper said that'll be fine.

Ms. Alvarez said I have some questions. As far as the work that we do with our planning projects for the tribe, we've been kind of functioning independently for so long. That's something that we are constantly told as we interact with Federal Highway to try and reach out and have more cooperation with our county and the state. That's something we've been working toward. Should that be something we should be communicating with you; what our projects are?

Mr. Piper said yes. We would like to hear it and we can make the state aware of it and the county commission.

Ms. Alvarez said we work really well with the Escambia County Commission. We just don't get to this level yet. Then I had a question about Jack Springs Road or County Road 1. It's on the work plan to widen it and make it a state route. Is somebody actively looking at that? That is something we could partner with.

Mr. Piper said I don't know.

Ms. Alvarez said it's something that we've been talking about because County Road 1 is our main road.

Commissioner White said as far as I know, there is no action on it. We had a joint delegation meeting with the legislative delegation, the PCI Chairmen and the county commission, everybody involved, but it's been probably 10 years ago. We pitched that the state really needed to do that. It got to Montgomery and got rejected. I don't know what the status of it is. It's on the list and I was hoping we would get an update.

Mr. Piper said do you guys know anything about that at all. Maybe we can facilitate a meeting where we all get together with Vince and talk about that project and see if we can't get it approved.

Ms. Alvarez said it gets thrown around in our discussions a lot because we just had to widen a portion of it to install a turning lane to accommodate a new road that we built. It does present a great opportunity and apply for a BUILD grant.

Commissioner White said the county commission supports the state taking it over. That's becoming a pretty big operation down there.

Mr. Piper said I have a meeting with Vince tomorrow and I'll see if we can set something up and talk about that. Any other discussion on the list of projects?

Mr. Colvin said under the completed or underway projects, Pride Drive is complete. Also replace bridge on Keller Road over Bogey Branch is complete.

Mr. Piper said Escambia County, we haven't actually got any new projects in a while. Is there anything that you need to add?

Commissioner White said I do want to make it official, a request for ALDOT to provide us with an update on Highway 41 over the Conecuh River. There's some problems with the construction and it has all but ceased for that new bridge. I understand it's faulty workmanship and it's not approved. The folks are inquisitive about it and they want the County Commission to give them an answer. We need an official report. One that we can share with the press or that ALDOT can share with the press.

Mr. Rider said under Baldwin County Transit, I think we can leave this on here, the deviated fixed route transit system in South Baldwin, we did that study, went back to several meetings with Orange Beach and included some people in Gulf Shores and then they decided against moving forward with trying it at this time due to the amount of the match they would have to

contribute. I think we should leave it on there just to see what happens down the road. That transit study was completed and presented to the parties.

Mr. Colvin said I've got one complete. The bike pedestrian way on Highway 59 south of the Intercoastal Waterway. It actually shows by twice. It's under the completed/underway projects and it's also under the bicycle and pedestrian needs.

Mr. Rider said one other thing, remodel BRATS headquarters to include training center and room for more employees that is completed. That can come off the list. You can also take that Baldwin County Transit Study off.

Commissioner White said under completed and underway projects for Escambia County, it's got on here widen State Highway 113 across Escambia County. It's already a four lane. It's been a four lane about 12 years.

Mr. Piper asked is it completely done.

Commissioner White said it's completely done and in use. At some point it needs to come off the list.

Mr. Spence said we are about to resurface it so I guess it's been awhile since it was widened.

Mr. Piper said I guess we need to look at our completed list and make it not quite so old. Does anyone have anything else?

Mr. Rhodes said Tom, you have mentioned this already, but on this beautiful colored map, I know there was supposed to be a public hearing held on 90 and 59, is that public hearing been held?

Mr. Spence said it was a public involvement meeting and it was last Thursday.

Mr. Rhodes asked did it go pretty well? That's been one of the most needed projects that I can remember.

Mr. Spence said I think we had about 21 people show up.

Mr. Rhodes said that will start when?

Mr. Spence said our current schedule is fall of next year. We've still got some design work to do and purchase the right of way.

Mr. Nunnally said when you line up 68 and 90, there is an old railroad bed that will get people air born if something is not done about it.

Mr. Spence said they said the county is going to take care of that.

Mr. Nunnally asked who said that?

Mr. Spence said it was either Sarah or the Mayor.

Mr. Nunnally said I asked Don Powell to include it in the project.

Mr. Spence said that's news to me.

Mr. Rhodes said is that right of way, Joey, in the hands of who?

Mr. Nunnally said the old railroad bed? Foley came in there and bought a bunch of it, but now they don't own all of it. Some of it actually went to private owners. At that particular location, I don't know for sure.

The next item on the agenda was the ALDOT Update of Current and Future Transportation Projects.

Mr. Spence said we built this presentation to focus on projects outside the urban area boundary. We're going to go over planned projects and also projects currently under construction. Planned rural resurfacing in Mobile County is State Route 188 from Franklin Creek to County Road 19. In Baldwin County, there are quite a few. I'm not going to read each one of them, but if you have any questions, between me and John, we can answer them. Planned rural resurfacing in Escambia County. There is the State Route 113 project we were discussing earlier and then the other four. If you have any questions on any of these projects just let us know.

Commissioner White said 113 starts at the state line, not at 31. Is there some one reason you are not doing that other mile. The highway starts at the state line, not at 31.

Mr. Spence said this plan set if from 31 to 65.

Mr. Piper said so from 31 to the state line is not going to be resurfaced right now. Is it possibly later?

Commissioner White said it is 113 though.

Mr. Spence said it is, but it's likely in the way we develop scopes of work, they thought that the pavement condition rating of that section was better.

Mr. Nunnally said you have State Route 181 from 98 to Quail Creek, is that not inside the MPO?

Mr. Spence said it may be.

Mr. Nunnally said I think it is. That's right there by the Wal-Mart in Fairhope.

Mr. Spence said and also that is close to one of the projects.

Mr. Nunnally said that is right at the end of widening project that is going on now.

Mr. Piper said sometimes, if it's a widening project that has more of a regional significance, we put it in this presentation even if it's in the urban area because its kind of does affect the rural part.

Mr. Spence said and that resurfacing project actually goes down to 98, not to Quail Creek. It's backwards.

Mr. Nunnally said two-foot safety widening, so that's not the four-lane widening, that's a two-foot widening. That's inside the MPO.

Mr. Spence said we'll clarify what that is. There's other projects that are going on that are regional impact projects that are going to be inside the MPO for situational awareness for all.

Mr. Colvin asked what's the timing on the 59 from the ICW to 12?

Mr. Spence said these are all 2019 resurfacing projects so they will be let this fiscal year.

Mr. Colvin said and that's just a resurfacing as well?

Mr. Spence said no, not all of them. 59 I think is an extra, I think that is 20. These are all resurfacing, either 19 or 20. We've got a map with a breakout of phase 1 or 2 which is 2019 and 20. There's the map. To explain P1-3, that's phase one. priority three. That means fiscal year 2019. It's kind of hard to read these maps. We can email this out for everyone to review if you would like. Basically, the priority is going to be the order it lets in that fiscal year. 2019, phase 1, priority 1 that will be the first project that will let this year.

Mr. Piper said but these are all to be let this year or next year.

Mr. Spence said yes. The other rural planned projects are US-98/SR-158 projects, we'll talk about those a little bit later in the presentation in more detail. The US-45 Bridge Replacement over Bennetts Creek, the design phase has just begun on that project. It's currently sitting at a 2022 letting. It's a little way out, but it is a fairly large bridge replacement project in the rural area.

Mr. Piper asked where is Bennetts Creek? Is that close to Citronelle?

Mr. Reece said just north of Citronelle.

Mr. Spence said we are not even at 30% plans on that. In Baldwin County, we have a large IM resurfacing project on I-10 from 59 to County Road 64. Our waterways project on Foley Beach Express to State Route 180 is getting close in the design phase. It's currently scheduled to let in April. We have a public involvement meeting that is tentatively scheduled for the middle of November on that job.

Mr. Nunnally said does that include the roundabout.

Mr. Spence said part of the public involvement meeting is to present two options. I believe the roundabout is one of them. I believe it's in Gulf Shores, but it hasn't been finalized. Our State Route 180 widening from Baldwin Express to State Route 161, that is scheduled to let January of 2019. The plans are at 90%. We're on schedule to make that letting date. Then, US 90 at State Route 59 intersection relocation and improvements, that's the project we talked about a little bit earlier. Realigning Highway 90 to line up with County Road 68 with a proposed signal. The design phase is just starting.

Mr. Reece said we are beyond 30%, not quite at 60%.

Mr. Spence said other planned rural projects in Escambia, another large IM project, resurfacing I-65 from 21 to State Route 113. Also interchange lighting project on I-65 at exit 57. That project is scheduled to let this December. It's going to tie in well with work that was just completed on State Route 21 because there's already street lighting there and we're going to be adding large street lighting for the interchange, the interstate. Those plans are on the schedule and we are actually ahead of schedule. This is picture of our current 158 project. The second project that is let on continuing construction on our 158/98 connector. This is a sedimentation pond. We started constructing an innovative way with erosion control concerns. In this project, they are only building it 17 acres at a time. We are requiring contractors to have final stabilization on everything before he can move on to the next plot. To date, we talked with the construction guys and did a site visit not too long ago. What they implemented there, we've seen less discharge so the project is going well. Rural construction projects that are on-going right now, US-43 from the Cold Creek Bridge to the Washington County line. In Baldwin County, resurfacing I-65 from 225 to the Escambia line; resurfacing 59 from County Road 12 to County Road 54; and then resurfacing 182 from West Lagoon Avenue to Gulf Shores Eastern city limits. In Escambia County, resurfacing I-65 from Baldwin County to State Route 21; and an emergency ditch failure project on US-31 at Sardis Church Road.

Commissioner White said I would sure like to know how much they spent on that project. It's completed.

Mr. Spence said this is a layout of the Mobile River Bridge Project. Currently, it is a public-private partnership. They are in the RFP process with three concessionaires we expect to

submit proposals. A decision on which team should be made early 2019 and possible construction starting by 2020. There's a good bit more information on the website. You can see some mock ups and models. This project, I-10 at State Route 181, the diverging diamond interchange, just let. Construction hasn't begun yet, but it will start fairly soon.

Mr. Nunnally asked who was the low bidder on that?

Mr. Spence said Arrington Curb and Gutter. We're all excited to see this. It's the first interchange like this in the state.

Mr. Nunnally asked what did that one come in at?

Mr. Spence said 7.3.

Mr. Nunnally said is that what y'all expected?

Mr. Spence said it was under bracket.

Commissioner White said can you back up to the Bayway Slide. Is that the current Bayway?

Mr. Spence said yes, it will be rebuilt in that same alignment, the Bayway will.

Mr. Nunnally said rebuilt or widened?

Mr. Spence said rebuilt. It has to be higher because of the new flood standard. You see the little spur, it crosses the river in a different spot, just south of the tunnel. The southernmost one is where the actual river crossing will be.

Commissioner asked about where the project begins. (inaudible)

Mr. Spence said the begin project is all the way back at Broad Street.

Commissioner White said but it's only going to be one and it's not going to actually tee into the current bridge. They are just going to rebuild the current bridge.

Mr. Reece said they are going to widen and make it taller.

Mr. Nunnally said how much taller?

Mr. Spence said it's at least 10 feet, I think.

Mr. Nunnally said 10 feet more.

Mr. Spence said I think, I'm not sure.

Mr. Reece said they just formalized the storm surge analysis. I'm glad I didn't do it because I actually had to mail off an external hard drive for our Tensaw River Bridge Project is using some of the same data and it was 4 terabytes worth of information.

Mr. Spence said they rented some super computer to do all the number crunching.

Mr. Nunnally said just interested to see, was it rated like a category five storm surge. Do y'all know?

Mr. Spence said I don't know. It could be on the website.

Mr. Spraggins said we just had our flood maps redone and they were raised ten feet, I think.

Mr. Piper asked what's going to happen with the old Bayway? Is it all going to be torn down? There was some talk about leaving the west bound lanes for fishing and bike path. Do y'all anything about that?

Mr. Spence said I don't know anything about that. This is a breakdown of all our 158 projects. Currently projects 2 and 3 are let. Project 2 is the picture y'all saw earlier of the sedimentation basin. Project 3 just let September 14th.

Mr. Piper asked that's all going to be two lane right, not a four-lane divided?

Mr. Spence said projects 1, 2, and 3 are already on the street. They are being constructed or soon to be constructed. Projects 4 through 7, number 4 is looking to start construction somewhere next summer. The fifth project, the spring of 2019; the sixth project, summer of 2019; and the final project to our grade, base, and pave, most of that portion at 7, the road bed is constructed. It's just not paved. We expect all projects to be complete by Winter of 2022 and it will be initially a two-lane route from Mississippi to Schillingers Road.

Mr. Piper asked that's BP money?

Mr. Spence said a lot of it is. This is the Tensaw River Bridge Replacement. Currently, we had a March 2019 letting of next year. We actually just finished the 60% plan review this morning. As of now, we are on track. It should go in 2019. It's our intention to try to get this done quickly because we don't want Mobile River Bridge construction and this major construction to cross paths.

Mr. Nunnally said so you are replacing both of those bridges?

Mr. Spence said we are basically taking the alignment and moving it. The east bound bridge will be brand new. It's going to be south of the existing west bound bridge. The whole alignment of the east bound lanes is going to shift south.

Mr. Nunnally said one of those bridges is newer than the other so you are keeping the newer one, but you are swapping the direction of traffic. Okay.

Mr. Spence said that's all we've got, if there are any questions.

The next item on the agenda was old business. There was no old business.

The next item on the agenda was new business. There was no new business.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman: Joe Danco BCC

Attest: Edwin Spence

Date: 9-19-19