

JOINT TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 | 2:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL O'QUINN, COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
COUNCILORS LATANYA A. TATE & CLINTON P. WOODS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilor(s) Present: O'Quinn, Woods

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Councilor O'Quinn

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES – January 8, 2023.

Noted Edits to the January 8, 2024 Minutes:

- a. Page 1 of minutes - ATAIN grant resolution – correct to ARPA
- b. AMTRAK Item page 2 – Correction/strike – AMTRAK does not have ADA responsibility. SORG design – remove.
- c. Birmingham On-Demand – 27,00 – correct number per week – 2,700

**Action Taken:**

**Councilor Woods Motion to Delay Approval of Minutes.**

**Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.**

**Approval of Minutes Delayed until the February 26, 2024 Joint Transportation and Infrastructure and Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

III. New Applicant: Transportation One

Owner: Ina Standberry

**Action Taken:**

**Item Withdrawn – Application has been approved.**

IV. New Applicant: Walker Transportation LLC

Owner: Eric Walker

The applicant was not present at the meeting. Per Sargent Knight, all necessary documents have been submitted and approval is recommended.

**Action Taken:**

**Councilor Woods Motioned to Approve.**

**Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.**

V. **Rebuilding America Infrastructure and Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant**

**Colin Alexander, BDOT presented information to the Committee.**

A Resolution of Partnership was presented to the Committee. The City of Fairfield is applying for a RAISE Grant in partnership with Freshwater Land Trust (FLT). This is to accomplish the Corridor D portion of the Freshwater Land Trust's priority network; the 36-mile loop around Birmingham, Fairfield, Irondale/Mountain Brook and Homewood. This would complete the western portion of the project. It will run along MLK Drive in Fairfield, from the High Ore Line Trail. It will cross into Birmingham along Vinesville Road and go across the Bessemer Super Highway. There are two bike boulevard designs; one on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ensley from Bessemer Road to connect back to the Valley Creek Rails Trail project. The other would be a spur in Fairfield that will connect to Miles College. Fresh Water in Fairfield approached the City of Birmingham because just under half of the project would be in the city limits of Birmingham. They asked the City of Birmingham to partner with them. Fresh Water Land Trust is going to contribute most of the match dollars and the cities of Fairfield and of Birmingham would contribute to the match.

**Carolyn Buck presented additional information to the Committee.**

The Fairfield trail is an outlier. It is one of the proposed trails in the Red Rock Action Plan. The connection of Miles College is in line with FLT's goal of connecting all universities into the trail system.

MINUTES

The trail and the City of Birmingham boundaries is going to connect into the funded Valley Creek Rails to Trail, which will break ground in early 2025. This will give a direct line into what will eventually connect into the CrossPlex which is here the Bus Rapid Transit Hub is located. There will be three mobility hubs: City of Fairfield, Miles College, and the Bessemer Super Highway. Freshwater Land Trust has committed to \$1.5 million of locally-raised funds for the project. The total ask from the City of Birmingham is \$500,000.00 and the City of Fairfield will contribute \$500,000.00. The total project cost is \$13.7 million. There will be a separated bike lane. The project will mostly impact District 8 (Bellview Heights and Central Park neighborhoods). This project will improve, provide educational opportunities and employment.

**Action Taken:**

**Councilor Woods Motioned to Approve.**

**Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.**

**Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.**

VI. **ALDOT 280 Improvements**

**Presented by: Colin Alexander, BDOT**

ALDOT is in the process of starting a widening project from US-280 from the Perimeter Parkway to Lakeshore Boulevard. The project is slated to begin later in 2024. As part of the project, a request was received from the Summit for improving access into the Summit. BDOT has worked out a partnership agreement between the City of Birmingham and ALDOT in which the City of Birmingham is going to contribute \$650,000.00 to add an additional turn lane into the Summit coming off I-459. That funding is coming from the gas tax allotment in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

**Action Taken:**

**Councilor Woods Motioned to Approve.**

**Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.**

**Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.**

VII. **Utility Provider Updates**

a. **Robert Smith – Charter/Spectrum**

- i. Charter/Spectrum is shifting from cable provider to broadband and mobile provider.
- ii. Mobile sales are increasing and there are 8mil mobile subscribers.
- iii. Service is available to every part of the City of Birmingham,
- iv. Charter has been working to improve security to protect against hackers.
- v. Charter/Spectrum continues to seek funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program. This will allow for a \$30.00 voucher each month for citizens that are enrolled in some type of subsidy service.
- vi. Vouchers will be available through April, but there is no guarantee that the program will be funded moving forward.
- vii. Charter/Spectrum is operating in 41 states.

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only**

b. **Birmingham Water Works**

**Jessica Salvage, Public Relations Specialist**

i. **Pipeline Replacement Projects**

1. There are over 5,000 miles of pipes in the service area.
2. A total of 36 projects have been completed.
3. There are 18 ongoing and 2 upcoming replacement projects that should begin within the next several weeks.
4. The website, [bwwb.org/replacements](http://bwwb.org/replacements) has an interactive map which shows all current, ongoing, and completed projects.
5. BWWB completed replacing over a mile of pipe in Ensley approximately two weeks ago. Paving should be completed soon.
6. Residents can also sign up online to receive BWW's monthly newsletter.

MINUTES

- ii. **Fix a Leak Week is scheduled March 18-23, 2024.**
  - 1. BWW has not done free in-home inspections since COVID. They are still determining whether that will happen this year. There will be free toilet flappers available at the payment center during this program.
- iii. **AMI (Automated metering infrastructure)**
  - 1. BWW is currently in phase I of AMI.
  - 2. A consultant has been hired to help guide BWW through the process of picking a vendor.

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only**

- c. **Alabama Power**  
**Kimberly Jackson, Community Relations Manager**
  - 1. Customer have been complaining about their increase on their bills.
  - 2. Alabama Power estimated that usage has been approximately 25% greater for January 2024 as compared to January 2023 due to the extreme cold weather conditions.
  - 3. Alabama Power has a moratorium on disconnects until March 15, 2024.
  - 4. Customers who may have difficulty paying their bill may contact APCO Customer Service line or visit any of their business offices to make payment arrangements.
  - 5. Payment assistance funds have been deployed to five community action agencies across the state.

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only**

**VIII. New & Old Business**

- a. **Traffic Calming One Pager**

Changes requested by Committee have been added including a flow chart showing the process. The time frame is still not included as BDOT is not currently prepared to share a timeline. There are over 400 cases open compared to the 150 cases 2 years ago. BDOT is trying to do three installations per month on average.

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only.**

- b. **ATN Railroads Crossing Improvements Update**

The City of Birmingham has developed a partnership with ATN to include four (4) railroad crossings in their improvement plan. ATN has gone to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and added CRISI funds (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements) to redo the vast majority of crossings in Birmingham for the ATN Railroad. The new funds from the grant will improve and repairs the crossings at Dublin Avenue, Antwerp Avenue, 58<sup>th</sup> Street, 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 48<sup>th</sup> Street, 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 41<sup>st</sup> Street, 39<sup>th</sup> Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South. The vast majority of the corridor will be fixed in 2024 or 2025, depending on the construction schedule.]

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only.**

- c. **41<sup>st</sup> Street South Streetscape Project Update**

95% of the plans are completed. BDOT is working on finalizing and executing the utility agreements. Three of the five temporary construction easements are executed. The new letting date is March 2025.

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilor O’Quinn Motioned to Adjourn.**  
**Councilor Woods Seconded the Motion.**  
**Meeting Adjourned.**

