

## What are the key documents produced by the MPO's planning processes?

### Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

<https://www.rpcgb.org/regional-transportation-plan>

The RTP is a long-range plan that includes a balanced mix of projects such as bridges, bicycle paths, sidewalks, transit services, new and upgraded roadways, safety improvements, transportation demand management initiatives and emission reduction strategies. In short, the RTP is a "blueprint" that guides the region's federal transportation investments in the transportation system to reduce congestion, build new sidewalks and bicycle facilities, improve transit service and access to transit and maintain freight access over a period of several decades. The plan must be updated every 4 years.

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

<https://www.rpcgb.org/transportation-improvement-program-tip>

The TIP is a short-term (four-year) work program that lists all regionally significant and federally funded transportation projects, programs, and transportation services to be carried out within the metropolitan planning area. Any project included in the TIP must be consistent with, or be selected from the approved Regional Transportation Plan. Additionally, the TIP must be fiscally constrained by estimated future revenues, or have funding mechanisms

currently in place to pay for the anticipated work. Though the TIP is adopted only once every four years, it is updated annually, and can be amended as necessary to account for changes in funding or project needs.

### Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

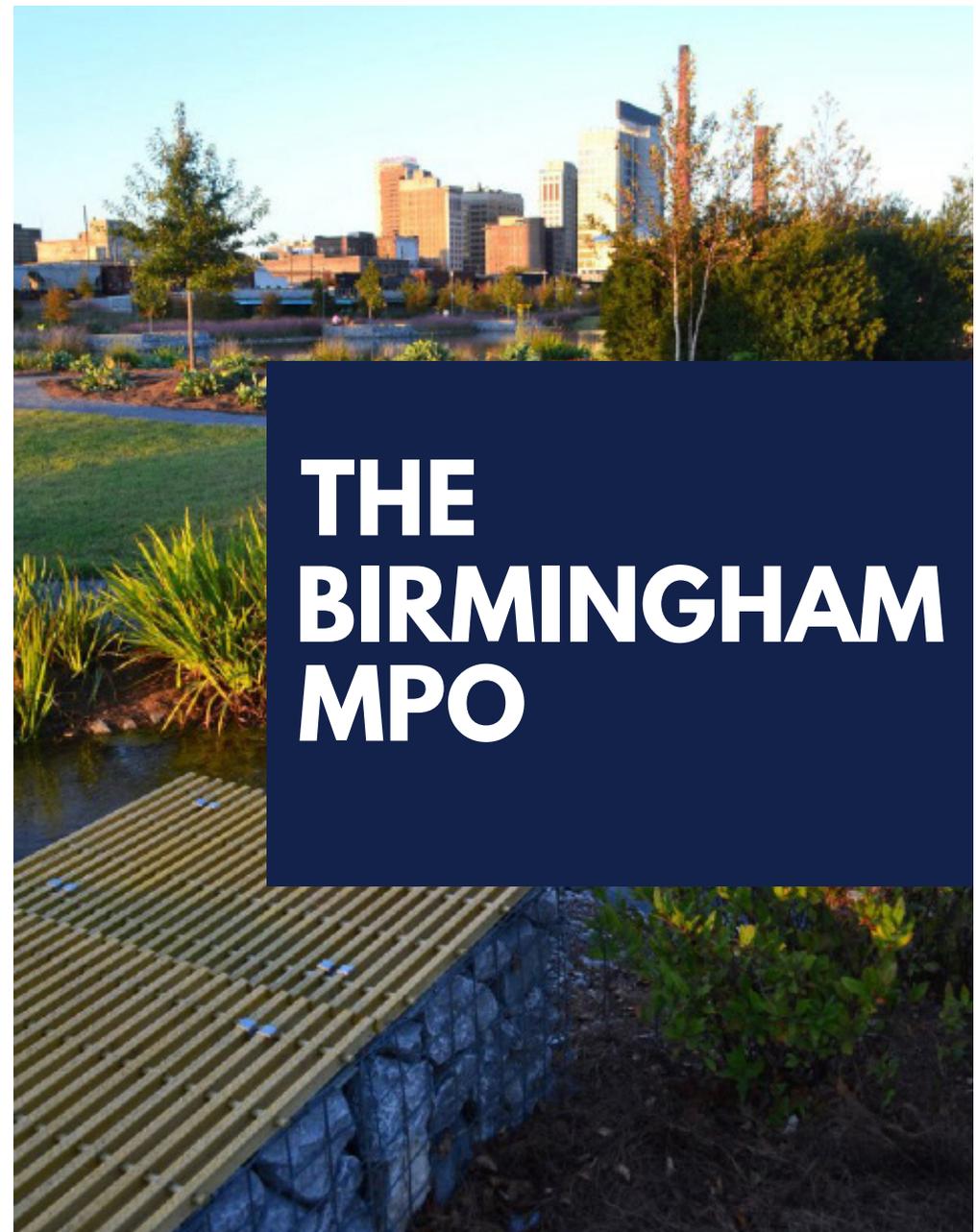
<https://www.rpcgb.org/upwp>

The UPWP describes how the federal planning funds allocated to the Birmingham MPO will be used and what planning activities the MPO staff and consultants will undertake each year. The UPWP is developed by the MPO staff with input from local governments, area transit agencies and ALDOT staff. A new UPWP is produced each fiscal year.

### Public Participation Plan (PPP)

<https://www.rpcgb.org/public-involvement>

The PPP outlines how the MPO works to achieve essential public participation in all planning activities. It also recommends methods to engage the public during the regional transportation planning decision making process. Moreover, it states how members of the public can be involved in the transportation planning process.



The Birmingham MPO serves: Jefferson, Shelby, and portions of St. Clair and Bibb counties.

To learn more about the MPO contact Scott Tillman at [stillman@rpcgb.org](mailto:stillman@rpcgb.org) or (205)251-8139.

Check out the overview videos at:

<https://www.rpcgb.org/metropolitan-planning-organization>

# Your guide to the Birmingham MPO

## What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making body that is made up of representatives from local governments and transportation agencies. MPOs are required for urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or greater. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this planning process.

The Birmingham MPO decides, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), what transportation projects are funded with the available local, state and federal dollars. The Birmingham MPO publishes priorities for all transportation related projects for all types of modes such as highways, transit, intermodal freight, and bicycle/pedestrian and greenways.



## Who are the members of the MPO?

The MPO is comprised of representatives from the City of Birmingham, unincorporated Jefferson County, municipalities within Jefferson County, City of Hoover in Jefferson County and Shelby, incorporated and unincorporated areas in Shelby County, portions of St. Clair County, portions of Blount County, ALDOT East Central Region, Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority, Blount County Public Transportation, St. Clair County Public Transportation.

## How is the MPO Organized?

The Birmingham MPO is comprised of a Policy Committee, an Advisory Committee, a Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and a Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC). The committee process is managed by MPO Staff.

- The **MPO Policy Committee** is the governing and decision making body for the MPO that makes the final decisions on key documents and amendments. The committee consists of 44 people with representatives from the local elected officials, ALDOT and public transit agencies.
  - Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm, unless otherwise noted.
- The **MPO Advisory Committee** provides policy direction and a forum for transportation and air quality decisions, as well as recommendations to the voting membership of the MPO Policy Committee as it relates to approval of major planning reports and documents along with other actions related to the MPO responsibilities. The MPO Advisory Committee sets the meeting agenda for the voting membership of the MPO Policy Committee.
  - Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30pm, unless otherwise noted.
- The **MPO Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)** consists of administrators, planning directors, both public and private transportation engineers and planning specialists whose experience is related to all aspects of transportation and planning, and subject matter experts. The basic responsibilities of the TTC include collaborating with staff to provide technical recommendations to the MPO in the development of regional transportation plans and programs.
  - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00am, unless otherwise noted.
- The **MPO Advisory Committee provides the MPO Transportation Citizens Committee (TCC)** consists of citizens representing the overall urban area. The TCC is the primary focal point for local citizens to be involved in the transportation planning process, and is tasked with providing the MPO's elected officials with recommendations concerning regional transportation programs

and projects, research, and public outreach.

- Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm, unless otherwise noted.

The **Birmingham MPO** is staffed by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB). The **Birmingham MPO staff** support the MPO committees and provide professional transportation planning services, ongoing administration of the transportation planning process, and oversight of major transportation planning project progress to the entire region. The MPO Staff is managed by the Director of Planning and Operations who is an RPCGB employee and who reports to the RPCGB Executive Director.

