



Efficiency in Government

Implemented the City's first "paperless" council meetings

Improved public access to public meetings with live over- the-internet web-streaming of weekly meetings and election results

Resurrected City's Internal Audit Function

Established wireless access in Council Chamber for public during meetings

Implemented accountability and tracking software called V-track

Established "Transparency in Government" process

We completed the installation of a Leachate Monitoring Station at the New Georgia Landfill for the purpose of the proper disposal of leachate to comply with EPA regulations. This project began on January 5, 2009 and was completed on March 31, 2009.

We rebuilt the filtering system at the secondary dam of Outfall #3 at the Eastern Area Landfill for the purpose of releasing clean water from the landfill into adjacent creeks to comply with ADEM regulations. This project began on June 29, 2009 and was completed on July 3, 2009.



V-track Records



V-track

Project Updates by Council District

Item No

Project Category

Status

Project Title

Projected Total Cost

1

District

03487

Public Facilities

Completed

\$123,500.00

Police Department East Precinct Demolition

01593

Park Improvements

Completed

\$72,500.00

Bradford Park

02836

Street Improvements

Delayed

\$1,200,000.00

Five Mile Road - Phase I

03540

Park Improvements

Delayed

\$2,500,000.00

Apple Valley Recreation Center

02919

Street Improvements

On Schedule

\$750,800.00

13th Ave NW Bridlewood Ditch

03496

Park Improvements

On Schedule

\$750,000.00



Bradford Park (Tennis Center-Community Center)

002841

Storm Sewers

On Schedule

\$750,000.00

Martinwood Lane

\$6,146,800.00

District Total

\$878,114.29

Avg Project Cost

Item No

Project Category

Status

Project Title

Projected Total Cost

2

District

03536

Museums/Cultural Facilities

Completed

\$382,924.00

Ruffner Mountain

02688

Storm Sewers

Completed

\$200,000.00

Mary Taylor Road

02848

Sanitary Sewers

Completed

\$3,500,000.00

Liberty Highlands Sanitary Sewer Project (Phase I)

02060

Street Improvements

Completed

\$213,245.00

John Rogers Drive, Bridges 2 and 3

02100



Street Improvements Completed	\$146,806.00
East Lake Blvd Street Improvements (turnlane) 003653 Storm Sewers Completed	\$60,000.00
Lance Boulevard Ditch 02929 Storm Sewers Inactive	\$140,000.00
Pine Knoll Vista 03485 Public Facilities Inactive	\$0.00
New Fire Station#26 02925 Storm Sewers On Schedule	\$460,000.00
Lawson Road /Zion City 002696 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$345,783.00
Oporto -Madrid Boulevard, Phase IV 003662 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$450,000.00
Liberty Highlands Park 003673 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$150,000.00



Ruffner Mountain Nature Entrance
 03493
 Sanitary Sewers
 Stopped

\$0.00

Maple Grove/Lawson Road

\$6,048,758.00

District Total

\$465,289.08

Avg Project Cost

Item No
 Project Category
 Status
 Project Title
 Projected Total Cost

3

District

02814
 Public Facilities
 Completed

\$2,463,086.00

Fire Station 10/22
 03299
 Museums/Cultural Facilities
 Completed

\$183,386.00

Vulcan Park - ticket Booth/Snack
 02851
 Park Improvements
 Completed

\$227,303.00

Botanical Gardens Repairs
 02647
 Park Improvements
 Completed

\$718,886.00

George Ward Park (Walking Trail)
 03391
 Park Improvements
 Completed



Highland HVAC Replacement @ Tennis Court 006349 Storm Sewers Completed	\$56,000.00
Crestwood Culvert 03337 Libraries On Schedule	\$622,687.57
East Lake Library Renovations (ADA Compliance Program) 03503 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$955,000.00
Lewis Park 003661 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$75,000.00
Crestwood Park Renovation 003658 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$2,400,000.00
Avondale Park 003320 Museums/Cultural Facilities On Schedule	\$3,000,000.00
Vulcan Trail Slide Stabilization 141872 Storm Sewers On Schedule	\$550,000.00
George Ward Park Stream Restoration	\$47,000.00
District Total	\$11,298,348.57
Avg Project Cost	\$941,529.05



Item No

Project Category

Status

Project Title

Projected Total Cost

4

District

003629

Park Improvements

Completed

\$75,000.00

Inglenook Recreation Center Roof

03538

Museums/Cultural Facilities

Completed

\$175,000.00

Southern Museum of Flight

00964

Libraries

Completed

\$300,000.00

Woodlawn Library (Parking Lot Addition)

03664

Park Improvements

Completed

\$200,000.00

Harriman Park Recreation Center

34287

Street Improvements

Completed

\$150,000.00

47th Street N. 10th Ave. to 14th Ave

09999

Housing

Inactive

\$0.00

Old Carver High School

02458

Park Improvements

On Schedule



Brownville Heights Community Center 02363 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$1,500,092.00
Finely Blvd. Extension East Phase 1 02783 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$890,146.08
41st Street & 1st Avenue S to 10th Ave N ESLP002 Economic Development On Schedule	\$1,500,000.00
Economic Stimulus Loan Program - Division Avenue, LLP 002032 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$786,220.00
Tarrant Huffman Road Phase I and II 003283 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$647,705.80
Harris Avenue Street Improvements	\$180,000.00
District Total	\$6,404,163.88
Avg Project Cost	\$533,680.32



Item No

Project Category

Status

Project Title

Projected Total Cost

5

District

03324

Miscellaneous

Completed

\$667,000.00

Social Security Streetscape

00001

Miscellaneous

Completed

\$0.00

Five Points Grill Sidewalk Renovations

02754

Park Improvements

Completed

\$75,000.00

Linn Park Improvement

03502

Park Improvements

Completed

\$300,000.00

Legion Field Structural Improvements

03424

Parking Facilities

Completed

\$13,280,200.00

Parking Deck #3

03665

Street Improvements

Completed

\$65,000.00

Evergreen Bottom

03654

Storm Sewers

Completed



East Thomas (151 Bankhead Hwy) 00747 Public Facilities Completed	\$200,000.00
#0747 Police HQ Firearms/Toolmark/Narcotics Storage Buildout Field Observation ESLP Economic Development Completed	\$178,100.00
Economic Stimulus Loan Program - CRD-Hotel 1, LLC (Hyatt Place Hotel) 91945 Street Improvements Completed	\$27,000,000.00
11th Avenue North Street Imp.- Phase I 03570 Park Improvements Delayed	\$150,000.00
Fountain Heights Recreation Center 03429 Parking Facilities Delayed	\$2,500,000.00
Parking Deck #6 Repairs 03428 Parking Facilities Delayed	\$146,000.00
Parking Deck #5 03426 Parking Facilities Delayed	\$397,000.00
Parking Deck #2 Repairs 03432 Parking Facilities Delayed	\$3,101,000.00



	\$145,000.00
Parking Deck #9 Repairs	
03431	
Parking Facilities	
Delayed	
	\$648,000.00
Parking Deck #8	
Project Category	
Status	
Project Title	
Projected Total Cost	
02430	
Street Improvements	
Inactive	
	\$0.00
7th Avenue S-PHII	
02798	
Public Facilities	
Inactive	
	\$0.00
City Council Office Renovations	
03529	
Museums/Cultural Facilities	
Inactive	
	\$0.00
Boutwell Auditorium Renovations	
03447	
Miscellaneous	
Inactive	
	\$0.00
A. G. Gaston Hotel Roof Repair	
03227	
Public Facilities	
Inactive	
	\$0.00
David Vann Justice Center	
ESLP	
Economic Development	
Inactive	
	\$55,585,708.00
Economic Stimulus Loan Program - City Center Company, LLC	



02057		
Street Improvements		
On Schedule		\$297,218.00
14th Street (8th Ave N to 10th Ave South)		
03531		
Museums/Cultural Facilities		
On Schedule		\$130,000.00
Carver Theatre Lighting		
03430		
Parking Facilities		
On Schedule		\$917,000.00
Parking Deck #7		
02799		
Public Facilities		
On Schedule		\$3,000,000.00
City Hall Security Project (system/new Entrance)		
02864		
Park Improvements		
On Schedule		\$22,500,000.00
Railroad Reservation Park		
02517		
Public Facilities		
On Schedule		\$32,000,000.00
Intermodal Station		
ESLP00		
Economic Development		
On Schedule		\$1,600,000.00
Economic Stimulus Loan Program - 2nd @22nd Partners, LLP		
ESLP01		
Economic Development		
On Schedule		\$325,000.00



Economic Stimulus Loan Program - Butler's Executive Grooming Lounge

ESLP

Economic Development

On Schedule

\$1,300,000.00

Economic Stimulus Loan Program - Twin Oaks Investment Group

BJCC652-04

Miscellaneous

On Schedule

\$8,000,000.00

Dome Stadium (BJCC Expansion)

003427

Public Facilities

On Schedule

\$560,000.00

Parking Deck #4

Item No

Project Category

Status

Project Title

Projected Total Cost

003425

Parking Facilities

On Schedule

\$2,312,402.58

Repairs Existing Parking Deck #3

03534

Museums/Cultural Facilities

Stopped

\$20,000.00

Museum of Art Office Construction

03533

Museums/Cultural Facilities

Stopped

\$40,000.00

Museum of Art Exterior Lighting

03532

Museums/Cultural Facilities

Stopped

\$65,000.00



Museum of Art Design Expansion
03530
Museums/Cultural Facilities
Stopped

\$240,000.00

Carver Hydraulic Project

\$177,744,628.58

District Total

\$4,677,490.23

Avg Project Cost

Item No
Project Category
Status
Project Title
Projected Total Cost

6

District

02821
Public Facilities
Inactive

\$0.00

Traffic Engineering Operations Facility
05663
Storm Sewers
Inactive

\$0.00

6th Avenue South Underpass
003489
Street Improvements
Inactive

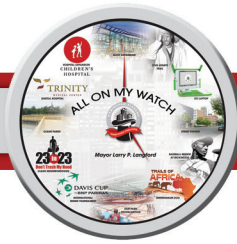
\$0.00

Carver Avenue SW
03574
Street Improvements
Inactive

\$0.00

2500 Park Lawn Street Improvements
03576
Park Improvements
Inactive

\$507,948.00



West End Walking Trail/ Cotton Avenue

02760

Park Improvements

On Schedule

\$4,200,000.00

Cooper Green Park (ADA Compliance Program)

03504

Park Improvements

On Schedule

\$1,500,000.00

Memorial Park Expansion

03492

Storm Sewers

On Schedule

\$760,000.00

Harrison Park Ditch

002877

Museums/Cultural Facilities

On Schedule

\$500,000.00

Arlington Renovations (ADA Compliance Program)

003501

Park Improvements

On Schedule

\$285,000.00

Harrison Park Master Plan

003458

Street Improvements

On Schedule

\$300,000.00

Princeton ES Access I

\$8,052,948.00

District Total

\$732,086.18

Avg Project Cost



Item No
Project Category
Status
Project Title
Projected Total Cost

7

District

02509
Street Improvements
Completed \$0.00

Brighton Road & 35th Street
02834
Street Improvements
Completed \$54,964.00

Dawson Avenue SW
46854
Street Improvements
Completed \$365,000.00

30th Street S.W., 2800-2900 Block
003657
Park Improvements
Delayed \$2,123,425.00

Knights of Columbus
02850
Sanitary Sewers
Inactive \$0.00

Sand Ridge Sanitary Phase II
03623
Street Improvements
Inactive \$0.00

Pearson Avenue SW
02461
Sanitary Sewers
Inactive \$0.00



1171 Bessemer Road Sanitary Sewer 02597 Street Improvements Inactive	\$0.00
Ostlin Street Improvements 03484 Public Facilities Inactive	\$0.00
New Firestation #14 02502 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$40,000.00
30th Way North 01788 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$837,751.28
Jefferson Avenue Phase 1 & 2 street Improvements 03617 Libraries On Schedule	\$900,000.00
Powderly Library 02511 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$814,251.28
Jefferson Avenue 54th 003659 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$400,000.00
Wiggins Park (ADA compliance program) 003456 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$300,000.00
Wenonah High School Improvements	



District Total	\$5,835,391.56
Avg Project Cost	\$389,026.10
Project Category	
Status	
Project Title	
Projected Total Cost	
8	
District	
03389	
Museums/Cultural Facilities	
Completed	\$150,000.00
Ensley Park -Ballfield	
03325	
Miscellaneous	
Completed	\$5,627,066.00
Tuxedo Court Hope 6 Redevelopment	
03524	
Economic Development	
Inactive	\$0.00
Ensley Mixed Use Business Park	
02651	
Miscellaneous	
Inactive	\$0.00
Positive Maturity Walking Court	
03091	
Storm Sewers	
Inactive	\$65,000.00
4505 Court I Storm Sewer	
02855	
Public Facilities	
On Schedule	\$55,000,000.00



Fairgrounds Recreational Facility 03488 Public Facilities On Schedule	\$2,698,877.00
Police Department- New West Precinct 02358 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$277,000.00
12th Street Rickwood-Matching Funds 002359 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$827,428.00
19th Street Ensley-Tuxedo to Bush 01428 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$500,000.00
3rd Avenue West 03490 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$468,000.00
Florida Avenue 03625 Public Facilities On Schedule	\$55,000,000.00
Fair Park Five Points West Economic Revitalization 002360 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$294,634.00
Ensley Ave (20th Street to Warrior Rd) 003669 Museums/Cultural Facilities On Schedule	\$7,500,000.00



Negro and Southern League Baseball Hall of Fame Museum	
003586	
Park Improvements	
On Schedule	\$100,000.00
Five Points West Park (Learning Tree Park)	
03286	
Storm Sewers	
Stopped	\$14,362.00
1508- 4th Court West	
District Total	\$128,522,367.00
Avg Project Cost	\$8,032,647.94

Item No
 Project Category
 Status
 Project Title
 Projected Total Cost

9
District

03573	
Miscellaneous	
Delayed	\$50,000.00
Pratt City Land Acquisition	
02849	
Sanitary Sewers	
Inactive	\$0.00
Oak Ridge - Phase II	
02665	
Storm Sewers	
Inactive	\$0.00
Meehan Avenue Ditch	
03527	
Libraries	
Inactive	\$0.00



Slossfield Branch 02431 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$748,964.80
Coalburg Rd. Daniel Payne DR-Corr X 02499 Sanitary Sewers On Schedule	\$2,000,000.00
Oak Ridge Sanitary Sewer (Phase1) 02910 Storm Sewers On Schedule	\$1,200,000.00
4th Street West #3540 02432 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$570,000.00
Pratt Highway Bridge Repair 02838 Street Improvements On Schedule	\$1,150,000.00
Hooper City Phase IV 03666 Park Improvements On Schedule	\$600,000.00
Dolomite-Westfield Park 003491 Street Improvements Stopped	\$323,428.00
Wylam Street Improvements Phase III	
District Total	\$6,642,392.80
Avg Project Cost	\$603,853.89



POST OFFICE MAY STOP SIXTH DAY OF MAIL DELIVERY

Mayor Larry P. Langford's June Proposal Gains Momentum with Announcement

The United States Post Office has announced plans to eliminate at least one day of service nationwide. Citing a 4.5 percent drop-off in mail delivery in the worsening

economy, Postmaster General John Potter yesterday asked a Senate subcommittee to do away with the federal rule dating to 1983 requiring mail delivery six days a week

Potter also cited the rise of electronic mail as the basis for the trimmed down service.

Yesterday's announcement was praised by Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford, who in June 2008, proposed the U.S. Postal Service eliminate Saturday mail deliveries to conserve fuel and save millions of dollars in labor costs.

"I am really excited to see that my 'radical' idea has finally been taken seriously," said Mayor Langford.

"Like I said last June, if you do get a letter on Saturday there isn't anything that can be done about it until Monday, so it just makes sense to eliminate the Saturday delivery and the costs associated with it."

According to published news reports, last year, the postal service took a net loss of \$2.8 billion while delivering 9 billion fewer pieces of mail compared with 2007. The service's projected net loss this year is \$6 billion. If approved by Congress, changes in mail delivery would take place only after staffing schedules are modified

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES TO HOST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WORKSHOP

The Mayor's Office of Americans with Disabilities will hold a workshop on July 1, 2008 geared towards safety procedures for disabled citizens in the case of an emergency. The workshop will be held at the Alabama Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, located at 236 Goodwin Crest Drive from 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m. A panel discussion from different agencies such as United Way, Max Transit, Alabama Power and America Red Cross will be included during the program. The workshop will benefit those with disabilities, caregivers, church leaders, community leaders, and agencies which serve the elderly and disabled.



Currently, the City of Birmingham has over 130 flex fuel vehicles. Birmingham will only purchase flex fuel vehicles from this point forward, said Langford.

“Our goal is to negotiate a better per gallon rate based on the volume of wood waste that we can provide by joining together as the three largest cities in this region,” said Mayor Langford, “Mayor Petelos had a great idea and I am glad to join with him and Mayor May to help our region.”

This program combined with the Mayor Langford’s 4-Work Week and the scrap metal recycling program are the beginnings of Birmingham’s effort to go green, save fuel and utilize all its available resources.

Mayor Larry P. Langford Initiates Sale of Scrap Metal to Add Revenue and Recycle

The extensive effort underway to tear down abandoned houses and burned out buildings has become a source of unexpected income for the City of Birmingham by selling the scrap metal from the properties.

In 2001 scrap metal sold for \$77 a ton. In 2004 it was \$300 per ton, and today it’s nearly \$500. Mayor Langford wants the City of Birmingham to take advantage of this trend by selling any usable scrap metal and adding the money to cover the costs of demolition.

“This is a win-win situation. We remove the blight, add revenue to the City and recycle on a large scale,” said Mayor Langford.

Mayor Langford this morning directed several city departments in staff meeting to begin investigating options into the purchase and sale of scrap metal owned by city via demolition.

“We discussed several options on how to dispose of the scrap metal and to maximize the proceeds to the City of Birmingham. We will figure out the best option and proceed from there,” said Bob Rainey, Director of Equipment Management.

The Mayor plans to have the initiative in place by the end of July or as soon as staff has presented a recommendation.



MAYOR IMPLEMENTS PARKING TICKET AMNESTY PROGRAM IN PERIMETER OF CITY HALL, COURT HOUSE

Today, Mayor Larry P. Langford directed the City of Birmingham's Traffic Engineering Department to halt the issuance of parking tickets to individuals parked in the immediate perimeter of the Jefferson County courthouse. The areas affected include streets in and around the city-county complex anchored by Linn Park. Streets beginning from 19th to 22nd and avenues from 6th to 8th are part of the areas where the public is encouraged to park without receiving a parking ticket, Mayor Langford said.

The mayor's directive includes issuing waivers for all citizens who may have received parking tickets in the perimeter since Jefferson County's August 1st furlough of county employees.

"We realize that there are a lot of people stuck in lines, unable to pay their parking meters while trying to get their licenses renewed at the county courthouse. We have people from all over the county traveling to downtown to take care of county business. The last thing they need is a ticket while the community is facing these tough times," Mayor Langford said.

"We had already stopped giving tickets for parking too long at the same meter, but this will help even more by stopping the issuance of tickets when the meter has run out," said Greg Dawkins, director of the City's Traffic Engineering department.

BIRMINGHAM MAINTAINS ITS DOUBLE A-3 RATING BY MOODY'S

Moody's Investors Service has assigned a "Aa3" rating to the City of Birmingham's (AL) \$19.52 million General Obligation Warrants, Series 2009-A.

Citing the city's diversified employment base, Moody's credited various hospital projects including the expansion of Children's Hospital and the \$750 million development project at Trinity Medical Center as some of the reasons why the city has remained strong despite a soft economy.

The report continues that the "high quality Aa3 rating reflects a diverse and regionally important economy, as well as a stable financial position, marked by conservative management and solid reserve levels."

"Maybe now this will dispel the notion that the city is going bankrupt," said Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford. "I am very pleased that all of the things we've worked so hard to make a reality this past year like Children's and Trinity in addition to our diversified workforce have helped to shield us from what the rest of the country is experiencing."



“The projects we’ve heralded are paying off real dividends for us, and should put an end to speculation that we have overspent,” he said.

The rating released earlier today by Moody’s also takes into consideration an above-average, but manageable debt burden. Proceeds from the Series 2009-A Warrants will restructure the city’s Series 2004-A Warrants from variable rate to fixed rate.

“Moody’s believes the city will continue to benefit from a solid financial position given conservative budgeting practices, prudent fiscal management and healthy reserve levels,” the report reads.

Included in the report is an analysis of the city’s reserves, showing a history of maintaining reserves at or above 20% of annual revenues since 2001. The report cites Fiscal 2008 ended with a total General Fund balance of \$117.5 million, or a solid 31.9% of annual revenues; unreserved undesignated General Fund balance was 28.8% of annual revenues.

The report reads, “The fiscal 2008 operating surplus was predominantly the result of increases in both the sales tax rate (additional 1 cent sales tax for the last 6 months of the year) and business license fees, as well as approximately \$7.15 million in personnel savings (primarily police and fire). While sales tax revenues increased an estimated \$12.5 million from the 1 cent rate increase, overall sales tax revenues came in approximately \$18.59 million above the original fiscal 2008 budget.”

The report continues with an explanation of how the city’s additional reserves have provided a cushion against other shortfalls.

“In addition to the city’s formalized General Fund balance policy of maintaining 25% of annual operating expenses in reserve, the city maintains other large reserve funds, including the Birmingham Fund, with a fund balance of \$84.9 million at fiscal 2008 year end, established by a one-time receipt of \$85 million from the sale of the city’s industrial water system in 1993,” according to the report.

“The use of Birmingham Fund reserves is limited to no more than 5% of the year end balance for capital expenditures, although city council can vote to authorize the use of more than 5% and/or the use of fund reserves for non capital expenditures if approved by a majority of city council. The city additionally has a \$41.5 million in reserves in the General Bond Debt Reserve. Total available reserves for fiscal 2008 equaled \$234.2 million or a healthy 63.6% of annual revenues.”

In closing, the report said the city’s “conservative investment and restricted use of these reserves is



EMBRACING OUR HISTORY-TOWN HALL MEETING IN KELLY INGRAM PARK

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm in Kelly Ingram Park, Mayor Larry Langford will kick off the beginning of the Civil Rights Heritage Trail with a town hall meeting and community celebration in the park where so many historic events took place. This \$1 million cultural and historic tourist attraction will have over 30+ destination signs noting historic points of Birmingham's Civil Rights History. Tuesday night we will celebrate the start of this project with a limited number of free commemorative books and DVDs, and a choir concert by Carver High School Choir and the Temple Light Mass Choir. At nightfall, there will be a screening of a DVD production embracing the legacy of Birmingham's Civil Rights History and looking towards the future. Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth is scheduled to attend health permitting.

Mayor Langford Announces Plan to Acquire 70 Natural Gas-fueled Refuse and Brush Trucks for Birmingham

Clean, domestic natural gas to replace 220,000 gallons of diesel usage fuel annually

WHY: The City of Birmingham purchase 70 natural gas-fueled refuse trucks. These new trucks will be the largest fleet of natural gas-fueled refuse and brush trucks in the Southeast.

WHAT: At the news conference, Mayor Larry Langford will discuss the natural gas-fueled refuse trucks and the city's application for funding through the federal stimulus package. By using natural gas for these refuse trucks, the city will be able to eliminate 220,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year. Clean-burning natural gas reduces NOx by 50 percent and particulate matter by 95 percent compared to diesel.

WHO: Scheduled speakers include The Honorable Larry Langford, Mayor of the City of Birmingham; James McManus, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Energen Corporation; and Dudley Reynolds, President of Alagasco

WHEN: Monday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Linn Park (City Hall Side)



‘Operation Frisco’ Underway: Vintage Locomotive Moves Across Birmingham

“Operation Frisco,” the planned move of a 1917-vintage steam locomotive and coal tender (roughly a half-million pounds of train) from the Alabama Fairgrounds will officially move to its new home at Sloss Furnaces tomorrow. The move is necessary due to major construction at the Fairgrounds being undertaken by the City of Birmingham.

Officials with Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) have scheduled a news media briefing for tomorrow (Thursday) morning, February 19, beginning at 7:45 a.m. The briefing will take place near the grandstand area at the Alabama State Fairgrounds, located at Five Points West.

EMA is coordinating the move of the train, which has been on display at the Fairgrounds since 1952, and involves personnel from county and municipal governments, as well as numerous private companies providing services and/or support.

Those attending are asked to use the parking entrance off Avenue W, near the Bill Harris Arena; police officers and/or signage will be on hand to direct media to the briefing area.

Among those participating in the briefing will be Terry Oden, Mayor of Mountain Brook and Chair of the Jefferson County Emergency Management Council, and Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford. They will be joined by representatives of the various state, county and municipal departments and the private firms involved in the move. All participants in the briefing will be available afterward for one-on-one interviews, and there also will be an opportunity for “up-close” video and photographs



CITY RECEIVES \$2.5 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO BUY, REHAB AND RE-SELL FORECLOSED HOUSES

The Federal Government granted the City of Birmingham \$2.5 million to buy, rehab and re-sell foreclosed houses.

“Leading up to the mortgage foreclosure crisis, the City of Birmingham has experienced more than 4 solid decades of population loss,” explained Jim Fenstermaker, Director of Community Development.

“This sustained and significant population loss has triggered major disruptions in our housing market. The grant will help citizens with affordable housing,” he explained.



“This Federal grant will help the City to rebuild its population and house many families who once had no place to call home. This is another example of our attempts to provide for the citizens that need it the most especially during these hard economic times,” said Mayor Larry P. Langford.

Home owners must have a low, moderate, and middle income to meet the qualifications.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ISSUES FIRST E-NEWSLETTER

Birmingham uses innovative strategy to release City News

Friday, February 13, 2009, the City of Birmingham released its first e-newsletter. The newsletter was sent to over 8,000 people who had signed up to receive the email blast via the City’s website.

“This is our opportunity to tell our story. The e-newsletter will give us an easy and efficient way to tell the positive things that are happening in the City,” said Mayor Larry P. Langford.

Upcoming events and information regarding City initiatives in addition to City employee spotlights will be a part of the email blasts. The newsletter gives the City a chance to publicly recognize outstanding employees and their accomplishments, provide timely information like paving schedules and build a sense of community awareness about various initiatives.

“We are committed to getting information out to citizens and using technology to our advantage,” continued Mayor Langford.

The e-newsletter will go out bi-weekly. To sign up, visit birminghamal.gov and enter the email address in the box at the top of the page.



THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S FINANCE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The City of Birmingham's Finance Department has received two awards from The Association of Public Treasurers of the US & Canada recognizing the department's work in drafting award-winning investment and debt policies.

The awards were given recently at the Association's 44th Annual conference in Spokane, WA, where the city was awarded both the Model Investment Policy Certification as well as the Debt Policy Certification.

"This certification can assure the citizens that the City is abiding by professional standards established to ensure prudent management of public funds," said Mayor Larry Langford. "I'm very proud of the finance department and the work they continue to do for the city."

The certification is unique in that they are the only programs that provide both a review and certification component for public entities, said City of Birmingham Finance Director Steve Saylor.

Both certifications provide public treasury officials with guidance and technical assistance in developing written policies, Saylor said.

The second award commended the City's Finance Department for success in developing a comprehensive written debt policy that meets the criteria set forth by the association.

"The City of Birmingham is to be commended for this meaningful enhancement of its financial management program," said Association officials.



REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR MAYOR'S CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

For the first time in the City of Birmingham's history, more than 5,000 uninsured Birmingham children will have access to healthcare under a partnership with the City, Blue Cross Blue Shield Alabama and Children's Hospital. Applications have been included in the City Schools registration packets and will be available at the school registration events starting today and ending on Monday. We encourage parents to come out and register their children for this free coverage.