

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD
of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
October 16, 2013

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mr. Jeff Baines (for Mayor Philip Craighead), Mr. Paul Ballard (for Vice-Mayor Diane Neighbors), Mayor Ernest Burgess, Mayor Betsy Crossley, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mr. Tim Ellis (for Mayor John Coombs), Ms. Isabelle Ford (for Mayor Ed Hagerty), Mayor Jo Ann Graves, Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Executive Anthony Holt, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Rick Graham), Mr. Mark Macy (for Mayor Karl Dean), Mr. Larry McGoogin, Mayor Ken Moore, Mr. Paul Nutting (for Mayor Billy Paul Carneal), Mr. Toks Omishakin (for Gov. Bill Haslam), Mayor Ken Wilber

Approve September 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Rogers Anderson opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m. Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the September 18th meeting minutes with Mayor Betsy Crossley seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Margo Chambers, Nashville, stated that she objected to funding the AMP because it has little local citizen support, will have limited ridership, and won't decrease congestion along the corridor. She said that the project is not conforming to USDOT preliminary engineering studies and traffic counts haven't been reviewed by the highway department. She also said that safety studies need to be done before funding.

Ms. Luann Brown, Nashville, said that she is opposed to the AMP. The congestion along West End is already a nightmare and that there is limited citizen support. The route needs to go where people who don't have vehicles and need to ride mass transit are located. She said that it needs to be postponed.

MPO Chair's Report

Mr. Larry McGoogin, TDOT, handed out a fact sheet on the state of Tennessee bridges. He said that the MPO is doing a study within the area that will assess bridge conditions and long-term maintenance costs. Mayor Anderson asked for a definition of 'structurally deficient' and 'functionally obsolete'. Mr. McGoogin said that the scale for rating bridges is 0-100 with 100 being new. 'Structurally deficient' means the bridge has a rating of 50-80 which means it is still a good bridge but needs repairs or rehabilitation, anything between 20- 50 means replacement should be considered, and 'functionally

obsolete' is a rating of under 20. He said that the bridge replacement program at TDOT is geared so that economically distressed areas get bridges replaced first.

Mr. Mark Macy asked where bridges funds come from (highway, enhancement, or other) and do they have to compete for funding. Mr. McGoogin said that federal dollars are set aside for bridges. Mr. Toks Omishakin said that TDOT sets aside funds for bridges and the bridge projects don't have to compete with other types of projects within TDOT's budget.

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that any type funding can be used to improve bridges, but that MAP-21 eliminated dedicated funding for bridges when it consolidated the old BRR program into a discretionary program. Though MAP-21 ended dedicated funding for bridges, it implemented performance measures and standards to ensure that States are keeping bridges in good condition. If standards are not met in the future, federal funds will be required to be directed to bridges.

Mayor Anderson said that TDOT has said that counties need to look at their funds for bridge money because it is an 80-20 match. He encouraged mayors to pay attention and make sure the bridges are maintained.

Mr. Omishakin said that there is no pot of \$120M for bridge repair just sitting around and TDOT is checking with FHWA to see if the \$90M in safety dollars can be used on bridges. He said that the criteria are tight but strongly encouraged communities to step up.

Endorse Priorities for TDOT 3-Year Program

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO has been asked by TDOT to rank order a list of roadway projects in Middle Tennessee that are being considered for the State's three-year transportation work program. The program will be submitted to the TN General Assembly as part of the Governor's budget early next year, and will identify transportation projects scheduled to receive state funding and state-share federal funding through the year 2017.

This is the third consecutive year that TDOT has asked the MPO to rank-order such a list. The MPO has previously ranked projects according to the priority list published as part of the *2035 Regional Transportation Plan*. Those priorities are based on a comprehensive evaluation of roadway projects submitted to the MPO by the state and various jurisdictions across parts of seven counties.

Mr. Skipper said that this list is almost the same as last year except for those projects that are fully obligated. He said that TDOT added two projects: 1) Donelson Pike realignment, and 2) two bridges in Davidson County. He said that the AMP was the #1 project last year and the staff recommends giving it the same ranking this year.

Mayor Jo Ann Graves asked how significant safety is in the project evaluation. Mr. Skipper said that it is hugely significant. Mayor Graves asked if a new project created a safety issue, what would happen. Mr. Skipper said that preliminary engineering and design is important to ensure a project is designed free of

safety-related flaws on the front-end, or else projects would have to be improved retroactively. Mr. Skipper said that investments into any project need to be intentional in addressing safety issues.

Mr. Macy asked if the TCC has endorsed the list. Mr. Skipper said no that it isn't required but that they were asked to comment. Mr. Victor Lay said that the list needs to take into account the TDOT has project contracts with the jurisdictions already in place. Mr. Skipper said that this is not an MPO list, it is a TDOT list and they just wanted our input. He asked Mr. Omishakin explain TDOT's request. Mr. Omishakin said that TDOT is working to utilize bodies to create the list. He said that this list is a result of past involvement / history. He said that scheduling and funding are important aspects. Mr. Skipper said that more collaboration needs to happen prior to this list being generated. Mr. Macy said that historically this MPO didn't prioritize projects. Mr. Skipper said that this MPO does and has always prioritized projects as far as he can remember.

Mayor Graves asked if there is any idea how many projects will be approved. Mr. Omishakin said that there was no additional funding this year because MAP-21 is a 2-year bill and the gas tax is falling. He said that he doesn't know how many projects will be funded right now. Mayor Graves asked if a project isn't on the list how long before it can be put on. Mr. Skipper said that this list didn't seem to be a complete list of projects that may appear in the TDOT 3-year work program. Mr. Omishakin said that there are big capital projects that need to be moved forward. Mr. Skipper said that the staff is proposing for the Board to endorse the list now in order to meet the Commissioner's deadline, but that staff would work with members over the next few weeks to ensure other projects are identified.

Mayor Ernest Burgess said that in December 2012 projects were ranked and only a few were put on the new list. The Board needs to make it clear what we want.

Mr. Skipper said that ideas for other projects need to be communicated to the staff as soon as possible. Mr. Skipper said that the MPO needs to be kept in the loop regarding new projects for the list. He said that the TCC will meet in early November but asked the Board to not wait for a meeting to notify the staff of other projects that they feel should be included. Mr. Lay said that some projects on last year's list were only in the design phase so they should still be on the list.

Mr. Gerald Herman asked if this listing affects contracts with TDOT. Mr. Omishakin said that TDOT will honor all contracts. Mayor Graves said that she didn't want to take anything away from this list but there is a critical issue that has arisen in Gallatin and Sumner County and she wants the opportunity to get it on the list.

Mayor Burgess moved to endorse this list with the understanding that other projects can be added as needed at the next meeting. Mayor Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPO Director's Report

All other issues were deferred to the November meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Date: _____

The Honorable Rogers Anderson
Chairman, MPO Executive Board

Michael Skipper, AICP
Executive Director & Secretary of the Board