

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD
of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 17, 2014

Attendees: Mr. Steve Bland, Mr. Tom Brashear (for Mayor Randall Hutto), Mayor Ernest Burgess, Mayor John Coombs, Mr. Paul Corder (for Mayor Philip Craighead), Mayor Betsy Crossley, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mayor Jo Ann Graves, Mr. Wayne Hall (for Mayor Beverly Totty), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Executive Anthony Holt, Ms. Shanna Hughey (for Mayor Karl Dean), Mr. Joe Horne (for Mayor Rogers Anderson), Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Rick Graham), Mr. Ken Martin (for Mayor Ed Hagerty), Mr. Larry McGoogin (for Gov. Bill Haslam), Mayor Ken Moore, Mayor Charlie Norman, Mr. Dana Richardson (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mr. Kevin Rigsby (for Mayor Mary Esther Reed), Mr. Tim Roach, Ms. Rachel Slusser (for Mayor Bonnette Dawson), Mayor Ken Wilber

Approve August 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Ken Wilber, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Mayor Ernest Burgess moved to approve the August 20, 2014 meeting minutes with Executive Anthony Holt seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Margo Chambers said that any HUD sustainable grants should be listed in the TIP as if they are already funded.

MPO Chair's Report

Mayor Wilber introduced Mr. Steve Bland, the new CEO of MTA and RTA. Mr. Bland said..... Mayor Charlie Norman was introduced as the new Maury County Mayor. He said that he

Proposed Amendments to the FYs 2014-2017 TIP

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that the required 21-day public review and comment period for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been completed and no comments were received. Today will be the second required public hearing prior to adoption by the Board.

Mayor Wilber opened the public comment period. Ms. Chambers said that the amendments from MTA and RTA shouldn't be adopted since those boards didn't meet this month. With no further comments, Mayor Wilber closed the public hearing.

Mr. Gerald Herman moved to adopt the MPO resolution 2014-007, amending the FYs 2014-17 TIP. Mayor Ken Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

More information is available at NashvilleMPO.org/plans_programs/tip/.

AMENDMENTS:

TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2014-026	2011-16-119	1086-107	Goodlettsville Bike/Ped Plan – Greenway Connectors	Goodlettsville
2014-027	2014-36-042	1086-602	Springfield Greenway – Phase 3	Springfield
2014-028	2008-15-048	1015-311	Misc. Support Equipment	Nashville MTA
2014-	2014-	Consistent	Music City Star Misc.	RTA

TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
029	85-023		Support Equipment & Passenger Amenities	
2014-030	2008-85-012	1085-320	Purchase/Rehab of MCS Locomotive Rail Cars	RTA

SCHEDULE:

- *7/25 – Application Deadline*
- *8/6 – TCC Endorsement*
- *8/20 – XB Endorsement*
- *8/23-9/17 – Public Review and Comment Period*
- *9/3 – First Public Hearing (TCC)*
- **9/17 – Second Public Hearing / Adoption (XB)**

MPO Director’s Report

Mr. Skipper reminded the members that the projects for the new 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) are due by September 30th. He said that the planning staffs of each jurisdiction are working toward submitting their list of projects.

Mr. Skipper introduced Mr. Haryono Prawiranata as the new MPO modeler. He also introduced Mr. Peter Bang who will be the new technical lead for the MPO.

Mr. Skipper said that a consultant has just begun a phone poll of the region to get the public’s views on regional transportation. He said that the poll can be taken on our website by anyone. www.nashvillempo.org

Other business

Mr. Tim Roach said that the GNRC will be having their annual business meeting and awards ceremony on Thursday, September 18th and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mayor Burgess said that there is a major need for more and better transportation in this region. He said that it will take mega dollars to build the transportation needs (all alternatives) to accommodate the growth in the area.

Executive Holt said that Chattanooga is now talking about a lite rail system. He said that funding is always the key for building transportation needs.

Mayor Jo Ann Graves asked about the status of the Amp project. Mr. Bland said that there is a citizen advisory group that is frequently meeting to work out many of the issues (pro and con) before it can be built. He said that it is very important to get this project right so that others can be done. He commented that the USDOT is excited about the future of Nashville

Mayor Graves asked if, in this call for projects for the RTP, all of the transit projects were grouped together, would this help get money for them easier... one corridor at a time.

Mr. Skipper said that the 2035 RTP put alternative transportation projects in the forefront. He said that all corridors have had alternative analysis studies done but that funding needs to be identified at the local level. He said that there is already a plan for future and a decision needs to be made if more money is to be given to build complete streets and transit.

Mr. Bland said that we need to recognize that all projects can't be done at once and we need to make priorities. He said that it is vital to educate the

public on the alternatives and the need for these projects so that there is a grassroots push for them.

Mayor Moore said that dedicated funding is needed but that there also needs to be a plan to sell it to the public.

Mr. Skipper said that this issue will be discussed at the annual meeting on November 12th. He said that the Board will meet along with the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee and State leadership). He said that we need to reaffirm the broader strategies for transit. It is also important to give TDOT feedback as they are updating their Plan. Mayor Graves said that the Legislative leaders need to be at the annual meeting. Mayor Burgess said that it isn't enough to give the idea that things need to be done, but a plan needs to be presented.

Mayor Wilber agreed that transportation is a hot topic all through the area.

Mr. Skipper said that there needs to be dedicated funding for federal transit dollars. The RTA needs to be outfitted with financial capacity to implement regional transit. Executive Holt said that it appears that the local jurisdictions need to get serious about funding transit with dedicated funding. He said that it won't be easy and that the leaders need to stop talking in circles and get the job done. Mr. Skipper said that the locals need to make sure.....RTA can districts to enable revenues....

Executive Holt asked what RTA's options are. Mr. Skipper said that 1) RTA can notify local governments of.... 2) opt out or levee tax for dedicated funding. RTA can't tax but can request dedicated tax from locals

Mayor John Coombs said that mass transit is key and must have a revenue stream. He said that citizens don't understand the urgency of dedicated funding and transportation alternatives.

Mayor Wilber said that the Mayors Caucus laid out options several years ago but the citizens need to be informed. Executive Holt said that it is all about compromise. You have to demonstrate that you have a plan to keep/improve the road system and still do transit for the next 15-20 years.

Mr. Brashear acknowledged that the Amp project doesn't have complete public support. He said that he wasn't sure if those against was just against this particular project or transit in general. But that this project shouldn't corrupt the funding process for other transit projects. Executive Holt said that the biggest criticism he has heard about the Amp is that it doesn't add capacity and that it is almost impossible to add capacity through a densely populated area.

Mr. Roach said that it is hard to sell non-concrete ideas. In-house grants – targeting these grants....

Mr. Skipper said that there are three in the RTP....better connectivity between regional and local transit.

Mr. Bland said that Executive Holt's observation is right. The shift from cars to people service level improvement has to be large enough to make people want to take transit, demographic shift in the region, and is achievable here

Mr. Skipper said that this body has authority to approve federal funding spending, but is not responsible to implement projects just how funds are spent.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Date: _____

The Honorable Kenneth Wilber
Chairman, MPO Executive Board

Michael Skipper, MPO Director
Secretary, Executive Board