

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

March 4, 2015

Attendees: Ms. Kim Ark, Mr. Andy Barlow, Ms. Katy Braden, Mr. Felix Castrodad, Mr. Jonathon Cleghon, Mr. Paul Corder, Mr. Marc Corrigan, Mr. Billy Davis, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. John Finke, Ms. Margot Fosnes, Mr. Rick Gregory, Mr. Mike Harris, Ms. Billy Higgins, Mr. Reed Hillen, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Christopher Lawless, Mr. Jonathon Marston, Mr. Bill McCord, Mr. Addam McCormick, Mr. Ken McLawhon, Ms. Caryn Miller, Mr. Tim Roach, Mr. Fred Rogers, Ms. Dara Sanders, Ms. Christine Vitt

Approve February 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Doug Demosi, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Some typos were mentioned and Mr. Tim Roach moved to approve the February 4th meeting minutes as with the typos corrected. Mr. Joe Horne seconded. The motion passed with 26 voting in favor and Ms. Caryn Miller abstaining.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

TCC Chair's Report

Mr. Demosi said that the TAPA winter retreat had been postponed due to weather and is now scheduled for March 18-20 at Fall Creek Falls. Please let Valerie Burch know whether or not you are coming. You will have to re-book your room, however.

Proposed Amendments to the FYs 2014-2017 TIP

Ms. Anna Emerson, MPO staff, said that the following proposed amendments to the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) are out for the required 21-day public review and comment period. She briefly went over the proposed amendments. There were a couple of clarifying questions asked.

Mr. Demosi opened the public hearing. There was no comment. Mr. Demosi closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bill McCord moved that the amendments be endorsed for consideration by the Board. Mr. Tim Roach seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Amend#	TIP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2015-020	2014-75-021	Hamilton Springs Station Construction	RTA	Commit Construction Reserve Funds
2015-021	2015-65-075	Vehicle Replacements for Vanpool	Williamson County/TMA Group	Add Project to TIP
2015-022	2014-85-015	Vanpool Vehicle Replacements	MPO	Shift Funds
2015-023	2014-85-014	Regional Park & Ride	Williamson County/TMA Group	Shift Funds
2015-024	2015-69-076	I-40 Truck Climbing Lane	TDOT	Add Project to TIP
2015-025	2015-87-077	Signage of US Bike Route 23	TDOT	Add Project to TIP
2015-026	2014-86-6666	MPO Active Transportation Program	MPO	Shift Funds
2015-027	2008-71-038	Beckwith Road/Eastern Connector	Mt. Juliet	Edit Project Scope

SCHEDULE:

- 2/4 – TCC Endorsement
- 2/18 –XB Endorsement
- **2/20-3/18 – Public Review and Comment Period**
- **3/4 – First Public Hearing (TCC)**
- 3/18 – Second Public Hearing / Adoption (XB)

Public Opinion Survey Results

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, discussed the 2015 Regional Attitudinal Survey. The survey was conducted primarily by telephone among 1,100 randomly selected respondents across the seven county area. The survey measured public attitudes regarding 1) satisfaction with transportation, 2) problems with transportation, 3) most important problems to solve, 4) support for regional transit system, 5) support for funding transportation improvement.

Mr. Skipper also showed a series of peer comparisons highlighting the Nashville areas level of roadway and transit supply and demand relative to other metro areas.

Mr. Skipper said that the survey report will be on website today.

Mr. McCord asked how many samples were collected for the average zip code. Mr. Skipper said that the sample size yields statically valid results at the county level. The zip code maps are useful for studying how attitudes vary across the region, but that most zip codes lacked sufficient sample size to support any detailed analysis within zip code geographies.

2040 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Skipper presented the results of the pairwise survey conducted among members of the TCC. He said that the objective is to get clear guidance from the members as to how the staff should weigh the policy factors that will be used to score projects in prioritizing the projects.

The survey yielded the following results:

- System Preservation – 10 points
- Quality Growth – 15 points
- Multi-Modal Options – 15 points
- Congestion Management – 15 points
- Safety – 20 points
- Freight & Goods Movement – 5 points
- Health & Environment – 15 points
- Project History – 5 points

Following his presentation, he asked for questions and comments from the TCC members.

Mr. Roach asked if there is a way to incorporate safety in every other area instead of it being a separate category. Mr. Skipper said that, yes, safety is indeed included as an element of each of the other categories. He said that the stand alone safety category is intended to focus on high crash locations and recommended that it remain a separate category for that purpose. He did indicate that the group could consider reducing the total points for the safety category considering that elements of safety are included in others.

Mr. Paul Corder asked if there was a way to separate crash data into categories like 'fender benders' or 'fatal crashes'. Mr. Skipper said that the severity of crashes, as well modes involved and the quantity of crashes will be all examined within this category.

Mr. Corder asked if system preservation refers to upkeep or improvement. Mr. Skipper said system preservation generally relates to state of good repair. He said that this category offers points to projects that address a known maintenance issue.

Mr. McCord said under 'freight and goods' scoring designated truck routes seems to be encouraging truck traffic as opposed to other modes to move those goods. Mr. Skipper said that while the MPO supports broader policy conversation about freight diversion from truck to rail or barge modes, that its scope for recommending funding for transportation improvements is constrained to the roadway network. Designating truck routes is a strategy to help accommodate heavy truck movements while minimizing impact on the local community.

Mr. Harris asked if we should adjust categories based on public polling data. Mr. Skipper said he agreed that the project evaluation process should yield results that are consistent with public preferences.

Ms. Caryn Miller asked if the TCC will have a chance to look at the projects and make any changes or is the TCC just supposed to accept what is presented? Mr. Skipper said the TCC members will have a chance to review the recommendations before they are made final. Opportunities to change project proposals to improve scoring will be an option if there is enough time in the schedule.

Mr. McCord asked if the Executive Board will see the same survey. Mr. Skipper said the board will not be surveyed, but will discuss the recommendations that come from staff/TCC.

Ms. Rochelle Carpenter, MPO staff, reminded the members that the how the staff is evaluating the projects, including staff comments, can be seen online.

MPO Director's Report

- *FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Membership Dues*
Mr. Skipper said that he has received a couple of ideas for the new UPWP and is reviewing them. He said that the members have three more days to turn in ideas. He reminded members that MPO-funded planning studies need to be regional in nature. He asked TCC members to review the estimated dues for 2016. He said that he doesn't expect an increase in the rates, but asked members to budget for a 10% increase just in case.
- *Update to Prospectus and Organizational Bylaws*
Mr. Skipper said that he will be presenting changes to the prospectus at the March 18th Executive Board meeting. He said that this is the first update to the document since 2010. He said that revisions have been made to reflect changes in federal law since the passage of MAP-21, and to account for changes to the MPO planning area as a result of the MPO expansion last year. He said several sections have been expanded or rewritten to add clarity.

- *Legislative Update*

Mr. Skipper said that House Bill 1275 has been filed in an attempt to alter the structure of MPOs in Tennessee. The legislation would restructure the Executive Board to include 4 seats for each county of 500,000 or more, 2 seats for every county under 500,000, 1 seat for each municipality of 25,000 or more. For the purposes of determining voting membership, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County would not be considered a municipality. This proposal would eliminate several communities from the MPO board, which currently provides a seat to each municipality of 5,000 or more in population.

He that the Senate version (SB1326) leaves the structure intact, requires each MPO operating wholly within the state to add a seat for a representative of county highway departments, as appointed by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. He said the bill also would prohibit the use of weighted voting.

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO most likely would not be opposed to adding a representative of county highway departments, but that the tie to the industry association does not seem appropriate. He said that the MPO has a weighted vote provision as a way of making sure that the MPO board is representative of the region's population, though it has never been used as far as anyone can tell. Under normal conditions, each member has an equally weighted vote.

He said that regardless of what the legislature does with the bill, federal law requires that the MPO governance structure be determined by agreement between local officials representing at least 75% of the MPO's population, including the largest incorporated city, and the Governor.

Ms. Miller said that cities of Millersville, Goodlettsville and White House met their representatives to discuss this bill and convinced one to be against the bill. She said most do not understand what the MPO does. She encouraged members to contact their legislators to educate them on the MPO.

- *Presentation on the MPO Integrated Transportation & Health Impact Model*

Mr. Skipper said that Mr. Geoffrey Whitfield of the CDC will discuss the model and preliminary findings at the March 18th Executive Board. He encouraged the TCC members to attend.

Other Business

- Mr. Demosi introduced Mr. Ken McLawhon of Nolensville and Ms. Dara Sanders of Spring Hill as new members of the TCC.

- Mr. Felix Castrodad asked if the MPO staff will be assisting in the evaluation of the CMAQ applications that are due April 10th. Mr. Skipper said that he would research the timelines to see if this would be a possibility.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Date: 4-1-15

Mike Demosi

Doug Demosi, Chair Vice chair
Technical Coordinating Committee

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Michael Skipper, AICP
Executive Director & Secretary