

**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**of the**  
**Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**April 15, 2015**

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mr. Andy Barlow (for Mayor Ed Hagerty), Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Howard Bradley, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Ernest Burgess, Mayor John Coombs, Mayor Philip Craighead, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mayor Karl Dean, Mayor Rick Graham, Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Executive Anthony Holt, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mayor Timothy Lassiter, Mr. Larry McGoogin (for Gov. Bill Haslam), Mr. Ken McLawhon (for Mayor Jimmy Alexander), Mr. Dana Richardson (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mr. Tim Roach, Mayor Ken Wilber

**Approve March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Ken Wilber, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. Mayor Howard Bradley moved to approve the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mr. Tim Roach seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Margo Chamber, Nashville, said that the Board should defer approving the Prospectus and Bylaws or not designate the Metropolitan Planning Commission as the recipient of federal funding because they are not certified to receive this funding as none of the commissioners have filled out any of the federal forms and this could bring on unwanted federal scrutiny. TDOT should be designated. She said that the Davidson Transit Organization, a subsidiary of the MTA, has federal authority to access transit funds. She also said that there is no letter authorizing the DTO to receive the funds. There is no IRS form 1023 or 1024 filed.

**MPO Chair's Report**

Mayor Wilber said that there is a bike summit in Knoxville on April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. He is planning on attending. He also said that there is a series of meeting regarding the SR-109 Access Management Study. The first one was last night in Lebanon. There is one tonight, April 15<sup>th</sup> in Portland from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. and another one Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in Gallatin from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Wilber said that Portland will have its annual Strawberry Festival on May 9<sup>th</sup>. He brought strawberry shortcake for everyone to sample.

## MPO Prospectus and Organizational Bylaws

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that all of the comments from members as well as TDOT and FHWA/FTA have been incorporated into the document. The only changes in the document from the last update are related to the MPO expansion and text changes to make the document easier to understand.

House Bill 1275, sponsored by Representative Jeremy Durham, has passed through the Local Government Committee and is at the Calendar Committee waiting to be scheduled for a floor vote. The current version mirrors in large part the Senate version. The legislation would require MPOs operating wholly in Tennessee and including 3 or more counties to include a representative from the County Highway Departments in the area. It delegates the authority to appoint that member to the Tennessee County Highway Association and prohibit the use of weighted voting which has been part of our history since 1977 which is the first time our MPO area extended beyond Davidson County.

As to adding a county highway representative, Mr. Skipper said that this is a discussion that this Board has had previously and will do without a bill requiring it. He said that the language giving the authority to appoint the representative to a lobbying group is really not appropriate however. He said that this Board should have the ability to work with the county highway departments to determine the rotation of the representative.

As to the issue of weighted voting, this Board has always operated with each member having one vote per jurisdiction. He said that the Bylaws since 1997, given that the Board is NOT representative of the population, have always allowed a member to enact a population-proportionate weighted vote on an issue. The weighted vote has evolved over time. A weighted vote can now be called on any action pertaining to the RTP, TIP, or the Bylaws. Should a weighted vote be enacted, the vote is postponed for 30 days and any action must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members. He said that right now the largest weight is Metro Nashville which has 42% of the weighted vote based on population which is still far short of the necessary 66% majority needed to pass any action. If this Board were to remove weighed voting and enact a board membership that was representative of the population, the consequence would be a very large board, or the elimination (or rotation) of seats among smaller communities.

Mr. Skipper said that the Executive Committee will meet to discuss this bill, etc at some point following the end of session. The committee includes the Board Chair, TCC representative, TDOT representative, and a few others plus the County mayors and county highway departments to talk about the structure that needs to be implemented to accommodate that representation. Mayor Wilber reminded the members that they need to contact their State Representatives to voice concern about bill.

Mayor Ernest Burgess said that he didn't understand points made by Ms. Chambers. He didn't understand why the MPC is not qualified to sponsor the MPO. Mr. Skipper said that the MPC is the fiscal agent for the MPO and that all of the MPOs in the state are housed in a host agency. The MPC has the contractual agreement authority. The Prospectus spells out the roles of the MPC and the MPO. The funding for the MPO is through federal grants and local matches. This MPO has been housed in the MPC since the 1960s.

Mayor Burgess asked about her point that the Federal Government could pull funding due to the MPC not being certified. Mr. Skipper said that every 4 years the MPO undergoes a certification by the FHWA and FTA and that there has never been an issued raised regarding being housed in Metro. Mr. Steve Bland said that the DTO is separate issue from the MPC and has no relationship with the MPO. Mayor Wilber said that in all of the years he has been on the Board no problems have been found during any audit or certification.

Mayor Rogers Anderson said that the next hurdle will be in the Legislature and that with this MPO being so large it might be time to consider being housed independently from Metropolitan Nashville. Mayor Wilber said that this would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mayor Rick Graham said that on page 5 of the Prospectus in the first paragraph it needs to read that Spring Hill is in Williamson and Maury County. Mr. Skipper said that he would make that change before it goes on the website. The members will get a final version with the edits prior to it being published to the website.

Mayor Burgess moved to approve the updates to the Prospectus and Organizational Bylaws. Executive Anthony Holt seconded and the motion passed with Mayor Anderson voting no.

#### **Findings from Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Activities**

This item was deferred until the May meeting.

#### **Report from NashvilleNext: Metro Nashville's General Plan Update**

Ms. Jennifer Carlat, Metro Planning Department Special Project's Director, gave an overview of the draft of "A General Plan for Nashville and Davidson County". She said that with Nashville's population growing and changing, the Plan grapples with issues affected by that growth and change, such as education, workforce, development, and culture. The Plan elements are 1) land use, transportation & infrastructure; 2) arts, culture & creativity; 3) economic & workforce development; 4) education & youth; 5) health, livability, & the built environment; 6) housing; and 7) natural resources & hazard adaption. She said that this Plan has taken into consideration the region and the individual Davidson County community plans.

She said that part of the Plan, "Access Nashville 2040" (previously named *Mobility 2030*) is a comprehensive framework for the city's multi-modal transportation network to support Nashville's quality of life and manage growth, development, and preservation through the year 2040 and beyond. The eight accessibility principles are 1) create a place with efficient community form and transportation choices; 2) offer meaningful transportation choices; 3) sustain and enhance the economy; 4) increase safety and resiliency; 5) improve human health and the environment; 6) ensure financial responsibility; 7) make decisions equitably; and 8) address transportation from a regional perspective.

The draft plan is available for review at <http://www.NashvilleNext.net> including a twenty-page overview called the Guidebook at:

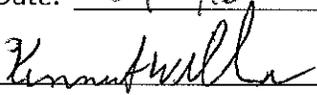
<http://www.nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/Planning/docs/NashvilleNext/DraftPlan/next-guidebook-3.pdf>

**MPO Director's Report**

Mr. Skipper thanked Ms. Carlat for her report and he thanked Mayor Wilber for bringing strawberry shortcake for the Board to enjoy.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Date: 5/20/15

  
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The Honorable Kenneth Wilber  
Chairman, MPO Executive Board

  
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Michael Skipper, AICP  
Executive Director and Secretary