

## MINUTES

### TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

#### Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

February 1, 2012

**Attendees:** Mr. Kirk Bednar, Mr. Rick Bernhardt, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Kevin Chastine, Mr. Marc Corrigan, Mr. Billy Davis, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Butch Gelband, Mr. Will Hager, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. George James, Mr. Cajun Joyner, Mr. Jonathan Langley, Mr. Donn Lovvorn, Mr. Jim McAteer, Mr. Addam McCormick, Ms. Angie Midgett, Mr. John Pewitt, Mr. Rob Raney, Mr. Tim Roach, Mr. Fred Rogers, Ms. Diane Thorne

#### Approve January 4, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tom Brashear, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Doug Demosi moved to approve the January 4, 2012 minutes. Mr. John Pewitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### TCC Chair's Report

- TCC Subcommittee to Evaluate Mass Transit Program Proposals  
Mr. Brashear asked that anyone (other than those directly involved in mass transit) who wants to be part of the evaluation process for the proposals for the \$1.5M STP funds to please let him know soon. He will name the committee at the next meeting. The proposals are due March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Recommendations from the Broadway-West End Alternatives Analysis

Jim McAteer, Director of Planning and Grants for the Nashville MTA, presented an overview of the recommendations from the Broadway / West End AA. He said that the corridor is now called the East-West Connector which is about 8 miles long.

He said that the FTA study process includes the following phases: 1) Alternatives Analysis which is done; 2) Preliminary engineering and Environmental Review which is about to begin; 3) Final Design and 4) Implementation. He said the evaluation factors were 1) cost, 2) first-year ridership, 3) economic development along the corridor, 4) flexibility, 5) frequency, 6) comfort, 7) environmentally friendly, 8) permanence, and 9) required infrastructure.

The goals and objectives are to create connections and choices where we already have character, to support and enhance the corridor's economic engine, develop a transit service that attracts new riders to public transit, and develop a project that can be implemented in the short term. Jobs and residential density per acre is an important indicator for ridership. The magic number for density is 40. There is also a complete streets element with cost estimates of \$38M for BRT and the streetcar. In terms of cost, the estimated capital cost is \$136M vs. \$275M for the streetcar. The total preliminary transit infrastructure and streetscape improvements cost is \$174M for BRT vs. \$313M for the streetcar. Funding will come from federal, state and regional, and project specific sources. These estimates do not include purchasing large plots of land for right-of-way.

The annual operating and maintenance costs between White Bridge Road and East Nashville are estimated to be \$4.1M for BRT and \$5.1M for the streetcar. The ridership for the BRT is estimated to be 4,500/daily during the first year with 7,560/daily after 20 years. These forecasts will continually be refined through the planning process.

He said that the frequency would be 10 minutes in the AM and PM rush hours with 15 minutes the remainder of the day. Saturdays and Sundays will be 20 minutes. The BRT can be up and running after 3 years. It will be longer for the streetcar.

This study is the first step toward mass transit along the East-West Connector. The other steps will be 1) select the preferred transit mode and route, 2) determine how to pay for the system, 3) continued public engagement, and 4) initiate detailed engineering/environmental analysis.

Mr. Brashear asked how far the jog in the route is. Mr. McAteer said it is about a block. Mr. Brashear asked how big a congestion problem will be during the implementation. Mr. McAteer said that along most of the route the parking lanes will be used but that yes, sometimes, transit projects cause continued congestion.

Mr. Billy Davis asked if there will be public hearings with business owners impacted during the PE and design phase. Mr. McAteer said yes. Mr. Davis asked if utility costs need to be added. Mr. McAteer said yes.

Mr. McAteer said that there will be a jog around to the convention center on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

More information about the study, including presentation material, is available at: <http://www.broadwaywestendstudy.com/>

### **2035 Regional Transportation Plan Amendments**

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that staff is proposing to amend the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to include the locally preferred alternative produced from the recently completed Broadway-West End Alternatives Analysis.

Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, said that the project will be included in the 2015 horizon year. He said that half of the money will be from federal funding and half from other sources. Amendments to the RTP will require no less than a 30-day public review and comment period prior to adoption. The project is also included in the TIP amendments below and these will go out for public review and comment at the same time as the RTP.

Mr. Butch Gelband moved to endorse the proposed amendment for public review and comment. Mr. Tim Roach seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

More information about the 2035 Plan is available on the MPO's website at: [www.nashvillempo.org/plans\\_programs/rtp/](http://www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/rtp/)

The schedule for adoption is:

- **2/1 – TCC endorsement**
- 2/15 – XB endorsement
- 2/17-3/19 – Public review and comment period
- 3/7 - First public hearing (TCC)
- 3/21 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

### **Proposed Amendments to the FYs 2011-2015 TIP**

Mr. Castrodad said that the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Amendment Cycle FY12-B require a 21-day public review and comment period prior to adoption.

More information about the TIP, including proposed amendments, is available on the MPO's website at: [http://www.nashvillempo.org/plans\\_programs/tip/](http://www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/tip/)

<b>TIP #</b>	<b>RTP #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Action</b>
2008-67-035	1067-161	Concord Road Signals	Brentwood	Program construction
2012-66-182	1085-501	Fairview Multimodal Connector - Phase 1	Fairview	Add project to TIP
2012-56-183	1085-501	Downtown Gallatin Streetscape - Phase 3	Gallatin	Add project to TIP

TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2008-53-033	1054-275	Various Intersection Improvements	Gallatin	Update description and funding
2012-15-184	1215-001	East-West Connector	MTA	Add project to TIP
2012-16-185	1085-501	Music City Moves	Metro	Add project to TIP
2012-76-186	1085-501	Mini Greenway Connector to MCS station	Mt. Juliet	Add project to TIP
2012-66-187	1085-501	Small Town Connections Project	Nolensville	Add project to TIP
2012-26-188	1085-501	Spring Station Drive Multi-Use Trail	Spring Hill	Add project to TIP
2008-56-082	1056-299	Lower Station Camp Creek Rd Greenway	Sumner Co.	Add funds
2011-72-107	1072-214	I-40 Widening	TDOT	Add funds
2006-417	1062-113	I-65 Widening	TDOT	Add phase; funds
AM-018	1052-223	SR – 109 Widening	TDOT	Add funds; update FY
2012-66-189	1086-602	Thompson Station Greenway – Phase 1	Thompson's Station	Add project to TIP
232	Consistent	Gateway Trail	Murfreesboro	Add project to TIP

Mr. Joe Horne moved to endorse the proposed amendments for public review and comment with Mr. Fred Rogers seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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### **Tennessee Department of Transportation Report**

Ms. Angie Midgett said that Ms. Tanisha Hall is the new Long Range Planning Director at TDOT. She also said that the new round of the \$500M TIGER grant preliminary applications are due on February 20<sup>th</sup> with the final applications due on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **MPO Director's Report**

- Update on Regional Household Transportation & Health Study  
Mr. Skipper said that the study pretest is about to get underway. Those selected to participate in the phase of the study will be receiving a formal invitation letter from Mayor Karl Dean soon. He said that the full study will begin in spring of 2012 and continue into the fall.
- HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Debrief  
Mr. Skipper said that the Middle Tennessee application for the HUD grant did not qualify due to what he believes was a misinterpretation by the reviewer (that our geography didn't meet the criteria and the consortium didn't include jurisdictions that equaled 50% of the region's population). He said that he's discussed how the

application met both of those requirements with a HUD debriefer and is awaiting a formal response to his inquiry. Mr. Brashear suggested that it may be appropriate to send a letter questioning the decision so that it doesn't happen again, even though there is no more money to be awarded at this point.

- Update on MPO Staffing/ Hiring Process  
Mr. Skipper said that our new planner, Jennifer Hill, will be starting on February 6<sup>th</sup>. She has a planner/urban designer background and her focus will be as a liaison to the locals regarding land use.
- Other comments
  - Mr. Skipper said that this year there will likely be a change in the amount of dues as a result of the new census. He said that letters will be sent out in a few weeks with the amounts for budgeting purposes only.
  - Mr. Skipper said that the House has released their version of the Transportation bill. It is a 5-year \$260M bill which is constrained by the revenues collected by the highway fund. It eliminates earmarks. There is an emphasis on formula based programs. Like the Senate version, it consolidates programs. It reduces the percentage of the surface transportation program to areas over 200,000. This bill is likely to include the Keystone pipeline and off-shore drilling. Ms. Midgett said that the new threshold for new MPOs is 100,000 but any old MPOs with less are grandfathered in. When MPOs do their LRP they have to consider the impact of inner city buses on the system. She said that there are many changes for the way the State does their statewide planning process.
  - Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, congratulated Hendersonville and Fairview for being awarded Safe Routes to School funding. She said that the next round of funding deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tom Brashear, Chair  
Technical Coordinating Committee

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Michael Skipper, AICP, Executive Director  
Secretary, Technical Coordinating Committee