

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

July 11, 2012

Attendees: Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Michael Briggs, Mr. Kevin Chastine, Mr. Jonathan Cleghon, Mr. Kevin Comstock, Mr. Marc Corrigan, Mr. Billy Davis, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Ms. Deborah Fleming, Mr. Butch Gelband, Mr. Rick Gregory, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. George James, Mr. Jim McAteer, Mr. Addam McCormick, Mr. Rob Raney, Mr. Dana Richardson, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Tim Roach, Mr. Fred Rogers

Approve June 6, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jim McAteer, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Rick Gregory moved to approve the June 6th meeting minutes with Mr. Fred Rogers seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

TCC Chair's Report

- a) *Recognition of service by Tom Brashear, immediate past TCC Chairman*
Mr. McAteer (TCC Chairman) and Mr. Michael Skipper (MPO executive director) thanked Mr. Tom Brashear for his service during the past two years. He was presented a plaque noting his tenure. Mr. Brashear received a round of applause.

Endorse Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Skipper provided an overview of the federal requirements for a UPWP, proposed 2013 MPO dues, and anticipated planning activities for the upcoming year. Mr. Skipper said that staff is recommending a continuation of the 12.5 cents per capita rate charged city members of the MPO, but a decreased to 11 cents per capita for county members. The FY 2013 dues will be based on 2010 Census population figures. He said that staff believes this rate differential provides a more equitable format given that county

governments are charged for population in the unincorporated portions of their county plus for the population in any cities with less than 5,000 people. The UPWP requires a minimum of a 7-day public review and comment period prior to adoption.

Mr. Brashear moved to endorse the draft UPWP for public review and comment with Mr. Gregory seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

A list of the current year activities is attached. More information about the UPWP is available on the MPO's website at:

http://www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/upwp/

The schedule for adoption is:

- **7/11 - TCC endorsement**
- 7/18 - XB endorsement
- 7/23 to 8/13 - Public review and comment period
- 8/1 - First public hearing (TCC)
- 8/15 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

Endorse Proposed Changes to the MPO's Major Roadway Network

Mr. Skipper said that TDOT has requested an amendment to the MPO's major roadway network in order to update the federal functional classification of a list of roadways in the region. He said given the state's request, MPO staff has been working with local governments to identify any other necessary changes in the classification of roadways throughout the region. He said that staff's role has been to evaluate the local requests to ensure that the requested classification matches the roadways function. Upon endorsement by the Board, the MPO will submit the requests to TDOT for final review.

Mr. Tim Roach asked for examples of the benchmarks or criteria for a road to be considered an urban collector or rural major collector. Mr. Max Baker, MPO staff, described the process used to identify the urban/rural designation of a roadway and its function.

Mr. Brashear asked if Division Street between Lebanon and Mt. Juliet (and predominantly in Mt. Juliet) can be added as an east/west connector. Mr. Skipper said that the staff is happy to evaluate additional changes prior to the July Executive Board meeting, but that requests not deemed to be time-sensitive may be deferred to a future round. He said that the MPO's federal-aid urban boundary will need to be redefined as a result of the 2010 Census, thus requiring another look at the federal functional classification system.

Mr. Billy Davis asked why the SE Arterial, submitted with a request for a major arterial classification, has received a staff recommendation as a minor arterial. Mr. Baker said

that was suggested due to the relationship of the proposed SE Arterial's relationship with Nolensville Road. Mr. Skipper added that it was unlikely that TDOT would allow the addition of the SE Arterial to the federal functional classification system given that no funds have been programmed for the project. He said that for roads to be classified, construction must be imminent.

Mr. Michael Briggs asked if the State has a certain quota of classifications for each part of Tennessee. Mr. Skipper said that there is a need to maintain a balance of lane miles among the varying classifications. Because of this need to balance the network, he said that TDOT may not be in a position to approve every request submitted with this round of changes. He said that a link to the FHWA criteria for the federal functional classification system is available on the MPO's website.

A list of the current network and proposed changes is available on the MPO's website at: http://www.nashvillempo.org/regional_plan/roadways/major_network.aspx

Mr. Brashear moved to adopt the list knowing that there might be more added later. Mr. Roach seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The schedule for adoption is:

- **7/11 - TCC endorsement**
- 7/18 - XB endorsement
- 7/20 – Proposed changes submitted to TDOT for review

Presentation: Update on MTA East-West Connector BRT Project

Mr. Doug Tennant, URS representative, gave an overview of the BRT project. He said that with over 2 million residents by 2050 the area needs mass transit to attract companies and professionals to the region. This corridor was selected [included in the MPO's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and evaluated during the recently completed Alternatives Analysis] because it is considered the "Main Street" of Nashville and BRT was determined to be the most cost-effective way of servicing this corridor with rapid transit. He said that the corridor is 7.5 miles long. It will begin at White Bridge Road moving along West End/Broadway to 3rd Ave. It will turn toward the Music City Central then along Charlotte across the Woodland Street Bridge to Five Points. He gave a brief discussion of the lane set-up and the stations placement (intersection vs. mid-block).

Mr. Brashear asked how the pedestrian corridors work with BRT at the signals. Mr. Tennant said that they were modeling this now to see how to balance the needs between transit, autos, pedestrians, and cyclists. He said that the signals will be coordinated to allow cars and pedestrians to get across. Legal U-turns will be an option. Mr. Gregory asked how much pavement on West End will be needed. Mr. Tennant said that they are planning to stay within the existing curbs and right-of-way as much as

possible. He said that there are 70-80' pavement along most of West End. There will need to be at least 7 total lanes to accommodate the traffic and BRT lanes (2 inbound, 2 outbound, 1 left turn and 2 BRT). Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, asked if there will be enough room for bicycle lanes. Mr. Tennant said that they are trying to find room for these but are struggling. They may have to be shared lanes. Mr. Gregory said that larger vehicles will have problems staying in 9' lanes and asked what the speed limit will be. Mr. Tennant said that the speed limit will remain as it is now.

Mr. Billy Davis asked how Third Avenue will operate. Mr. Tennant said that it would be a transit street in both directions with one center car lane going northward. This will help get the buses off of 4th and 5th Avenues.

More information about the East-West Connector is available at:
<http://www.eastwestconnector.org/>

Tennessee Department of Transportation Report

Ms. Deborah Fleming said that TDOT is starting to plan for their project tour. The dates for Region 3 are September 24-27. Please put these on your calendars.

MPO Director's Report

- a) *Welcome to MPO Intern Ben Jelsma, University of British Columbia*
Mr. Skipper introduced Ben Jelsma who is interning at the MPO this summer. His work will focus on the intersection of housing and transportation and will help to develop a tool box for transit-focused developments looking to maintain affordable housing options for the low and moderate income households. Mr. Jelsma said that he was happy to be here and that he looks forward to being able to apply his interest in social equality.
- b) *Update on Federal Transportation Legislation*
Mr. Skipper said that Congress has passed a new transportation bill, MAP-21. It is a 2-year bill that will become effective October 1, 2012. There are new features. He said that Safe Routes To School is now combined with other transit alternatives but has less money available. There is some streamlining of the environmental process. More information will be provided at the August meeting and by email.
- c) *Update on Household Travel Survey*
Mr. Skipper said that the Spring data collection period has ended, but the Fall period will begin in August.
- d) *Reminder about upcoming TIP Amendment Cycle*
Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, reminded members that the next TIP Amendment Cycle will be August/September. The deadline for submittals is July 20th.

- e) Mr. Skipper said that the Nashville Area MPO has received a 2012 Transportation Planning Excellence Award for the 2035 RTP. More information will be presented at the August meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Date: _____

Jim McAteer, Chair
Technical Coordinating Committee

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