

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

April 1, 2015

Attendees: Ms. Kim Ark, Mr. Andy Barlow, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Michael Briggs, Mr. Felix Castrodad, Mr. Jonathon Cleghon, Mr. Corbin Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Joren Dunnavant, Mr. John Finke, Ms. Margot Fosnes, Mr. Rick Gregory, Mr. Will Hagar, Mr. Glenn Harper, Mr. Mike Harris, Ms. Billy Higgins, Mr. Reed Hillen, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Frank Humber, Mr. Bill McCord, Mr. Addam McCormick, Mr. Larry McGoogin, Mr. Ken McLawhon, Ms. Caryn Miller, Mr. Tim Roach, Ms. Dara Sanders

Approve March 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mike Harris, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Bill McCord moved to approve the minutes with a few typos corrected. Mr. Rick Gregory seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Margo Chambers, Nashville, said that the proposed Bylaws designated sponsor and fiscal agent for the MPO should be TDOT not the Metropolitan Planning Commission because the commissioners have not filled out the 24 FTA certification forms. This failure will bring FTA scrutiny when the MPO adopts long and short-range transportation plans and the current Bylaws don't identify a designated recipient. The regulations that cover this are 49USC Section 5323, 49USC Sections 5307, 5303, 5304, and regulation 23USC Section 135. The Bylaws state that the MPO Executive Director is a staff member of the Metropolitan Planning Department which causes him to have a bias when explaining this Bylaw addition.

TCC Chair's Report

There was no chair's report.

Transportation and Public Health Outcomes

Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, presented findings from the newly developed Integrated Transportation and Health Impact (ITHIM) model. Initially developed in the United Kingdom, this is a relatively new model in the U.S. MPO staff has been working with the CDC and California counterparts to advance the state of the practice.

Ms. Meehan said that physical inactivity can contribute to a number of diseases, such as breast cancer, colon cancer, diabetes, heart disease, dementia, and depression. She said that 62% of Tennesseans do not meet aerobic physical activity guidelines and ranks 49th in the nation. Tennessee has the 4th highest prevalence of obesity. Mr. Tom Brashear asked what part of the MPO area was studied. Ms. Meehan said that all seven counties were studied.

Ms. Meehan said that the Nashville Area MPO recognizes the link between transportation and health and is among the first to incorporate multiple health issues in planning. The MPO can help with health issues by advancing other transportation modes other than automobiles. ITHIM is a tool that estimates the benefits to public health resulting from changes in regional travel behaviors (e.g., increased walking, bicycling, or transit use), benefits of reduced air pollution and health risks of bike/ped vs. auto accidents, as well as age/gender effects.

ITHIM uses calculations such as 1) baseline “knowns” (physical activity, disease burdens, air pollution and collision & travel history, 2) scenario “hypotheticals” (physical activity, and vehicle/transit miles traveled), and 3) epidemiological calculations (comparative risk assessment based on relative risk).

She said that ITHIM helps to translate the message of health impacts of transportation. By adding 10 minutes of walking or bicycling a day can reduce cardiovascular disease by 21% and diabetes by 8% and save \$200 million a year in health spending. She said that one of the limitations of ITHIM is that it doesn't include the building up to these scenarios.

Mr. Tim Roach asked if these scenarios can be translated into the number of people affected over a certain time frame. She said yes. Mr. Bill McCord asked if the model is sensitive to lifestyle vs. genetics of an individual. Ms. Meehan said that all diseases included showed that increased activity helped regardless of the genetics of the person. Mr. Brashear said that for a public presentation, there needs to be more focus on backing up the study's writers (qualifications, etc.).

Mr. Andy Barlow asked if in relationship to transportation planning is the model showing just baseline activity or is it trying to translate some auto trips into other modes. Ms. Meehan said that model is setup based on the scenario where auto trips are shifted to other modes of transportation. Mr. Roach asked how often the model

would be run to take into account changes in current conditions. Ms. Meehan said that it can be run whenever new numbers are available. This model is good at running “what if” scenarios.

Findings from Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Activities

Ms. Meehan presented findings from the recent update to regional bicycle and pedestrian datasets and analysis including levels of service, latent demand model, physical activity data, congested roadways, bicycle and pedestrian crashes and health priority areas. Over the past few years sidewalks have increased 57%, bikeways have increased 19%, and greenways have increased 36% in the MPO area.

The bicycle level of service (BLOS) is based on 1) average effective width of the outside thru lane, 2) motorized vehicle volumes, 3) motorized vehicle speeds, 4) heavy vehicle – truck – volumes, and 5) pavement conditions. The BLOS for 2,164 miles of all inventoried roads is C or better with 1,106 miles having a BLOS of D or worse. The pedestrian level of service (PLOS) is based on 1) existence of a sidewalk, 2) lateral separation of pedestrians from motorized vehicles, 3) motorized vehicle volumes, and 4) motorized vehicle speeds. The PLOS of 2,044 miles inventoried is C or better with 1,225 miles having a PLOS of D or worse. Mr. McCord said that maintenance of the bike lanes and sidewalks is important. Ms. Meehan said though important, it is difficult to measure. Mr. Roach asked if these numbers take into account crosswalks. Ms. Meehan said it doesn't nor does it take into account intersections.

Ms. Meehan said that the non-motorized demand model was also updated. This is the model that helps look at how many potential walk/bike trips could be taken if the network was ideal. It is based on proximity that is parcel-based and has limitations. The model shows physical activity from active transportation and how congestion impacts active transportation. One of the updates was the health priority areas which showed poverty, unemployment, carless household, and aging. The research shows certain population groups have a higher disparity. These groups include low income, minority, and older adults (over 65).

The BPAC weighted priorities are 1) bike/ped trip demand, 2) BLOS & PLOS, 3) health, 4) congestion, and 5) safety.

She said that the staff is doing a greenways inventory in the region. She asked that the members send in all relevant information regarding the greenways in their jurisdiction.

Ms. Meehan said that all of the technical information is broken down by county and is on our website.

More information can be found in the technical memorandums posted on the MPO website at:

http://www.nashvillempo.org/regional_plan/walk_bike/regional_study.aspx

Ms. Meehan said that

- TDOT/FHWA will be holding an Exchange Road Diet event on April 9th from 1-3.
- There will be a Tennessee Greenways and Trail Conference on April 15th-17th at Montgomery Bell State Park.
- There will be a Tennessee Bike Summit in Knoxville on April 23rd-24th.

Mr. Roach asked if the health priority areas data is available for the NashvilleNext report. Ms. Meehan said that the information hasn't been released yet. She would get with Metro.

Mr. Skipper thanked Ms. Meehan for her leadership role in all of this.

MPO Name Change

Mr. Tim Roach moved to adopt the new name of Agency for the Welfare of Excellence in Systems Optimization, Maintenance, and Efficiency (AWESOME) with Mr. Rick Gregory seconding.

APRIL FOOLS!!

MPO Director's Report

- Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO Director, said that staff will be ready to present initial project scoring results in May. There may need to be special workshops to go over the project priorities.
- Update on the Prospectus and Organizational Bylaws Revisions
Mr. Skipper said that he has incorporated all comments he has received to-date and if anyone has comments to please let him know prior to the April Executive Board meeting. The Board will endorse the updated document at the April 15th meeting.
Mr. Tom Brashear said that, regarding the public comment earlier, that it is not a good idea for the MPO to be under TDOT.
- Update on the Legislative bills
He said that the bills filed in the Legislature have been amended and now leaves the MPO structure intact, but requires that a representative from the county highway departments be on the Board. He said that clarification on who would appoint this representative is still needed.

In regards to the weighted vote issue, the bill would eliminate this option. This is an important tool that allows the Board to be the representative of the population. The current Bylaws allow the weighted vote to be used on actions related to the RTP, TIP, and Bylaws and has to have 66% of the vote to pass.

Other Business

Ms. Caryn Miller said that the elected officials in Millersville are adamant in connecting to the greenways of White House and Goodlettsville. She will talk with Ms. Meehan about this.

Mr. Larry McGoogin said that TDOT is doing its 25-year Long-Range Transportation Plan and has eight policies covering a wide range of topics including Accessibility, Trends, Mobility, Freight, Funding, Safety, Coordination, and Performance. If you would like to comment on the new direction laid out for the Department in these papers, we have provided a comment form in order to capture those opinions. The comment period is open until April 20, 2015.

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/transportationplan/policy.htm>

Mr. Felix Castrodad said that the MTA is having public meetings regarding their upcoming Strategic Plan and the Northwest Corridor Study. The information about the public meetings can be found below.

Strategic Plan public meetings - <http://www.nashvillemta.org/pdf/fn328.pdf>

Northwest Corridor Study public meetings -
http://www.nwcorridorstudy.com/get_involved/

Mr. Michael Briggs said that the draft of the NashvilleNext document is online for comments. www.nashvillext.net

Ms. Meehan said that the members can go for a bicycle ride using the BCycles for free following the meeting. The BCycle in Nashville has 30 stations with 263 bikes. It was launched in December 2012 and, to-date, over 100,000 trips have been taken.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Date: 5-6-15



Doug Demosi, Chair
Technical Coordinating Committee



Michael Skipper, AICP
Executive Director & Secretary