

MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
January 15, 2020

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mayor Bernie Ash, Mr. Andy Barlow (for Mayor Ed Hagerty), Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Jamie Clary, Ms. Faye DiMassimo (for Mayor John Cooper), Mr. Richard Donovan (for Mayor Mike Callis), Mayor Jeff Duncan, Mr. Mike Harris (for Mayor Rhea Little), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Mayor Anthony Holt, Mr. Eddie Hood, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Thad Jablonski (for Mayor Chaz Molder), Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mayor Bill Ketron, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Rick Graham), Mayor Ken Moore, Mr. Stacy Morrison (for Gov. Bill Lee), Mr. Andrew Pieri (for Mayor Tim Lassiter), Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to Order

Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of 10/16/19 and 12/11/19 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes with Mr. Mike Harris seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Moore moved to approve the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Mayor Randall Hutto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Alex Macias, Associate Director of Programs and Communication for Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee said that the new Transit Citizen Leadership Academy will occur Feb. 5th through March 11th. For more information, visit <http://thetransitalliance.org/transit-academy/>.

Action Items

a) Endorse Updates to the 2021-2045 RTP Policy Framework

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, GNRC Transportation Planning Manager, said that staff has updated the policy framework for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with initial objectives and performance measures. He said that the policy framework will continue to evolve throughout the planning process.

Mayor Anthony Holt asked if members can still submit comments. Mr. Pfalzer said yes, there will opportunities to comment and work through details during the process.

Mayor Rogers Anderson asked how the RTP will be addressing the agriculture side of planning in the transportation program. He said that many of the counties still have farms that provide significant economic benefit. Mr. Pfalzer said that minimizing disruptive impacts through land use development would be the most applicable goal category to that issue. Mayor Anderson suggested adding several performance measures to address the agriculture side of development. Mayor Anderson said that if we do not address this issue it can cause problems in the future. Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, said that this initial list is a starting point for performance measures, but we can add measures to account for agriculture.

Mayor Ken Moore moved to endorse the updates to the 2021-2045 RTP Policy Framework with Mayor Holt seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Endorse Recommendations Related to the Congestion Management Process

Mr. Pfalzer said that the Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federally-required process to make the most effective use of limited dollars to address congestion problems. He said that the CMP is being updated as part of the 2045 RTP process. The CMP process contains eight steps, and he said that staff has made progress on the first three steps: 1) establish congestion objectives, 2) define CMP network, and 3) develop multimodal performance measures. Staff recommends an initial endorsement of the Board for steps 1-3 to guide subsequent steps.

He also said that the remaining CMP steps are: 4) Collect data/monitor system performance, 5) Analyze congestion problems and needs, 6) Identify and assess strategies, 7) Program and implement strategies, and 8) Evaluate strategy effectiveness.

Mayor Reed thanked staff for their hard work.

Mr. Victor Lay moved to endorse the recommendations related to the CMP with Mr. Jim Kerr seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Endorse Regional Priorities for TDOT 3-Year Work Program

Ms. Anna Emerson, MPO Staff, said that TDOT requests each MPO in the State to prioritize a list of candidate projects for their area. She said that this list will be considered by the Legislature in the Spring in finalizing the next 3-Year Work Program. She said that the list was presented to the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the TPB to gather feedback. Ms. Emerson briefly explained the ranking methodology used by staff. She said that projects on this list are state-managed projects, so locally-managed projects or projects already funded are not included on the list.

Mayor Reed asked TDOT how the MPO rankings fit into the overall rankings. Mr. Stacy Morrison said that project readiness is an important factor. The MPO rankings (12%) and TDOT region rankings (12%) combine to account for approximately one-fourth of the formula. Mr. Mayor Holt asked for clarify on what factors into the remaining 75% of the formula. TDOT indicated that they would email the information.

Mayor Paige Brown asked if there is any way to make adjustments in the rankings when projects are not in a logical order. Ms. Emerson said that the widening of SR-386 project is on the list and that TDOT has said that this project will occur prior to the interchange at Forest Retreat. Mr. Skipper said that the interchange is ahead of the widening of SR-386 because of the emphasis put on the readiness for construction. He indicated that TDOT will use their discretion for scheduling based on a variety of factors.

Mayor Clary asked if there is any part of the formula that considers whether a project is a pre-requisite for another project. Mr. Skipper said it will be adjusted, and clarified that the purpose of the MPO rankings methodology.

Mayor Holt asked if voting to endorse the regional priorities list would still allow for adjustments.

Mr. Skipper said that the Board has the discretion to move the widening project ahead of the interchange. Staff applied the methodology to rank all projects, but did not propose any changes beyond that.

Mr. Bryan Hurst, TDOT, said that TDOT cannot tell an MPO how to prioritize projects. TDOT is seeking priorities within each region to prioritize the limited amount of money for PE/ROW/Construction. He said that the rankings start the conversation.

Mr. Morrison said that the MPO has an opportunity to comment on the rankings. Mr. Skipper said that the staff does not mind switching the order of these two projects, we were just following the methodology we have used for several years.

Mayor Holt said that he feels strongly about amending the list, and moved to switch project item 485 with project item 484 in the ranking. Mayor Clary seconded, and the amendment passed unanimously.

Mayor Jeff Duncan moved to endorse the regional priorities. Mr. Andy Barlow seconded, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

d) Endorse Agreement with TDOT for TIP Modifications

Ms. Emerson said that the modifications are not substantial. They are intended to streamline the process. The MPO suggested limiting the need for funding-related amendments to changes in federal funding sources only in order to reduce the number of amendments and wait times for projects to access construction funding. She said that TDOT was not receptive to this suggestion and declined to incorporate the change into the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Mayor Reed said that it can be frustrating for the local jurisdiction when they are willing to fund the difference in cost because it causes a delay in the project construction. Mr. Morrison said that TDOT has an MOA with FHWA which limits including those changes. Mayor Reed said that we keep hearing that we need to get the money spent and this seems to be a way of expediting the process. Mr. Hurst said that he likes flexibility, but when he asked FHWA he was told that if a cost of any phase increases over a certain threshold, the public needs to know. He said grouping projects can ease the need for amendments. He said that TDOT is always looking for ways to change the guidelines to make it easier. Mayor Reed asked if there can be further discussions on this. Mr. Hurst said no. Mr. Skipper recommended this MOA to be endorsed and that the staff is comfortable where we are.

Mayor Moore moved to endorse the MOA with TDOT for TIP Modifications. Mayor Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

a) Asset Management Analysis & Forecasts

Mr. Kevin Tilbury of Cambridge Systematics presented the results of the recent analysis of the roadways and bridges in the region. He said that \$38 million in annual investment is required to maintain the current bridge conditions, or approximately \$900 million between now and 2045. He also said that \$420

million in annual investment is required to maintain the current pavement conditions, or approximately \$12 Billion between now and 2045.

Mayor Moore asked if a financial analysis of how to generate funding for maintaining the system was going to be conducted. Mr. Skipper said that this is done every five years by the staff. For more information on bridge condition, go to www.GNRC.org/dashboards.

b) Population and Employment Forecasts

Mr. Max Baker, GNRC Director of Research and Analytics, said that we forecast population and employment to understand trends, determine growth, and input into the transportation demand model. We use Woods & Poole for population and employment projections. He said that we now utilize UrbanSim for predicting sub-county growth. The TCC members will vet the output.

Ms. Carson Cooper, GNRC Research Analyst, said that key takeaways are that the population growth for Middle Tennessee will grow by 60% to over 3.2 million people by 2045, and employment will grow by 51% to 2.1 million jobs by 2045. The minority population will grow by 156% and the Hispanic population is expected to grow by 188%, faster than both the State and the Nation. For more information on population and employment forecasts, go to www.GNRC.org/dashboards.

c) Annual Update to the Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Pfalzer said that State DOTs and MPOs are required to set performance targets for the following safety measures: 1) number of fatalities, 2) fatality rate (per 100 million VMT), 3) number of serious injuries, 4) serious injury rate (per 100 million VMT), and 5) number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Ms. Ashleigh Reeves provided a brief overview of recent trends for the five safety performance measure targets. For more information on crash data, go to www.GNRC.org/dashboards.

Regular Reports

a) TDOT Report

Mr. Morrison said that TDOT is conducting an I-40/I-81 Corridor Study. The study will kick-off on February 27, 2020. More information will be available soon.

b) Chair's Report

Mayor Reed said that the February meeting is when the chair and vice-chair are voted on. She named Mayor Anderson, Mayor Holt, and Mayor Randall Hutto to the nominating committee. They will present the slate at the next meeting.

She said that the 2020 meeting calendar was adopted at the last meeting. She reminded the members that it is always important to have a quorum at each meeting and if they cannot attend to send a designated alternate to vote in their place.

c) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer said that the staff received approximately 230 projects so far through the call-for-projects. He said that staff expects additional projects to be submitted by TDOT. Once they are received, a second round will be issued.

Mayor Reed asked TDOT when they would be able to submit projects. Ms. Melanie Murphy said that TDOT is working on it and can have them submitted by the end of January.

Mr. Pfalzer said that on January 22, the Transportation Demand Management Coordination group will meet from 9:30am-11:00am, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will meet from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Mr. Pfalzer said that WeGo will be soliciting for two grant opportunities. One is for Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) for assistance to address challenges of low-income populations to obtain and maintain employment. The second is the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (EMSID) to assist private non-profits in meeting transportation needs for elderly and disabled. The projects need to be consistent with the goals of the region's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. For more information, contact Ms. Billy Higgins at billy.higgins@nashville.gov.

Other Business

Ms. Faye DiMassimo said that Metro is holding eleven community listening sessions on transportation to gauge what the public wants. She said that the Council and stakeholders will also have listening sessions. For more information, go to <https://www.nashville.gov/Mayors-Office/Transportation-Infrastructure-and-Sustainability/Transportation.aspx>.

Mr. Skipper said that THDA has issued a call for applications for Federal HUD money that is sent to the State through the Home Grant Program which helps low-income homeowners to make necessary repairs. The dates for accepting applications is January 15 through March 5. He said that the GNRC staff can assist with the applications and can assist in managing the money if awarded. For more information, contact Ms. Angie Hubbard, Economic & Community Development Director at ahubbard@gnrc.org.

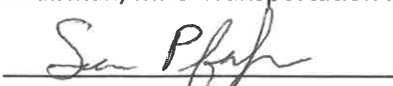
Mayor Anderson asked if there are economic incentive programs or tax increments to assist with the counties to keep up with growth for money. How do we fund these transportation needs? Mr. Skipper said that the GNRC staff will do an analysis on this.

Ms. DiMassimo said that it is important to know that this area does not yet have as many tools in the toolbox as other regions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Date: 2/19/20


The Honorable Mary Esther Reed
Chairman, MPO Transportation Policy Board


Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
MPO Coordinator