

MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
January 20, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mayor Rick Bell, Mr. Kevin Blackburn (for Mayor Debby Rainey), Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Mike Callis, Mayor Jamie Clary, Mr. Tim Ellis (for Mayor Rusty Tinnin), Mayor Rick Graham, Mr. Mike Harris (for Mayor Rhea Little), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Mayor Anthony Holt, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mayor Bill Ketron, Ms. Pam Kordenbrock, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Derek Adams), Mayor James Maness, Mr. Matt Meservy (for Gov Bill Lee), Mayor Ken Moore, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle, Mr. Matt Von Lunen

Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Approval of the 12/16/20 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Billy Vogle moved to approve the December 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Ken Moore seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation of the Draft 2045 RTP

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, said that the draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is out for the required 30-day public review and comment period. To access the draft plan, visit <https://www.gnrc.org/194/Regional-Transportation-Plan>

He provided a recap of the requirements, financial planning assumptions, and milestones of the draft Plan. He summarized the investments through 2045 by needs addressed, project category, and county.

He noted key takeaways that included that the region is extremely dependent on federal grant programs, buying power continues to dwindle as project costs increase, and the Plan is heavily committed to IMPROVE Act projects and local projects in the TIP. He also summarized how GNRC responded to TDOT, FHWA, and FTA comments from the state and federal compliance review. He identified the remaining steps on the schedule prior to its expected adoption by the Transportation

Policy Board at the February 17, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Pam Kordenbrock said that FHWA has not yet received responses to the comments sent to the staff in December and expressed concerned that the draft document is already out for public review and comment prior to FHWA's reviewing the responses. Mr. Pfalzer said that staff addressed comments into the draft document out for public review and comment, but we will send them to FHWA. Ms. Kordenbrock asked if the document was fiscally constrained. Mr. Pfalzer confirmed that it was, and noted that staff made adjustments to project costs, funding timeline, and funding source to meet fiscal constraint.

Mayor Ken Moore thanked Mayor Reed for her leadership in getting the draft document to this point and the staff for their hard work. He said that after going through the plan he wondered if the cost increases in projects (noted on slide 28) are greater than the inflationary factor of 4% annually. Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, said that the Plan assumes an inflationary factor of 4% per year, however it can fluctuate over time and vary by project. He noted that a key factor driving project cost increases for our fast-growing region has been escalating right-of-way costs.

Mr. Preston Elliott, TDOT, thanked the staff for their hard work. He also thanked the members for working with the staff throughout this Plan process. He said that the plan reflects a good analysis and investments align with identified needs. He noted that this is the region's first plan post-IMPROVE Act and TDOT will continue to work closely with staff to accurately reflect additional state revenues over the life of the plan.

Mayor Reed agreed that ongoing discussions on IMPROVE Act revenue and projects are necessary. She said that if anyone has any questions or comments, to contact the staff.

Mayor Reed reminded the members that for the February 17th meeting it is very important to have a quorum for the adoption and said that if they cannot attend to make sure their alternate is in attendance.

Update to Performance Measures Targets

Mr. Pfalzer said that the national safety goal to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, and the MPO is responsible for setting safety targets annually to make progress toward that goal as part of its performance-based planning. He said that the MPO has

adopted TDOT's targets in the past, but there is consensus to develop regional targets as part of the update to the Regional Transportation Plan that will guide subsequent updates each year.

Ms. Ashleigh Reeves, Senior Research Analyst, reminded members of the scenarios considered for regional safety targets for traffic fatalities, and presented similar scenarios for serious injuries and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Based on the scenarios presented by Ms. Reeves, Mr. Pfalzer said that the staff recommends a 1% annual reduction in the safety performance measure targets over the life of the Plan. Mr. Pfalzer also presented updated statewide targets for infrastructure condition (bridges and pavement) and system performance (travel time reliability). Mr. Pfalzer said that the staff recommends supporting the state targets for infrastructure condition and system performance measures.

Regular Reports

a) FHWA/FTA

Ms. Pam Kordenbrock said that Mr. Pete Buttigieg has been nominated as the new Secretary of Transportation for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

She said that the FY 2021 Appropriations Bill has been passed that runs through September 30, 2021. The Bill includes a COVID-19 relief package and FHWA is in the process of determining how the money will be distributed and what the requirements will be.

Ms. Kordenbrock congratulated Metro-Nashville for being awarded a \$1.5 million Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant to improve transit management along the Charlotte Avenue corridor.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Matt Meservy said that the Urban Transportation Planning Grant is in the evaluation stage and expected to be finished by January 31. Award recipients will be announced on February 5.

He noted that there were 22 applications and TDOT anticipates awarding one project per MPO area.

c) Chair's Report

Mayor Reed said that she was proud of how everyone has worked through the pandemic. She thanked everyone, especially the staff, for their efforts on the Regional Transportation Plan.

She reminded the members that there will not be a GNRC Executive Board meeting today.

d) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer introduced Ms. Jessica Hill as the new Community and Regional Planning Director. Prior to joining GNRC, Jessica worked at the Centralina Regional Council in Charlotte, North Carolina, and she brings experience in land use and transportation planning at the regional and local level. Her new email address is jhill@gnrc.org

Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, said that the latest federal COVID-19 Relief Bill allocates \$9.8 Billion nationwide and \$211 million to Tennessee. Of the state allocation, Tennessee MPOs with populations over 200,000 are estimated to receive a suballocation of \$51.2 million, with

\$18.2 million of that suballocated to the Nashville area. The funds do not require local or state match, and must be obligated by September 30, 2024.

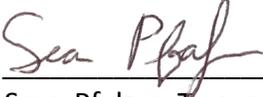
Ms. Emerson briefly went over the 2021 TIP Amendment schedule. For more information <https://www.gnrc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1802/2021-TIP-Amend-Cycle-Schedule>

Mayor Reed welcomed Ms. Hill.
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m

Date: 2/22/2021



The Honorable Mary Esther Reed
Chair, Transportation Policy Board



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Policy Board