

MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 19, 2021

Attendees: Mr. Kirk Bednar (for Mayor Rhea Little), Mayor Rick Bell, Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Ms. Faye DiMassimo (for Mayor John Cooper), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Mayor Anthony Holt, Mr. Eddie Hood, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mayor Bill Ketron, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Derek Adams), Mr. Matt Meservy (for Gov. Bill Lee), Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to Order

Mayor Billy Vogle, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:25 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Informational Items

a) Proposed Amendments to the FYs 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, presented Cycle C amendments to the FYs 2020-23 TIP listed below and displayed at www.gnrc.org/maps/2023TIP. The amendments will be released for the required public review and comment period. Adoption by the TPB is scheduled for June 16th following a public hearing.

Amend #	TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2021-020	2020-57-118	Congestion Mitigation	Gallatin ITS Phase 2	Gallatin	Add project
2021-021	2020-56-119	Active Transportation Program	Lock 4 Multiuse Trail	Gallatin	Add project
2021-022	2019-12-100	2821	Charlotte Pike (SR-24/US70) Widening from Near I-40 to Near Annex Ave/Hillwood Blvd	TDOT	Add funds; revise termini
2021-023	2017-12-012	2820; 2821	Charlotte Pike (SR-24) Widening Phase 1	TDOT	Add funds; revise termini
2021-024	2021-17-120	2829	I-24 SMART Corridor Phase 3	TDOT	Add project
2021-025	2021-17-121	2831	I-24 Open Roads Testbed	TDOT	Add project

b) COVID-Relief Funds Call-for-Projects

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, reminded members that these funds are to address coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacts related to HIP. He said that there is no federal match required and that the eligibility is similar to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG).

Mr. Pfalzer said that the staff recommends programming relief funds for lower cost projects that can be implemented quickly. The types of projects include roadway safety improvements, transportation technology upgrades, sidewalk connectivity and pedestrian improvements, and ADA related improvements. Within each project type, he listed potential activities that would qualify as candidate projects. He also noted that GNRC recommends a share of the funding be used to accelerate the acquisition of big data tools to improve transportation planning and system performance monitoring. The obligation date for the Nashville Urbanized Area (UZA) is September 20, 2024 and the obligation date for the Murfreesboro UZA is December 31, 2022.

The tentative schedule would have the TPB issue a call-for-projects on June 16, 2021. The process would conclude with the announcement of awards on September 15, 2021.

c) Proposed Amendments to the FYs 2020-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Pfalzer said that amendments include the addition of planning grants awarded by TDOT through a Residual 5303 call-for-projects and the Urban Transportation Planning Grant (UTPG). The two projects are nMotion Updates (WeGo/RTA/GNRC) and the Sumner County Bike/Ped Master Plan (Sumner County/TDOT). The amendments will be released for the required public review and comment period. The amendments are scheduled for adoption by the Transportation Policy Board at the June 16th meeting, after a public hearing.

d) Planned Activities for FYs 2022 and 2023 Work Program

Mr. Pfalzer said that the work program has a dual purpose: 1) coordinating planning for regionally significant transportation policies, plans, and programs and 2) prioritizing and programming federal planning grants in support of transportation goals across the metropolitan planning area.

The types of work and activities to be included are 1) outreach and engagement efforts, 2) research and data analysis, 3) policy coordination, and 4) funding. He provided an overview of planning activities underway, planned, and proposed. Planned activities include an upcoming regional freight study and regional traffic impact study.

The draft work program will be presented at the June TPB meeting. The draft document will be released for the required public review and comment period. Adoption by the TPB is scheduled for August 18, following a public hearing.

Regular Reports

a) FHWA and FTA Report

Mr. Sean Santalla thanked GNRC for providing the virtual meeting option.

He noted that US DOT released the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. The objectives of the discretionary grant program are to improve racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change, and create good paying jobs. There is approximately \$1 Billion available nationwide. There is a maximum award of \$25 million per project with a minimum match requirement of 20%. Eligible projects include capital and planning projects. The application deadline is July 12, 2021. More information on the funding opportunity, including a series of webinars, is available on USDOT's website at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Matt Meservy reminded the members of the upcoming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Grants. He said that eligible projects improve air quality or reduce congestion. The required match ranges from 0% to 20% depending on project type. Awards are scheduled to be announced in September/October 2021.

Mr. Meservy informed members that TDOT has released a new interactive project tracker, known as TDOT Interactive Tennessee Road Improvement Program (iTRIP). The application is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/longrange-data-visualization/gis-mapping-and-support.html>.

Mr. Meservy was asked if there were any updates on the Transportation Alternatives (TAP) or Multimodal Access Grant (MAG) program awards. Mr. Meservy said that he would get back to the policy board about that shortly.

Ms. Faye DiMassimo asked if the project tracker shows the phase of work of each project. Mr. Meservy responded that if the information is in PPRM it will be contained in the project tracker, but PPRM does not always have the most correct information. Mr. Jonathan Russell said that if there are questions about the tracker or a specific project to reach out to him for more information.

Mr. Michael Skipper asked what the universe of projects are that are included in the project tracker. Mr. Meservy said that the system includes all let or active projects.

c) Chair's Report

Mayor Vogle said that several members expressed interest in the idea of reintroducing intercity rail service to Middle Tennessee following Amtrak's presentation in March. He announced the formation of a working group led by City of Lebanon Mayor Rick Bell to pull together interested board members to discuss this idea further. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Mr. Pfalzer at spfalzer@gnrc.org.

d) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer said that GNRC hosted an FHWA workshop on pedestrian safety in late April that was well attended.

He also previewed the Public Safety Transportation Agency Safety Plan and noted that a resolution to support regional transit safety targets will be presented at next month's board meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Meservy announced that the TDOT Multimodal Access Grants are expected be announced in two weeks.

Mayor Vogle thanked Mayor Mary Esther Reed for her service as chair. He also thanked the GNRC staff for their hard work.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Date: 6/16/21

Billy Vogle

The Honorable Billy Vogle
Chairman, MPO Transportation Policy Board

Sean Pfalzer

Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Policy Board