



**Transportation  
Policy Board**

**\*11:00 A.M., Wed., August 16, 2023**

**TN State Library and Archives  
1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, Nashville, TN 37219**

**MORE INFO: [GNRC.org/Calendar](http://GNRC.org/Calendar)**

## **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**1. Call to Order; Approval of Meeting Minutes (A)**

**Billy Vogle**

*Board Chair*

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Action Items:**

**a. *Call for Projects: Carbon Reduction Program Funds* (A)**

Staff will present the process and timeline for soliciting project proposals and determining awards for the suballocated funding made available by the Carbon Reduction Program.

**Daniel Capparella**

*Transportation Planner*

**4. Informational Items:**

**a. No Informational Items**

**5. Regular Reports:**

**a. FHWA and FTA Report**

**b. TN Dept of Transportation Report**

**c. Chair's Report**

**d. Staff Report**

**FHWA Representative**

**TDOT Representative**

**Billy Vogle**

**Michael Skipper**

**6. Other Business**

**7. Adjourn**

\*The Transportation Policy Board will call to order at 11:00 a.m. or immediately following the 10:15 a.m. meeting of the Regional Council body, whichever occurs later.

(A) Indicates an attachment is available in the packet

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## **Agenda Item 1.**

# **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes for the Transportation Policy Board meeting held on 7/19/23 have been prepared for the Board's review and approval.

**ACTION: Approve Meeting Minutes**

# GNRC MEETING MINUTES

## Transportation Policy Board

### INFORMATION

**DATE:** July 19, 2023

**LOCATION:** TN State Library and Archives, 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, Nashville, TN 37201

**QUORUM:** Yes

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 10:20 a.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 11:28 a.m.

### ATTENDANCE

	<b>Members Present</b>
Davidson Representatives	Diana Alarcon (Metro Nashville), Jim Shulman (Metro Nashville), Addam McCormick (Goodlettsville), Steve Collie (Oak Hill)
Maury Representatives	Thad Jablonski (Columbia), Trent Linville (Spring Hill)
Robertson Representatives	Billy Vogle (County), Gerald Herman (White House)
Rutherford Representatives	Jason Cole (La Vergne), Bo Logan (La Vergne), Jim Kerr (Murfreesboro), Brian Hercules (Smyrna)
Sumner Representatives	Josh Suddath (County), Paige Brown (Gallatin), Jamie Clary (Hendersonville)
Williamson Representatives	Rogers Anderson (County), Lisa Anderson (Fairview), Ken Moore (Franklin), Jessica Salamida (Nolensville), Ken McLawhon (Thompson's Station)
Wilson Representatives	Tom Brashear (County), Rick Bell (Lebanon), Matthew White (Mt. Juliet)
Transit Representative	Billy Higgins (WeGo Public Transit)
County Highway Representative	
Federal Representative	Melanie Murphy (FHWA)
Governor's Representative	Matt Meservy (TDOT)
Board Secretary	Michael Skipper (GNRC)

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**Board Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board Chair**

## **AGENDA ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Billy Vogle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

**Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman moved to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Kerr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. Members of the public were reminded that comments can also be emailed to GNRC at [comments@gnrc.org](mailto:comments@gnrc.org).

## **AGENDA ITEM 3. ACTION ITEMS**

### **3a. PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution TPB-2023-11 Amending the FYs 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Daniel Capparella, GNRC Transportation Planner, presented eleven Cycle D amendments to the TIP. The requested amendments added \$20M in funding to the TIP. Eight of the amendments were as a result of the most recent Transportation Alternatives Program cycle awarded by TDOT.

Mayor Vogle opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Vogle closed the public hearing.

**Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the Resolution TPB-2023-11 Amending the Transportation Improvement Program with Mr. Ken McLawhon seconding. The motion passed unanimously.**

The audit can be found at [www.GNRC.org/audit](http://www.GNRC.org/audit).

### **3b. PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution TPB-2023-12 Adopting the FYs 2024-2025 Transportation Planning Work Program**

Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 24-25 Transportation Planning Work Program that outlines federally funded transportation planning activities or relevant studies to be carried out by GNRC staff, consultants and vendors, or partner organizations. He reminded members of the process to develop the Work Program that began in January and said that following adoption, the document would become effective on October 1, 2023. Mr. Skipper noted that staff is still awaiting comments from FHWA, which may result in minor changes to the Work Program. If any changes are significant, the Board will have an additional chance to review.

Mayor Vogle opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Vogle closed the public hearing.

**Mayor Moore moved to approve Resolution TPB-2023-12, Adopting the FYs 2024-2025 Transportation Planning Work Program. The motion passed unanimously on the second by Mayor Lisa Anderson.**

## AGENDA ITEM 4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 4a. Statewide Partnership Program Funding Opportunity

Mr. Matt Meservy, Director of TDOT Long Range Planning Division, provided information on the Statewide Partnership Program, part of the Transportation Modernization Act, to support local jurisdictions in maximizing their funding dollars for critical transportation investment.

He said that eligible projects must be included in the MPO/RPO Transportation Plans and address the following improvements:

- Capacity (e.g., lane addition, roadway extension)
- ITS/System Operations (e.g., technology upgrades, operational improvements that do not involve significant additional capacity)
- Safety (e.g., roadway geometric, design, or operational improvements targeted to an identified safety need)
- Major bridge projects (e.g., replacement or reconstruction)
- Major pavement project (e.g., rehab or reconstruction)

He pointed out that urban and rural interstate projects already under consideration are not eligible.

Mr. Meservy also reviewed the project intake system application and the information necessary to complete the application process. He said TDOT will compile a list of projects identified by municipal and county governments through this application process. The candidate projects will be evaluated through an objective and performance-based approach. TDOT will notify applicants of funding awards, if any, in concert with the upcoming (Fiscal Year 25-27) three-year plan. He said that the deadline for applications is Friday, August 4, 2023.

Mayor Moore asked if a local funding commitment is important in the application process. Mr. Meservy said that, yes, that is what TDOT is looking for to help push phases along in the development process. Mr. Skipper asked if there is a possibility of using the funding already available on projects experiencing cost overruns sooner than December. Mr. Meservy said to, it will not be possible since it is not clear how much funding will be allocated to the program.

### 4b. Suballocated Carbon Reduction Program Funds

Mr. Capparella presented details of a new program to reduce transportation emissions. He said eligible projects include ITS, electrification upgrades, vehicle-to-vehicle infrastructure, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and street lighting and traffic signal upgrades. The match requirement is 20% non-federal (limited exceptions for 0% match) and must be obligated within four years of apportionment. He said that there is \$13.8 million available for the Nashville-Davidson Urbanized Area, and \$1.9 million available for the Murfreesboro Urbanized Area.

Mr. Capparella reviewed the staff's recommendation for funding prioritization and the timeline for programming.

*Prioritization:* Make funds available for use on existing TIP projects where CMAQ, TAP, and MMAG funds are insufficient to cover costs to move toward implementation.

*Timeline:*

- Month 1: TPB issues call-for-projects; jurisdictions and agencies submit application to GNRC
- Month 2: GNRC staff conducts project evaluations
- Month 3: TPB considers award recommendations and associated TIP amendments

Mr. Skipper said that this was not an action item for this meeting. However, the staff is willing to accelerate the process if directed to move forward with a call-for-projects by the board today.

There was discussion about types of eligible projects, and Mr. Skipper said that CMAQ projects are eligible for this program.

Ms. Diana Alarcon, Director, Nashville Department of Transportation, asked if this information had been shared with the TCC members to bring it back to each jurisdiction for internal conversations. Mr. Skipper confirmed it had been shared with TCC members and clarified that staff did not present this for action today because they understood members likely would need to discuss it internally. He explained the timeline for the board to take action and stated that staff recommends using these funds to move forward on projects needing extra funds rather than new projects. Mr. Meservy reminded the members that there is a quick turnaround of four years to use these funds. There was a discussion regarding the region's history of obligating funds once awarded to projects. Mr. Skipper noted that further discussion on that topic was slated for later in the agenda.

Mr. Jim Kerr, City of Murfreesboro, asked if there was a way to accelerate the timeline for jurisdictions that know what projects they want to move forward. Mr. Skipper confirmed that it would be possible to convene the stakeholders in the Murfreesboro UZA to reach a consensus on how to use those suballocated funds for projects that have cost overruns. He said the board would still have to approve the award and process the TIP amendment. The other option for moving forward with the Murfreesboro UZA funds is to couple it with the programming decision for the Nashville UZA. He said that staff is comfortable facilitating the conversation with Murfreesboro UZA stakeholder separate from the process for the Nashville UZA funds or moving forward sooner by starting the call-for-projects for both pots of money at the same time given the considerable need on existing projects that are eligible for this funding source. There isn't enough time to start new projects.

Ms. Alarcon asked if the TPB could have a meeting to move this forward more quickly. Mr. Skipper said yes and that it could be held following the August Regional Council meeting, and by doing so, the timeline would be shortened by a month.

**No objections being noted, Mr. Skipper, acting as Board secretary, indicated that he would convene a special called meeting on August 16 to occur immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting of the Regional Council body.**

#### 4c. Federal Aid Urban Boundary

Mr. Max Baker, GNRC Director of Research and Analytics, presented information on an update to the Federal Aid Urban Boundary (FAUB). He explained that the Federal Highway Administration requires that states and MPOs review and update their Federal Functional Classification and

FAUB for their respective planning areas after each U.S. Decennial Census. He said the FAUB determines whether a roadway will be classified as urban or rural. Those roads within the FAUB are urban, and those outside are rural.

Mr. Baker listed the key changes as a result of the 2020 designations are:

- The Columbia Urban Cluster merged with Columbia-Mt. Pleasant small UA
- The Fairview Urban Cluster was eliminated
- The Mt. Pleasant Urban Cluster merged with Columbia-Mt. Pleasant small UA
- The Spring Hill Urban Cluster transitioned to a large UA
- The White House Urban Cluster divided from Nashville US into a new small UA

He said that GNRC is currently working with local governments and agencies to adjust the FAUB to correspond to local conditions. The draft FAUB is due to TDOT for state review in August. The final draft of the FAUB will be presented to the TPB for endorsement in September. The referenced maps and more information is available at [www.gnrc.org/Maps/FederalAid](http://www.gnrc.org/Maps/FederalAid).

## **AGENDA ITEM 5. REGULAR REPORTS**

### **5a. Federal Report**

Ms. Murphy, FHWA, shared deadlines for upcoming discretionary grant programs.

- August 21 for the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant program, a joint funding opportunity covering three programs for \$5.5B on the Infra, Mega, and the Rural Service Transportation Grant program.
- September 28 for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and Neighborhood Access and Equity Program for \$3B.

Mr. Skipper noted that details related to the grant information Ms. Murphy shared is available [www.gnrc.org/grants](http://www.gnrc.org/grants).

She said that the FY 23-26 STIP had been approved. She indicated that federal comments on the Transportation Planning Work Program were to be provided on 7/19/23 and that she did not anticipate any of those comments requiring additional action from the Board relative to its adoption.

### **5b. TDOT Report**

There was not TDOT report.

### **5c. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's report.

### **5d. Staff Report**

Mr. Skipper gave an overview of the TIP status report that will be provided at every meeting moving forward. Mr. Skipper explained that the TIP Status Report tracks the performance of the Transportation Improvement Program for FYs 2023-2026.

He reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and the anticipated agenda items:

*August 16 Regional Council Body*

- Update to GNRC Revolving Loan Fund Plan
- Report on Solid Waste Strike Force Activities
- Information about TDEC Brownfields Grant Program

*September 20 Transportation Policy Board*

- Adopt TIP Amendments
- TIP Status Report
- Project Delivery Task Force Recommendations
- Updates on Regional Planning Activities

*October 18 Regional Council Body*

- Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Information about Available Grant Opportunities

**AGENDA ITEM 6. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was introduced.

**AGENDA ITEM 7. ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



## Agenda Item 3a.

### **Call for Projects: Carbon Reduction Program**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also referred to as the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted in November 2021 appropriated approximately \$6.4 billion across the country to reduce transportation emissions.

Of the \$6.4 billion, the Nashville metropolitan planning area has been suballocated \$15.7 million through FY 2026 to include \$13.8 million for the Nashville-Davison Urbanized Area and \$1.9 million for the Murfreesboro Urbanized Area.

**The Transportation Policy Board is being asked to issue a call for projects for this program in order to solicit proposals from member jurisdictions and transportation agencies within Davidson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties.**

Eligible projects include ITS, electrification upgrades, vehicle to vehicle infrastructure, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and street lighting and traffic signal upgrades.

**To apply, visit [www.gnrc.org/grants/transportation](http://www.gnrc.org/grants/transportation)**

Staff recommends two phases for the call for projects in order to prioritize funding apportioned in FYs 2022 and 2023 for use on existing TIP projects where CMAQ, TAP, and MMAG funds are insufficient to cover cost overruns.

#### **Phase I: Funding for Existing Projects**

- Phase I Application Available: August 16, 2023
- Phase I Application Deadline: September 1, 2023
- Phase I Award Recommendations: September 20, 2023

#### **Phase II: Funding for New Projects**

- Phase II Application Available: September 20, 2023
- Phase II Application Deadline: November 30, 2023
- Phase II Award Recommendations: January 17, 2024

**ACTION: Issue Call for Projects**