

MINUTES
of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
January 18, 2023

Attendees: Ms. Diana Alarcon (for Mayor John Cooper), Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mr. Andy Barlow (for Mayor James Maness), Mayor Rick Bell, Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Mike Callis, Mayor Joe Carr, Mayor Jamie Clary, Mr. Preston Elliott (for Gov. Bill Lee), Mr. Tim Ellis (for Mayor Rusty Tinnin), Mr. Wayne Hall (for Mayor Lisa Anderson), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Farris Bibb), Mr. Eddie Hood, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mr. Ken McLawhon (for Mayor Brian Stover), Mayor Ken Moore, Mr. Andrew Pieri (for Mayor Tommy Long), Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Vice-Mayor Jessica Salamida (for Mayor Halie Gallik), Mr. Sean Santalla, Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to Order and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mayor Billy Vogel, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Mayor Randall Hutto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

a. Annual Meeting Calendar

Mayor Vogle said that the meeting schedule for the TPB for 2023 is that the board will meet on the 3rd Wednesday in the odd numbered months at 10:15 a.m. at the TN State Archives building. He noted that the meeting schedule for all of the GNRC boards and committees was in the meeting packet. For more information go to:
www.gnrc.org/calendar

Mayor Moore moved to adopt the 2023 meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Eddie Hood seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Officers

Mayor Mary Esther Reed thanked the other members of the nominating committee, Mayor Paige Brown and Mayor Randall Hutto, for their work. On behalf of the nominating committee, Mayor

Reed presented the slate of officers, Mayor Billy Vogle of Robertson County for Chair and Mayor Mike Callis of the City of Portland for Vice-Chair. There were no nominations from the floor.

Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman moved to elect the slate as presented with Mayor Moore seconding. The slate of nominees was elected unanimously.

c. Resolution TPB 2023-04 Regional Safety Targets

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, provided background information on the regional safety performance targets. He noted that since 2021, the TPB has elected to set its own safety targets based on its goals of reduced fatalities, injuries, and crashes by 2045.

Ms. Ashleigh Glasscock, Senior Research Analyst, gave a brief overview of regional safety targets. She presented the targets and said that the region has missed targets for number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. She said that we do not know the rates for fatalities and serious injuries, and therefore cannot determine whether or not the region has met those targets. Once Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data becomes available, staff will communicate whether or not those targets are met.

Mayor Jamie Clary asked why the numbers were going in the wrong direction. Ms. Glasscock said that there are a number of factors such as demographic and driving behaviors. She said that there are a lot of speeding related crashes involving young drivers and people not wearing seatbelts. Mr. Gerald Herman asked if the response time for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) is included because their response time may impact the fatality rate. Ms. Glasscock said that this data will be looked at when it is received. Mr. Andrew Pieri asked if there is a sliding scale for increases in volume on the road versus the ability to meet the targets. Ms. Glasscock said that the idea behind the targets is that you see an increase in volume so you expect to see more fatalities, but hopefully other actions will lower the number of fatalities. Mr. Pfalzer said that during the pandemic we saw a drop in vehicle miles travelled (VMT), but still experienced a spike in fatalities and serious injuries.

Mayor Joe Carr asked if miles driven is measured. Ms. Glasscock said that the miles traveled will be analyzed once data is received. Mayor Vogle said that driving fast into interstate construction zones can be a big problem.

Mr. Pfalzer said that the requested action of the Board is to approve Resolution TPB 2023-04 Regional Safety Targets. Mayor Clary moved to adopt Resolution TPB 2023-04 Regional Safety Targets. Vice-Mayor Shulman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

d. TDOT 3-Year Work Program – Regional Rankings

Mr. Pfalzer gave an overview of TDOT's 3-year work program and said that TDOT has provided a list of candidate projects that it is considering for the upcoming work program. He noted that DOT is seeking input from MPOs and RPOs to help them prioritize candidate projects. Since 2015, the TPB has ranked candidate projects according to scoring from the adopted Regional Transportation Plan with priority given to projects that are more shovel-ready.

Mr. Pfalzer said that there are 59 proposed projects that will need approximately \$3 billion to build. Mr. Pfalzer said that the ranked list of candidate projects will be sent to TDOT. He said that the list is based on the methodology used over the past few years. The GNRC feedback will align the projects with the RPT and the TIP. He said that local feedback regarding community expectations for design, sequencing, construction mitigation and other suggestions is important and to send all feedback to Ms. Anna Emerson at aemerson@gnrc.org

Mayor Moore said that when he looked at the list, he noted that TDOT needs to look at sequencing the projects in a different way. He mentioned Mack Hatcher Parkway and SR-6 as specific projects examples of opportunities to sequence these projects in a better way. He also asked that correspondence be attached to the ranking list emphasizing the importance of sequencing of projects.

Mr. Andy Barlow said that there are no ranking numbers on the first page of the listings. Mr. Pfalzer said that TDOT identifies projects already committed in the list and these are on the first page.

Mayor Moore moved to endorse the regional ranking of the projects proposed by TDOT for the 3-Year Work Program. The motion passed unanimously on the second by Mayor Clary.

Informational Items

a. TDOT's Build With Us Proposal

Mr. Michael Skipper thanked Deputy Governor and TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley for attending today's meeting.

Commissioner Eley said that over the last few months he has talked with members about the critical juncture for transportation infrastructure in Tennessee. He said that transportation is utilized every day, providing access to health care, education, jobs, and every aspect of life.

Commissioner Eley said that the key challenges are safety, congestion, delivery, and workforce. He said that safety should be our first consideration when improving infrastructure. There is tremendous growth in the region, but it comes with challenges. He said that there is a growing gap between where we are and where we need to be. The investments that we need to be making daily are in congestion, project delivery, and workforce.

The Commissioner said that congestion studies have been done in all of the major urban areas. He said that TDOT is looking at what can be done in this legislative session because we "can't kick the can down the road" any longer. Actions taken now will determine where we are in the future. He said that the State is still working through the IMPROVE Act. He said that there are still approximately \$16 billion worth of projects that still need to be completed. He said that a tax increase and debt will not likely be seen in this legislative session.

He said that \$26 billion in investments has been identified to address congestion, however only \$1.2 billion is available annually in the TDOT Annual Work Program. Of the \$1.2 billion, more than half is dedicated towards maintenance. Thus, only \$500 million is available for new construction each year to address congestion issues. Currently, on average, it takes 15 years to complete a project.

Commissioner Eley said that the numbers do not work. Many states are utilizing Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to design and build new lanes which frees up state funds for more projects in rural communities.

Commissioner Eley said that Choice Lanes is our solution. These lanes are not traditional toll roads but are managed lanes to allow people a choice to drive on it. He said that every state that has done this has seen tremendous advantages to transit (which can use the choice lanes) by increasing a reduction in travel times, and an increase in ridership. TDOT would always maintain ownership of these lanes.

Paving new roads is not the only answer. He said that we need to integrate components of park and ride lots, bus on shoulder, and other options. We also need to look at expanding technology on roadways.

Commissioner Eley said that Build With Us also includes Alternative Delivery. There have been internal changes within TDOT toward a goal of reducing the delivery time of projects from 15 years to 5 years.

The Commissioner said that the gas tax cannot sustain what we need to be able to continue to grow. TDOT is creating parity between combustion engine vehicles and electric vehicles. This allows TDOT to keep the same pace building and maintaining roads.

He said that TDOT needs help from the local mayors with the legislature to get them to address the challenges. More information is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/build-with-us.html>

Mr. Skipper thanked Commissioner Eley for being at the meeting and providing this information to the board.

Mayor Moore said that this change of course is exciting. He asked the staff to draft a resolution for the Regional Council to fully understand and support these proposals to address congestion. Mr. Skipper said that staff would bring this to the next meeting.

Mayor Carr asked for specifics for helping with the legislature. Commissioner Eley said that each jurisdiction has its own responsibilities and potential solutions and that it is important to communicate with constituents. He said that TDOT needs to be a good repository of answers to the issues that communities are facing.

The Commissioner said that Choice Lanes have been successful in other states. He said that large projects now must be broken up into smaller pieces which affects citizens for years. At present, TDOT cannot effectively complete large projects at one time because of the cost. With a Public-Private partnership this can be done, and the money can be spent on other projects.

Mayor Clary asked what are the downsides of this approach that we can expect to hear when presenting to the general public. The Commissioner said that some in the public will say that we do not need private sector involvement but that instead taxes should be raised. He said that even the huge backlog of IMPROVE Act funds does not address congestion. There is a fear of international companies being involved. Contracts now are a partnership with private sectors and TDOT makes sure that the roads are built to a certain standard. Delivery has been done successfully in other states.

Regular Reports

a) FHWA and FTA Report

Mr. Sean Santalla introduced two new planners, Ms. Melanie Murphy and Mr. Zach Coleman. He said that Ms. Murphy is now the main point of contact at FHWA for MPO members and staff within the region.

He said that USDOT released a notice of funding opportunity for the RAISE program which is \$1.5 billion. The applications for projects with local or regional significance are due Feb. 28, 2023. Mayor Moore asked if these funds can be used for design. Mr. Santalla said yes it can be used for all phases.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Preston Elliot said that the data analysis used in the Regional Transportation Plan and transportation model was very informative for TDOT's Congestion Action Plans.

He introduced Mr. Jay Norris, the new Assistant Chief Engineer/Director for Region 3, Mr. Shane Hester, Director of Project Development Region 3, and Mr. Shaun Armstrong as the Assistant Director Project Management Region 3.

He also noted that TDOT is reorganizing the department to better serve the state in getting projects done more quickly.

c) Chair's Report

Mayor Vogle thanked the members for choosing him again as the Chair and for all of the help that each member gives not only to him but to each other.

d) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer said that in the development of the new Transportation Planning Work Program (UPWP), staff is requesting that TPB members submit information about relevant local or

subregional planning efforts and suggest regional priorities that should be examined as part of the regional work program. He requested members to take a survey at www.gnrc.org/survey/upwp by February 15.

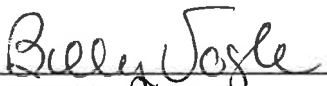
Mr. Pfalzer previewed the upcoming meetings through April. He said that more information is available at www.gnrc.org/calendar

He announced that the GNRC offices have moved to 44 Vantage Way, Nashville, TN, and that all staff are now located in one place.

Other Business

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Date: 3/15/23



The Honorable Billy Vogle
Chairman, MPO Transportation Policy Board



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Policy Board