

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

January 6, 2021

Attendees: Mr. Andy Barlow, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Felix Castrodad, Mr. Ceagus Clark, Mr. Marc Corrigan, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Chuck Downham, Ms. Margot Fosnes, Mr. Grant Green, Mr. Glenn Harper, Mr. Mike Harris, Ms. Billy Higgins, Mr. Reed Hillen, Mr. Joe Horne, Ms. Katrina Jones, Mr. Jim Kerr, Mr. Jonathan Marston, Mr. Bill McCord, Ms. Kealan Millies-Lucke, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Jonathan Russell, Mr. Sean Santalla, Mr. Matt Schenk, Mr. Marty Sewell, Mr. Josh Suddath, Mr. Alex West

Approval of 12/2/20 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Glenn Harper, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Bill McCord moved to approve the December 2, 2020 meeting minutes with a minor amendment to the Urban Transportation Planning Grant application details. Mr. Jonathan Russell seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Endorse Draft 2045 RTP for Public Review and Comment

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager and MPO Coordinator, provided an overview of the draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan that staff is preparing for public review and comment. He noted that FHWA and TDOT have completed their compliance review and described how staff is working to address comments from state and federal partners. Staff is actively working with TDOT to ensure that the Plan is fiscally constrained by incorporating updates to funding source and time horizon for projects. The draft document will be out for required 30-day public review and comment period with a public hearing and adoption scheduled for the February 17, 2021 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting.

Mr. Kevin Rigsby asked why some of the locally submitted projects by the Town of Smyrna were included in the last RTP but not contained in the fiscally-constrained list of the draft RTP. Mr. Pfalzer identified that several factors have contributed to fewer locally submitted projects in the draft Plan, including cost increases to IMPROVE Act

projects, a heavy reliance on federal funds for IMPROVE Act projects, and more modest revenue assumptions (2% annual revenue growth for draft 2045 RTP versus 4% annual revenue growth for 2040 RTP).

Mr. Jonathan Russell noted that the cost estimates for IMPROVE Act projects are significantly more than initially expected. Mr. McCord asked if IMPROVE Act revenue was always intended to be utilized for matching federal funds and how much funding within the draft RTP is allocated to IMPROVE Act projects. He also expressed concern in a trend of fewer local priorities on the fiscally-constrained list of projects. Mr. Pfalzer indicated that he would follow up on the share of IMPROVE Act projects as part of all investments in the RTP.

Mr. Felix Castrodad expressed concern in the shift in funding source for the IMPROVE Act projects and recommended that TDOT be prepared to address the topic in more detail at the Transportation Planning Board meeting. Mr. Russell said that TDOT will be there and address the issue.

Mr. McCord moved to endorse the draft 2045 RTP for public review and comment with Mr. Josh Suddath seconding. The motion passed with Ms. Billy Higgins and Mr. Kevin Rigsby voting no. Mr. McCord clarified that his motion was not to endorse the draft list of projects, but to endorse the draft Plan for public review and comment.

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.

Overview of Urban Transportation Planning Grant

Mr. Jonathan Russell, TDOT Office of Community Transportation, gave a brief overview of the pilot grant program to assist local governments located within the MPO planning area. There is \$2.2 million available statewide with a max award of \$200,000. The minimum local match requirement is 10%. He said that applications are due on Friday, January 15. For questions on the grant program or application, contact Jonathan at Jonathan.russell@tn.gov

Regular Reports

a) Federal Report

Mr. Sean Santalla said that the latest COVID relief funding had infrastructure funding but does not yet have the details. He said that FHWA awarded an Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant to Metro Nashville to improve transit headways and manage congestion along the Charlotte Pike corridor.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Jonathan Russell said that if anyone has questions about the Urban Transportation Planning Grant program to contact him at Jonathan.russell@tn.gov

c) Chair's Report

Mr. Harper said he did not have anything to report.

d) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer said that the GNRC's Butler's Run office had no significant damage within the office due to the Christmas Day bombing. He said that the structure is being assessed and at this time the staff does not have access to the building.

Mr. Pfalzer said that GNRC hired 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 \$211 million to Tennessee. The funds do not require local or state match, but must be obligated by September 30, 2024. Of the state allocation, the Nashville area has been suballocated \$18.2 million. There were several clarifying questions that were asked and answered.

Ms. Emerson said that the 2021 TIP amendment schedule is posted on the GNRC website at <https://www.gnrc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1802/2021-TIP-Amend-Cycle-Schedule>

She said that the 2021 meeting schedule is also available on the GNRC website at www.gnrc.org/calendar

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Date: 2/3/2021



Glenn Harper, Chair
Transportation Coordinating Committee



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Coordinating Committee