

MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
February 17, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mayor Rick Bell, Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Mike Callis, Mayor Jamie Clary, Ms. Faye DiMassimo (for Mayor John Cooper), Mr. Preston Elliott (for Gov. Bill Lee), Mr. Tim Ellis (for Mayor Rusty Tinnin), Mayor Rick Graham, Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold) Mayor Anthony Holt, Mr. Eddie Hood, Ms. Gina Head (for Mayor Ann Schneider), Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Ms. Pam Kordenbrock, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Derek Adams), Mr. Kenny Martin (for Mayor James Maness), Mayor Ken Moore, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to order and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Mayor Rick Graham moved to approve the January 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor Billy Vogle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

a) Public Hearing: Resolution TPB 2021-01 Approving Major Update to the Regional Transportation Plan for 2021-2045

Mayor Reed said that this update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. She reviewed the timeline and milestones of the RTP process and introduced the plan.

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager & MPO Coordinator, explained the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the RTP process. He said that while GNRC was able to meet the federal deadline to prevent interruption in funding, staff had to convert outreach to virtual events and the overall plan resulted in a scaling back of grand projects in order to focus on immediate concerns and priorities. He said that the GNRC is still committed to relaunching the solvethistogether.org initiative. He reiterated the federal requirements of the Regional

Transportation Plan and noted that the Executive Summary is available at https://www.gnrc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1902/MidTNConnected_2021_2045.

Mr. Pfalzer then summarized the funding recommendations in the plan. He said that the plan includes \$10.5 billion over the next 25 years. He said that 35% of the funding is set aside into programs for projects to be determined later and that 65% of funding is allocated to specific projects over the life of the plan. Additionally, he said that 72% of funding is for Tennessee Improve Act projects and that 50% of funding is dedicated to prior commitments.

Mr. Pfalzer gave an overview of projects by planning horizon, funding source, and applicant. He noted that investments are equitable across counties based on population, vehicle miles traveled, and the amount of infrastructure within those counties. He summarized the common themes through public outreach and stakeholder engagement and noted the different ways in which participants engaged in the RTP process, whether it was through the website, meetings and workshops, presentations, or downloading draft plan content. He then mentioned the public comments that were submitted both by survey and written comments. He said that there is a need for dedicated funding and more multimodal investment. He said key takeaways of the Plan are that the region is largely dependent on federal funds and it is difficult to move the needle on congestion, even with significant investments in roadway capacity.

Mayor Reed opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Reed closed the public hearing.

Mayor Ken Moore congratulated Mayor Reed and the staff for the great job they had done to complete this update. He said that the mayors need to continue to collaborate, engage in innovations, and find a way to generate more revenue.

There were a couple of clarifying questions and comments.

Mayor Reed thanked all who participated in the update.

Mayor Moore moved to adopt Resolution TPB 2021-01 Approving Major Update to the Regional Transportation Plan for 2021-2045 with Mayor Graham seconding. The motion unanimously passed.

b) Resolutions TPB 201-02, 03, and 04 Updating Regional Performance Targets in Accordance with Federal Law

Mr. Pfalzer went over the background of Performance Measures Targets for roadway safety, infrastructure condition, and system performance. He said that staff recommends regional targets for roadway safety and supporting state targets for infrastructure condition and system performance.

Ms. Ashleigh Reeves, Senior Research Analyst, briefly went over the proposed regional targets for serious injuries, fatalities and non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Mayor Moore moved to adopt the Resolution TPB 2021-02 Adopting Regional Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Lay, and passed unanimously.

Mayor Billy Vogle moved to adopt Resolution TPB 2021-03 Supporting the State of Tennessee 4-year Infrastructure Condition Performance Targets. Mr. Gerald Herman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lay moved to adopt Resolution TPB 2021-04 Supporting the State of Tennessee 4-year Highway System Performance Targets. On the second by Mayor Graham the motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

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

Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, presented Cycle B Amendments to the TIP listed below. She said that the amendments will undergo the required public review and comment period with adoption by the Transportation Policy Board scheduled for March 17th.

Amend #	TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2021-014	2019-32-093	1632-168	I-65 Widening from SR-25 to SR-109	TDOT	Add funds
2021-015	2021-17-114	Multimodal	Charlotte Ave (SR-24/US70)/Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd Connected Transit Technology	Metro Nashville	Add project
2021-016	2021-44-115	Safety	Veterans Pkwy/I-840 Interchange Lighting Project	Murfreesboro	Add project
2021-017	2021-44-116	Safety	Joe B. Jackson Pkwy/I-24 Interchange Lighting	Murfreesboro	Add project
2021-018	2015-111-069	Active Transportation Program	North Nashville Transit Center	Nashville MTA (WeGo)	Add funds
2021-019	2021-811-117	Multimodal	Regional Park & Ride Facility	RTA (WeGo)	Add project

b) Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers

Mayor Reed named Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Randall Hutto, and Mayor Ken Moore to the Nominating Committee to recommend a slate candidates for new officers. The staff will coordinate a time for discussion. The election of the new officers is scheduled for March 17th.

Regular Reports

a) FHWA and FTA Report

Ms. Pam Kordenbrock said that Pete Buttigieg has been confirmed as the new USDOT Secretary of Transportation. The priorities identified are COVID response, economic relief, climate change, and equity. She also noted that Ms. Stephanie Pollack has been confirmed as the FHWA Deputy Administrator, and anticipated that she will be nominated as the Administrator.

Ms. Kordenbrock said that the \$10 Billion COVID-19 relief funding has been released. She said that the State will receive \$210 million, with \$7.9 million suballocated to the Nashville Area MPO. The expiration date to obligate the funds is September 30, 2024.

She also said the \$2 billion in Highway Infrastructure Program funds have been released and Tennessee will receive \$30 million.

Ms. Kordenbrock said that the expectations for the next round of Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) have been sent to the MPOs. The new UPWP will take effect on October 1, 2021.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Preston Elliott thanked Mayor Reed for her leadership in the update of the RTP. He also thanked the staff for all the hard work with all the challenges of getting it done this past year. He also said that he appreciated the work done on the performance measures and the TIP.

He said that TDOT sent a letter outlining the COVID relief funding to the MPOs. This letter was included in the meeting packet. There is also information about the HIP funding in the packet. He said that funds have an expiration date of 2024. TDOT will assist the staff in any way.

Mr. Elliott said that federal funds are a backstop and they will help TDOT address the lack of gas tax revenue from last year.

Mr. Matt Meservy said that TDOT received 22 applications for the Urban Transportation Planning Grant program. The Nashville MPO received one award – the Sumner County Bike/Ped Master Plan. He said that TDOT is in the process of advertising with their on-call consultants for these 10 projects and proposals are due March 1st.

Mayor Vogle said he had heard that some of the in-state gambling funds will be used for infrastructure. Mr. Elliott said that he was not aware of that but will check into it.

c) Chair's Report

Mayor Reed said that she was proud of the work done over the past year on the RTP and the day-to-day work of the staff. She said that a lot more work needs to be done to address challenges and collaboration is needed.

She said that the hard work by the staff makes a difference in the lives of the region's citizens.

She thanked all the Board members and the staff for all they do daily to make sure this area is a place that people want to call home.

d) Staff Report

Ms. Emerson recapped the COVID-19 Relief funding amounts, and noted that the revised letter included \$9.8 billion available to states with Tennessee's estimated allocation at \$210 million.

For Tennessee MPOs with populations over 200,000, the estimated suballocation is \$22.4 million, with \$7.9 million at 100% federal share for the Nashville Area. The expiration date to obligate these funds is September 30, 2024.

Mr. Pfalzer said that staff will kick off discussion of the UPWP at the March TPB meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, thanked the TPB members for their focus on transportation issues over the last year. He said that he is proud of the staff and thanked Mr. Pfalzer for his lead.

He said GNRC has hired Ms. Candi Henry as the new Chief Legal Counsel.

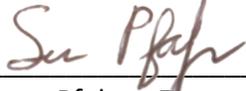
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

03/17/2021

Date:



The Honorable Mary Esther Reed
Chair, MPO Transportation Policy Board



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
MPO Coordinator