

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

June 2, 2021

Attendees: Mr. Andy Barlow, Mr. Jonathan Boghozian, Mr. Russ Brashear, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Felix Castrodad, Ms. Ceagus Clark, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Keith Free, Mr. Glenn Harper, Mr. Jim Kerr, Ms. Lori Lange, Mr. Bo Logan, Mr. Jonathan Marston, Mr. Bill McCord, Mr. Addam McCormick, Mr. Andrew Pieri, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Jonathan Russell, Mr. Marty Sewell, Mr. Alex West

Mr. Glenn Harper, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Amendment to the FYs 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, presented Cycle C amendments to the FYs 2020-23 TIP listed below. The amendments are currently out for the required public review and comment period prior to the June 16th public hearing and adoption by the Transportation Policy Board.

Mr. Bill McCord, Planner for the City of Gallatin, asked if a planning report or feasibility study was done for the Charlotte Pike widening project. Mr. Jonathan Russell, TDOT, said that there was a report done on the project and that TDOT will be making that available in the near future.

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	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 Avenue/Hillwood Boulevard	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

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

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, presented the proposed amendments to the FYs 2020-21 UPWP that include the addition of planning grants awarded by TDOT through a residual 5303 Call-for-projects and the initial round of the Urban Transportation Planning Grant (UTPG). The 5303 award to WeGo/RTA/GNRC will fund an update to nMotion, the strategic plan for transit in Middle Tennessee and the UTPG will fund a Bike/Ped Plan for Sumner County. Mr. Pfalzer said that there is a local match required for each of the local governments receiving funding through this grant program, and that it is a 10% local match. The amendments are currently out for the required public review and comment period prior to the June 16th public hearing and adoption by the Transportation Policy Board.

Mr. Bill McCord, City of Gallatin, asked why the UTPG projects are being added to the UPWP. Mr. Sean Pfalzer, GNRC, said that he is aware that the project has an ambitious timeline and that the MPO wanted to ensure this effort is captured in the UPWP so as to not slow down authorization of funding for the project.

Mr. Sean Santalla, FHWA, said that this project has also been amended into the State's work program, and that FHWA has satisfied the documents that are required for federal authorization.

Transit Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Daniel Capparella, Active Transportation Planner, provided an overview of transit safety performance targets and the responsibilities of transit agencies and MPO as part of FTA performance-based planning requirements. He stated that all public transportation providers are required to develop public transportation agency safety plans and establish safety targets based on the following measures:

- Fatality: Total number of fatalities reported to NTD and rate per total vehicle revenue miles (VRM) by mode
- Injury: Total number of injuries reported to NTD and rate per total VRM by mode.
- Safety Event: Total number of safety events reported to NTD and rate per total VRM by mode.
- System Reliability: Mean distance between major mechanical failures by mode

He also said that MPOs are required to adopt transit safety targets specific to the MPO planning area. Below are the proposed transit safety targets for the transit agencies located within the Nashville Area MPO.

Mode of Transit Service	Fatalities (total)	Fatalities (per 100 thousand VRM)	Injuries (total)	Injuries (per 100 thousand VRM)	Safety Events (total)	Safety Events (per 100 thousand VRM)	System Reliability (VRM / failures)
WeGo Public Transit							
Fixed Route Bus	0	0	35	.55	24	.45	5,500
Demand Response Bus	0	0	6	.27	6	.26	24,800
Demand Response Taxi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) dba WeGo Public Transit							
Commuter Bus – Contracted – Gray Line	0	0	0	0	1	.29	23,500
Vanpool – Contracted – The TMA Group	0	0	0	0	1	.21	N/A
Franklin Transit Authority (TMA Group)							
Fixed Route	0	0	3	1.4	3	1.4	17,000
Demand Response	0	0	1	1.3	1	1.3	20,000
Murfreesboro Rover							
Fixed Route	0	0	2	0.82	2	0.82	49,018

Mr. Bill McCord, City of Gallatin, asked how safety events are defined. Mr. Felix Castrodad, WeGo Public Transit, said that safety events refer to collisions, derailment, fire, hazardous spills, vehicle evacuation, or one or more persons requiring medical attention.

Mr. Tom Brashear, Wilson County, asked if system reliability would be improved based on the proposed targets. Ms. Billy Higgins, WeGo Public Transit, said that the target reflect system reliability. Tom asked what injuries are captured in the targets. Felix said that injuries include any transit-related injury reported to the National Transit Database (NTD).

Mr. Tom Brashear, Wilson County, asked if these targets include commuter rail service. Mr. Castrodad said no, these targets only include bus and vanpool service.

COVID Relief Funds Call-for-Projects

Mr. Pfalzer said that the COVID relief funding was appropriated through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (HIP-CRRSAA). The purpose is to provide funding to address coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacts related to HIP. There is no federal match required and the eligibility is similar to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG).

He said that the Nashville UZA was awarded \$7.9 million that must be obligated by September 30, 2024. The Murfreesboro UZA was awarded \$0.8 million and the obligation deadline is December 31, 2022. He also said that more suitable projects include the following based on the survey that was sent out last month:

- Roadway Safety Improvements
- Transportation Technology Upgrades
- Sidewalk Connectivity and Pedestrian Improvements
- ADA Related Improvements

Mr. Pfalzer said that the 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.

Mr. Pfalzer showed the application components and noted that there will be a pre-application consisting of a project description, schedule, budget, and point of contact.

A formal call-for-projects will be issued by the TPB at their June meeting and the grants will be awarded in September. Below is a tentative schedule for the call for projects.

- June 16 – Transportation Policy Board to Issue Call for Projects
- June 23- July 14 – Open Pre-Application Period
- July 15- July 28 – Evaluation of Pre-Applications
- August 2- August 20 – Open Formal Application Period
- August 23- September 10 – Evaluation of Formal Applications
- September 15 – Announce Awards

Mr. Jim Kerr, City of Murfreesboro, asked if these projects will go through TDOT local programs as usual. Ms. Anna Emerson, GNRC, said that yes projects will go through the typical project development process through TDOT local programs.

Mr. Pfalzer was asked if there is a local match required. He said that it depends on the submissions and how much funding is requested.

Presentation of the 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 applicable are outreach and engagement efforts, research and data analysis, policy coordination, and funding.

He noted that the GNRC had a brainstorming session for the Regional Freight Study on April 29th and the Regional Traffic Shed/Impact Study on May 5th. To provide input on the upcoming planning efforts, please go to www.GNRC.org/survey/freight-scoping and www.GNRC.org/survey/impact-scoping.

Mr. Pfalzer highlighted some of the planning activities included in the UPWP, including the Regional Conservation and Preservation Strategy, the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update, and the Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

The draft document will be available for public comment in July and is scheduled for adoption by TPB at their August 18th meeting after a public hearing. The latest draft can be reviewed at www.gnrc.org/upwp/FY22-23.

Mr. Jonathan Russell, TDOT, said that TDOT and FHWA review the UPWP, and that they are coordinating with GNRC on comments and drafting throughout the process.

Mr. Bill McCord, City of Gallatin, asked when the deadline for submitting comments would be. Mr. Pfalzer said that comments can be submitted to spfalzer@gnrc.org through the scheduled adoption date of August 18.

Regular Reports

a) Federal Report

Mr. Sean Santalla noted that USDOT 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>.

He said that the FHWA is involved in discussions regarding infrastructure priorities and the reauthorization of the FAST act extensions.

He said that FHWA's Office of Planning is beginning a research project on MPO target setting to identify how MPOs have incorporated performance-based planning into their processes.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Jonathan Russell informed members to reach out to TDOT if they need a letter of support for the RAISE grant.

He said that TDOT is announcing the 2020 Multimodal Access Grant awards today or tomorrow.

The next round of Multimodal Access Grants for 2021 will open July 1st and will be announced by end of year.

He said that TDOT has created a new website ITRIP (Interactive Tennessee Road Improvement Program) where you can find all active and planned TDOT projects. It is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/longrange-data-visualization/gis-mapping-and-support.html>

He also noted that TDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan is scheduled to be updated this year.

He also reminded members that letters of intent are due June 7th on the upcoming CMAQ grant round. Awards will be announced in September/October 2021.

c) Chairs Report

Mr. Harper said that there was a presentation at the March TPB meeting about reintroducing AMTRAK to Middle Tennessee. He said that Mayor Billy Vogle (Robertson County) has asked Mayor Rick Bell (City of Lebanon) to put together a team to assist with this assignment. Please reach out to Sean Pfalzer if you are interested in getting involved.

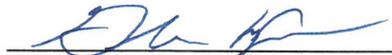
d) Staff Report

Mr. Pfalzer said that a Pedestrian Safety Workshop was held on April 27-28. He said that the FHWA workshop focused on pedestrian safety trends and effective strategies for improving pedestrian safety.

Mr. Pfalzer introduced Ms. Jessica Hill as the new Community and Regional Planning Director. She announced that Ms. Carson Cooper will join the planning team in July and that Ms. Kealon Millies-Lucke will join the GNRC staff on June 14th as a planner.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Date: 9/1/2021



Glenn Harper, Chair

Transportation Coordinating Committee



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager

Secretary, Transportation Coordinating Committee