MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
July 15, 2020

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, 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. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Mayor Anthony Holt, Mr. Eddie Hood, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mayor Bill Ketron, Ms. Pam Kordenbrock, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Rick Graham), Mr. Kenny Martin (for Mayor Ed Hagerty), Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to Order

Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Approval of the 6/17/20 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the June 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Kerr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

a) Endorse Activities Related to Congestion Management (CMP)

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, briefly went over updates to steps of the CMP: 1) Step 4 – the data collection and monitoring framework, 2) Step 6 – toolbox of Congestion Management and Mitigation strategies, and 3) Step 8 – CMP Evaluation Strategy. He noted that technical memos for each step is available online at www.GNRC.org/CMPfileshare. He said that the recommendation is for the Board to endorse the following initial draft items related to those steps of the CMP for incorporation into the Regional Transportation Plan.

He said that the special workshop was held on June 19th. He thanked all who attended. The topics covered were a primer on forecasting, projected growth to 2045, predicted impact on the transportation system, and discussion of opportunities to help shape the future. The recording of the workshop is at https://youtube/OfyfJ0RYjio.
Mayor Reed said that the CMP is the last item to come into compliance stemming from the FHWA certification review. She said that it is not a separate document, but it is integrated into the RTP.

Mayor Ken Moore moved to endorse the activities related to the CMP. The motion passed unanimously on the second by Mayor Brown.

b) Endorse Candidate Project List for Regional Plan
Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, said that there were over 350 projects submitted through the RTP Call for Projects. The list of projects total approximately $7 Billion in present day value and $10 Billion in year of expenditure. She summarized the projects by project type, time horizon, county, and cost range.

She said that the next steps are to conduct three rounds of county workshops that include: a) round 1 – to review details of candidate projects with TDOT and local project sponsors, b) round 2 – to review preliminary results of project evaluations, and c) round 3 – to review final project details including cost estimates, scheduling and scope.

The regional priorities and programs of the candidate project list are programmatic investments – policy set-asides. These include the Active Transportation Program, Transit and Technology Program, Job Access and Reverse Commute, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, and ADA improvements. The major projects included in the current Plan are the Downtown Interstate Loop Upgrades and Modernization and the High Capacity Transit along Regional Corridors.

Mr. Preston Elliott asked what the action item is today. Ms. Emerson said that the action is to endorse candidate projects for final analysis.

Mr. Victor Lay asked what the times are for the county meetings. Ms. Emerson said that all meetings are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon via the Microsoft Teams platform.

Mr. Kenny Martin moved to endorse the candidate projects list candidate project list to finalize the call-for-projects and to establish the projects that will be evaluated and prioritized for funding made available between 2021 and 2045. Mr. Lay seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Informational Items

a) Update on the Regional Transportation Plan Process
Mayor Reed thanked Commissioner Bright for meeting with the staff and TPB leadership to discuss the plan moving forward. She said that the Plan must be updated every 5 years and our Plan is to be adopted in February 2021. She said that we are not asking for an extension but to have TDOT and FHWA conduct their review concurrently. They have agreed to do this. Hopefully, this will cut the review time down to two months.
She said that at the TDOT meeting it was agreed that for us to get the Plan done by February, it will be a basic plan. It will not accomplish all that we set out to do with the SolveThisTogether.org initiative, but we hope to relaunch that initiative in 2021 as partners begin to refocus on a long-term transportation vision and strategy for Middle Tennessee. She also said that the public involvement will be streamlined and be conducted virtually.

She said that final recommendations on the ongoing studies will be deferred until the next Plan update. Also, the plan will assume that there will be no new local or state funding beyond the IMPROVE Act. She said that the conservative financial forecast provides approximately $10B of funding over the next 25 years. This is a significant amount of money that this Board will have to allocate.

Mr. Pfalzer said that the updated schedule is a full schedule in the coming months. It asks a lot of the staff and the members in order to complete the remaining activities. Remaining activities include technical work, informational sessions, Board decisions, and partner coordination. He said that endorsement of the Plan is scheduled for October 2020.

Mayor Reed said that no action is required today but wanted everyone to be aware of upcoming activities. She thanked all the staff and members for their hard work.

b) Presentation on Roadway Safety Conditions and Trends

Mr. Pfalzer said that this topic matters because of the loss of life, health impacts, economic impact, access to opportunities, and federal requirements. He went over the background/requirements, the policy brief on roadway safety, and the key issues and challenges.

Ms. Ashleigh Reeves, Senior Research Analyst, went over the regional trends including crashes, fatalities and fatality rates, serious injuries and serious injury rates, crashes by mode and severity, crashes by type of collision, and crashes by emphasis area.

The key findings are 1) need to reduce all traffic fatalities, 2) must address the conditions at the Downtown Interstate Loop, 3) need to modernize major corridors to allow safe access for all users, 4) focus on reducing nonmotorized crashes in and around urban centers, and 5) reduce crash severity at intersections.

Mr. Pfalzer said that the COVID impacts on emerging trends are 1) widespread use of telecommuting, 2) growing demand for delivery, 3) surge in active transportation activity, 4) improved air quality, 5) hesitancy for riders to return to transit, 6) decline in tax revenue/delay of transportation investments, and 7) increase in crash severity despite reduction in crashes.

Mayor Reed said that targets for improved safety will be presented at the next month’s meeting.
Regular Reports

a) TDOT Report
Mr. Preston Elliott thanked the staff for the detailed information on the congestion management process. He thanked the mayors for meeting with TDOT to set a schedule to meet the February 2021 deadline.

He said that TDOT’s Multimodal Access Grant for the 2020-21 cycle is still open through July 31, 2020. Applications are due in October with the announcement of the winners to be in Early February. For more information: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/multimodal-access-grant.html

For more information about the Transportation Alternatives Program: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/program-development-and-administration-home/local-programs/tap.html

He said that there were 26 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program applications submitted in 2019 and the Nashville region received seven awards.

Ms. Faye DiMassimo asked when the CMAQ call-for-projects for 2020 will be. Mr. Elliott said that the schedule will be similar to the past. After announcements are made in February, the process will reopen for new applications.

b) Chair’s Report
Mayor Reed said that the Planning Oversight Committee (POC) met on June 15th to discuss proposed Bylaws changes. She said that the changes are: 1) elimination of the long-standing requirement that the MPO sponsor agency (now GNRC) receive formal concurrence from the POC in order to pay consultant invoices will be replaced with monthly reports from the staff on the progress of these activities and 2) add language regarding virtual meetings. These are proposed for adoption in August. The change proposed for extending voting membership to municipalities of less than 5,000 people will be deferred for future discussion after the Plan adoption in February 2021.

c) Staff Report
Mr. Pfalzer reminded the members that the UPWP amendment will be adopted at the August meeting.

He said that the safety information is available online at www.gnrc.org/dashboards

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
Date: 8/27/20

Mary Esther Reed
The Honorable Mary Esther Reed
Chairman, MPO Transportation Policy Board

Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
MPO Coordinator