

GNRC MEETING MINUTES

Transportation Policy Board

INFORMATION

DATE: July 19, 2023

LOCATION: TN State Library and Archives, 1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, Nashville, TN 37201

QUORUM: Yes

CALLED TO ORDER: 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 11:28 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

| | Members Present |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Davidson Representatives | Diana Alarcon (Metro Nashville), Jim Shulman (Metro Nashville), Addam McCormick (Goodlettsville), Steve Collie (Oak Hill) |
| Maury Representatives | Thad Jablonski (Columbia), Trent Linville (Spring Hill) |
| Robertson Representatives | Billy Vogle (County), Gerald Herman (White House) |
| Rutherford Representatives | Jason Cole (La Vergne), Bo Logan (La Vergne), Jim Kerr (Murfreesboro), Brian Hercules (Smyrna) |
| Sumner Representatives | Josh Suddath (County), Paige Brown (Gallatin), Jamie Clary (Hendersonville) |
| Williamson Representatives | Rogers Anderson (County), Lisa Anderson (Fairview), Ken Moore (Franklin), Jessica Salamida (Nolensville), Ken McLawhon (Thompson's Station) |
| Wilson Representatives | Tom Brashear (County), Rick Bell (Lebanon), Matthew White (Mt. Juliet) |
| Transit Representative | Billy Higgins (WeGo Public Transit) |
| County Highway Representative | |
| Federal Representative | Melanie Murphy (FHWA) |
| Governor's Representative | Matt Meservy (TDOT) |
| Board Secretary | Michael Skipper (GNRC) |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Board Secretary



Board Chair

AGENDA ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Billy Vogle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Vice-Mayor Jim Shulman moved to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Kerr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Members of the public were reminded that comments can also be emailed to GNRC at comments@gnrc.org.

AGENDA ITEM 3. ACTION ITEMS

[3a. PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution TPB-2023-11 Amending the FYs 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program](#)

Mr. Daniel Capparella, GNRC Transportation Planner, presented eleven Cycle D amendments to the TIP. The requested amendments added \$20M in funding to the TIP. Eight of the amendments were as a result of the most recent Transportation Alternatives Program cycle awarded by TDOT.

Mayor Vogle opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Vogle closed the public hearing.

Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the Resolution TPB-2023-11 Amending the Transportation Improvement Program with Mr. Ken McLawhon seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The audit can be found at www.GNRC.org/audit.

[3b. PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution TPB-2023-12 Adopting the FYs 2024-2025 Transportation Planning Work Program](#)

Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 24-25 Transportation Planning Work Program that outlines federally funded transportation planning activities or relevant studies to be carried out by GNRC staff, consultants and vendors, or partner organizations. He reminded members of the process to develop the Work Program that began in January and said that following adoption, the document would become effective on October 1, 2023. Mr. Skipper noted that staff is still awaiting comments from FHWA, which may result in minor changes to the Work Program. If any changes are significant, the Board will have an additional chance to review.

Mayor Vogle opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Vogle closed the public hearing.

Mayor Moore moved to approve Resolution TPB-2023-12, Adopting the FYs 2024-2025 Transportation Planning Work Program. The motion passed unanimously on the second by Mayor Lisa Anderson.

AGENDA ITEM 4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4a. Statewide Partnership Program Funding Opportunity

Mr. Matt Meservy, Director of TDOT Long Range Planning Division, provided information on the Statewide Partnership Program, part of the Transportation Modernization Act, to support local jurisdictions in maximizing their funding dollars for critical transportation investment.

He said that eligible projects must be included in the MPO/RPO Transportation Plans and address the following improvements:

- Capacity (e.g., lane addition, roadway extension)
- ITS/System Operations (e.g., technology upgrades, operational improvements that do not involve significant additional capacity)
- Safety (e.g., roadway geometric, design, or operational improvements targeted to an identified safety need)
- Major bridge projects (e.g., replacement or reconstruction)
- Major pavement project (e.g., rehab or reconstruction)

He pointed out that urban and rural interstate projects already under consideration are not eligible.

Mr. Meservy also reviewed the project intake system application and the information necessary to complete the application process. He said TDOT will compile a list of projects identified by municipal and county governments through this application process. The candidate projects will be evaluated through an objective and performance-based approach. TDOT will notify applicants of funding awards, if any, in concert with the upcoming (Fiscal Year 25-27) three-year plan. He said that the deadline for applications is Friday, August 4, 2023.

Mayor Moore asked if a local funding commitment is important in the application process. Mr. Meservy said that, yes, that is what TDOT is looking for to help push phases along in the development process. Mr. Skipper asked if there is a possibility of using the funding already available on projects experiencing cost overruns sooner than December. Mr. Meservy said to, it will not be possible since it is not clear how much funding will be allocated to the program.

4b. Suballocated Carbon Reduction Program Funds

Mr. Capparella presented details of a new program to reduce transportation emissions. He said eligible projects include ITS, electrification upgrades, vehicle-to-vehicle infrastructure, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and street lighting and traffic signal upgrades. The match requirement is 20% non-federal (limited exceptions for 0% match) and must be obligated within four years of apportionment. He said that there is \$13.8 million available for the Nashville-Davidson Urbanized Area, and \$1.9 million available for the Murfreesboro Urbanized Area.

Mr. Capparella reviewed the staff's recommendation for funding prioritization and the timeline for programming.

Prioritization: Make funds available for use on existing TIP projects where CMAQ, TAP, and MMAG funds are insufficient to cover costs to move toward implementation.

Timeline:

- Month 1: TPB issues call-for-projects; jurisdictions and agencies submit application to GNRC
- Month 2: GNRC staff conducts project evaluations
- Month 3: TPB considers award recommendations and associated TIP amendments

Mr. Skipper said that this was not an action item for this meeting. However, the staff is willing to accelerate the process if directed to move forward with a call-for-projects by the board today.

There was discussion about types of eligible projects, and Mr. Skipper said that CMAQ projects are eligible for this program.

Ms. Diana Alarcon, Director, Nashville Department of Transportation, asked if this information had been shared with the TCC members to bring it back to each jurisdiction for internal conversations. Mr. Skipper confirmed it had been shared with TCC members and clarified that staff did not present this for action today because they understood members likely would need to discuss it internally. He explained the timeline for the board to take action and stated that staff recommends using these funds to move forward on projects needing extra funds rather than new projects. Mr. Meservy reminded the members that there is a quick turnaround of four years to use these funds. There was a discussion regarding the region's history of obligating funds once awarded to projects. Mr. Skipper noted that further discussion on that topic was slated for later in the agenda.

Mr. Jim Kerr, City of Murfreesboro, asked if there was a way to accelerate the timeline for jurisdictions that know what projects they want to move forward. Mr. Skipper confirmed that it would be possible to convene the stakeholders in the Murfreesboro UZA to reach a consensus on how to use those suballocated funds for projects that have cost overruns. He said the board would still have to approve the award and process the TIP amendment. The other option for moving forward with the Murfreesboro UZA funds is to couple it with the programming decision for the Nashville UZA. He said that staff is comfortable facilitating the conversation with Murfreesboro UZA stakeholder separate from the process for the Nashville UZA funds or moving forward sooner by starting the call-for-projects for both pots of money at the same time given the considerable need on existing projects that are eligible for this funding source. There isn't enough time to start new projects.

Ms. Alarcon asked if the TPB could have a meeting to move this forward more quickly. Mr. Skipper said yes and that it could be held following the August Regional Council meeting, and by doing so, the timeline would be shortened by a month.

No objections being noted, Mr. Skipper, acting as Board secretary, indicated that he would convene a special called meeting on August 16 to occur immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting of the Regional Council body.

4c. Federal Aid Urban Boundary

Mr. Max Baker, GNRC Director of Research and Analytics, presented information on an update to the Federal Aid Urban Boundary (FAUB). He explained that the Federal Highway Administration requires that states and MPOs review and update their Federal Functional Classification and

FAUB for their respective planning areas after each U.S. Decennial Census. He said the FAUB determines whether a roadway will be classified as urban or rural. Those roads within the FAUB are urban, and those outside are rural.

Mr. Baker listed the key changes as a result of the 2020 designations are:

- The Columbia Urban Cluster merged with Columbia-Mt. Pleasant small UA
- The Fairview Urban Cluster was eliminated
- The Mt. Pleasant Urban Cluster merged with Columbia-Mt. Pleasant small UA
- The Spring Hill Urban Cluster transitioned to a large UA
- The White House Urban Cluster divided from Nashville US into a new small UA

He said that GNRC is currently working with local governments and agencies to adjust the FAUB to correspond to local conditions. The draft FAUB is due to TDOT for state review in August. The final draft of the FAUB will be presented to the TPB for endorsement in September. The referenced maps and more information is available at www.gnrc.org/Maps/FederalAid.

AGENDA ITEM 5. REGULAR REPORTS

5a. Federal Report

Ms. Murphy, FHWA, shared deadlines for upcoming discretionary grant programs.

- August 21 for the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant program, a joint funding opportunity covering three programs for \$5.5B on the Infra, Mega, and the Rural Service Transportation Grant program.
- September 28 for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and Neighborhood Access and Equity Program for \$3B.

Mr. Skipper noted that details related to the grant information Ms. Murphy shared is available www.gnrc.org/grants.

She said that the FY 23-26 STIP had been approved. She indicated that federal comments on the Transportation Planning Work Program were to be provided on 7/19/23 and that she did not anticipate any of those comments requiring additional action from the Board relative to its adoption.

5b. TDOT Report

There was not TDOT report.

5c. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

5d. Staff Report

Mr. Skipper gave an overview of the TIP status report that will be provided at every meeting moving forward. Mr. Skipper explained that the TIP Status Report tracks the performance of the Transportation Improvement Program for FYs 2023-2026.

He reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and the anticipated agenda items:

August 16 Regional Council Body

- Update to GNRC Revolving Loan Fund Plan
- Report on Solid Waste Strike Force Activities
- Information about TDEC Brownfields Grant Program

September 20 Transportation Policy Board

- Adopt TIP Amendments
- TIP Status Report
- Project Delivery Task Force Recommendations
- Updates on Regional Planning Activities

October 18 Regional Council Body

- Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Information about Available Grant Opportunities

AGENDA ITEM 6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was introduced.

AGENDA ITEM 7. ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.