

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

August 4, 2021

Attendees: Mr. Calvin Abram, Mr. Andy Barlow, Mr. Russ Brashear, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Felix Castrodad, Mr. Ceagus Clark, Mr. Keith Free, Mr. Glenn Harper, Ms. Billy Higgins, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Jim Kerr, Ms. Lori Lange, Mr. Jonathan Marston, Mr. Addam McCormick, Mr. Andrew Pieri, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Jonathan Russell, Mr. Marty Sewell, Mr. Josh Suddath

Open the meeting

Mr. Glenn Harper, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Mr. Keith Free asked if the Bylaws need to be adjusted in order to lower the quorum threshold. Mr. Marty Sewell said that Metro Nashville departments are changing so the number of Metro-designated seats on the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) could possibly be consolidated. Mr. Pfalzer said that staff would look into it. Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, reminded members that only those who are attending the meeting in-person can be counted for the quorum.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

FYs 2022-23 Unified (Transportation Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the FYs 2022-23 UPWP that details the following types of work activities over the next two federal fiscal years: 1) outreach and engagement efforts, 2) research and analysis, 3) policy coordination, and 4) funding. He also noted that the upcoming priorities are to complete the South Corridor Study and the evaluation of the Downtown Interstate Loop Concepts, finalize the scope and consultant selection for the Regional Traffic Impact study and Regional Freight Study, develop a Regional Conservation Strategy and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to further the recommendations of the RTP, establish a Project Delivery Task Force and reconvene the Congestion Management Task Force, issue a call-for-projects for the Active Transportation Program and the next major update to the TIP, and expand data tools and analysis for the next RTP Update.

Mr. Pfalzer said that the draft document has gone through state and federal review and will be available for public review and comment at www.gnrc.org/upwp. Comments are due by August 18. A public hearing will be held on August 18th prior to adoption by the Transportation Policy Board.

Mr. Bill McCord, City of Gallatin, clarified that the Sumner County Bike/Ped Plan, listed in the activities in the UPWP, includes all of the Sumner County communities and not just Gallatin. Mr. Michael Skipper, said that it is important to reflect the study sponsor and it is not necessary to include all of the study participants.

Update on COVID Relief Funds Call-for Projects

Mr. Pfalzer reminded members that the Nashville UZA received \$7.9 million of CRRSSA funds, and the Murfreesboro UZA received \$0.8 million. Mr. Pfalzer reminded members that the COVID Relief funding was appropriated through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSSA) and that the following project types were given higher priority through this call-for-projects: 1) roadway safety improvements, 2) transportation technology upgrades, 3) pedestrian improvements, and 4) ADA related improvements.

He informed members that staff received 27 applications from 17 different applicants through the pre-application phase of the call-for-projects that totaled approximately \$20 million in funding requests. He noted that staff awarded the City of Murfreesboro's request for Memorial Blvd Traffic Signal Improvements because there were no other funding requests within the Murfreesboro Urbanized Area (UZA) and the funding allocated to the Murfreesboro UZA has a shortened deadline of December 31, 2022.

He notified members that staff is still in the process of finalizing its review of pre-applications within the Nashville UZA and so the formal application period has shifted out by a week.

Mr. Pfalzer detailed the components of the formal application and include project description, background and project history, project schedule, a detailed project budget, and a map of project location and proposed improvements.

The formal application period will be open between August 9 – August 27. Awards will be announced by September 15th.

Mr. Tom Brashear, Wilson County, asked how ADA and pedestrian improvement projects are differentiated. Mr. Pfalzer said that ADA projects generally stemmed from the county or city's ADA transition plans while pedestrian improvements tended to focus on spot safety improvements at select locations.

Mr. McCord asked if all of the projects that were submitted in the pre-application process are eligible for the formal application. Mr. Pfalzer said that not all project submittals will move onto the formal application process.

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

Ms. Anna Emerson, Principal Planner, presented Cycle D amendments to the FYs 2020-23 TIP listed below and also available at www.gnrc.org/tip or www.gnrc.org/maps/2023TIP.

Mr. Andrew Barlow, City of Mt. Juliet, asked if there was a letting schedule for the ITS projects. Mr. Russell, TDOT said that the contract has been split because of a new communications company and that he will relay any updates as they happen.

Mr. McCord asked if the Sumner County Urban Transportation Planning Grant needs to be added to the TIP. Ms. Emerson said that it does not need to be as it is in the UPWP.

Mr. Brashear noted that there is new legislation surrounding pipelines and construction and development. Mr. Jonathan Marston, City of Franklin, said that it is becoming an issue and members need more information on how to interpret new requirements and how buying additional ROW and widening will be affected going forward.

The amendments will go out for public review and comment prior to the September 15th public hearing and adoption by the Transportation Policy Board.

Amend #	TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2021-026	2021-56-122	Multimodal	Main Street (SR-6/US31E) Sidewalk Improvements	Hendersonville	Add project
2021-027	2021-46-123	Multimodal	Lowry Street (SR-1/US41/70S) Multimodal Improvements – Phase 3	Smyrna	Add project
2021-028	2021-56-124	Multimodal	Vol State-Gap Trail - Phase 1	Gallatin	Add project
2021-029	2021-19-125	Planning	Downtown Neighborhood Traffic Study	Metro Nashville	Add project
2021-030	2002-028	2678	Rockland Road Widening & Extension	Hendersonville	Revise project name; revise scope/termini
2021-031	2018-72-057	2865	South Mt. Juliet Road (SR-171) Widening from south of Central Pike (SR-265) to near Providence Way	TDOT	Revise project name; revise termini; add funds
2021-032	2017-87-040	2873	Nashville Area I-40 SmartWay Expansion	TDOT	Remove funds
2021-033	2021-87-126	2873	Nashville Area I-40 SmartWay from near I-840 to near US-70S	TDOT	Add project

Amend #	TIP #	RTP #	Project Name	Sponsor	Action
2021-034	2021-87-127	2873	Nashville Area I-40 SmartWay from near Earhart Road to near US-70	TDOT	Add project
2021-035	2021-47-128	Congestion Management	Memorial Boulevard (SR-10/US231) Traffic Signal Improvements	Murfreesboro	Add project

Overview of Datasets, Tools, and Software for Local Application

Mr. Max Baker, Director of Research and Analytics, said that in the development of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, the GNRC staff documented and analyzed existing conditions and trends across the region in order to inform transportation priorities through project-level analysis. He said that the staff continues to update and expand datasets related to safety, congestion, environment, and equity in order to support planning and decision making at the local level.

Ms. Carson Cooper, Senior Planner, demonstrated the Environment Application available at www.gnrc.org/maps/environment that contains environmental data layers including water resources, steep slopes, floodways and floodplains, endangered species, and additional environmental factors and how it could be used to screen proposed projects for potential environmental impacts. She also previewed the Social Equity Application available at www.gnrc.org/maps/social-equity that includes demographic information identifying key vulnerable populations to consider for planning activities and infrastructure investments, including environmental justice (EJ) populations.

Ms. Ashleigh Glasscock, Research Analyst, demonstrated the Congestion and Safety Application available at www.gnrc.org/maps/traffic-congestion that features congestion and safety data layers including the top 5% worst congested links and top 5% crash locations, existing and forecasted congestion based on percent free flow, etc. to assess degree of need for residents, elected officials, or grant opportunities. She also previewed the Month-To-Date Crashes Dashboard available at www.gnrc.org/dashboards/Crashes-MonthToDate that displays crashes between 2015-present by mode, month, and year in order to monitor safety performance.

Mr. Baker demonstrated the Traffic Data Dashboard available at www.gnrc.org/dashboards/trafficdata that features traffic volumes and average speed between 2019-present by time of day, month, year and county in order to monitor travel patterns and system performance. He asked the members to let him know what other information they might want or if they want to be able to add their own shapefiles.

Mr. Tom Brashear asked if there was any way to print a formalized PDF to include in planning reports and activities. Mr. Baker said that staff will look into the possibility of printing a formalized PDF.

Mr. Jonathan Marston, City of Franklin, asked about the ability to export the data and use it locally. Mr. Baker said that is possible and that most of the data GNRC has is regional but can be scaled down to the city level. Mr. Marston also asked about access to Streetlight data. Mr. Baker said that we are looking into getting a regional subscription to Streetlight data and that it would include origin and destination trip information for all modes.

Mr. Tom Brashear asked about Tapestry and if GNRC has access to that software. Mr. Baker said that GNRC staff will look into that.

Regular Reports

a) Federal Report

Ms. Elizabeth Watson said that the FAST Act expires at the end of September 2021 and noted that the Senate advanced the infrastructure bill which started debate on August 1st.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Jonathan Russell notified members that on Monday TDOT released the Statewide Active Transportation Plan. It is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/bicycle-and-pedestrian-program/statewide-active-transportation-plan.html>.

He also noted that TDOT asked the MPO staff to help rank the projects for the active CMAQ grant round.

Mr. Barlow, City of Mt. Juliet, asked if there is a push to update the process that TDOT and locals go through for improvements that do not align with TDOT Design guidelines. Mr. Russell responded by saying that this plan was a strategic plan, but those are good recommendations for future issues to address through TDOT's planning processes.

c) Chair's Report

Mr. Harper appointed Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Tom Brashear, and Mr. Doug Demosi to the Nominating Committee that will identify a slate of candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair. Elections are set for the next meeting on September 1, 2021.

d) Staff Report

Ms. Emerson asked the members to review the TIP project tracker and submit updated project details and documentation by August 11th.

Mr. Pfalzer said that a Project Delivery Task Force is being established and will be chaired by Smyrna Mayor Mary Esther Reed. The purpose of the task force is to track the progress of transportation improvements through the project delivery process and identify projects which have fallen behind schedule and formulate recommendations for ensuring the timely obligation of federal transportation funds across the region. The group will be made up of local jurisdictions, implementing agencies, and TDOT divisions and it is expected to meet quarterly.

Other Business

Mr. Tom Brashear announced that the Wilson County/Tennessee State Fair will be held August 12-21, 2021.

Mr. Joe Horne noted that the Williamson County Fair will be held August 6-14, 2021. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Date: 9/1/2021



Glenn Harper, Chair
Transportation Coordinating Committee



Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Coordinating Committee