

MINUTES
Of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
Of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
August 18, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mr. Kirk Bednar (for Mayor Rhea Little), Mr. Steve Bland, Mayor Paige Brown, Mayor Mike Callis, Ms. Faye DiMassimo (for Mayor John Cooper), Mr. Gerald Herman (for Mayor Michael Arnold), Mayor Anthony Holt, Mr. Eddie Hood, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mr. Jim Kerr (for Mayor Shane McFarland), Mayor Bill Ketron, Mr. Victor Lay (for Mayor Derek Adams), Mr. Matt Meservy (for Gov. Bill Lee), Mayor Ken Moore, Mr. Andrew Pieri (for Mayor Timothy Lassiter), Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Billy Vogle

Call to Order and Approval of Previous Meeting minutes

Mayor Billy Vogle, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Mayor Bill Ketron moved to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Jim Kerr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Vogle welcomed Congressman John Rose to the meeting.

Public Comment

Ms. Jessica Dauphin, Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee President, thanked the board for their support of better regional transportation. She said that the next Transit Citizen Leadership Academy will start September 1st and be held virtually for each Wednesday for six weeks. For more information, visit <http://thetransitalliance.org/transit-academy/>

Action Items

a) Public Hearing: Resolution TPB-2021-09 Adopting the FYs 2022-23 Unified (Transportation) Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the FYs 2022-23 UPWP. He said that the types of work and activities over the next two years are: 1) outreach and engagement efforts, 2) research and data analysis, 3) policy coordination, and 4) funding.

He noted that the upcoming planning 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 the required public review and comment period. The draft document was available at www.GNRC.org/UPWP. No comments were received.

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

Mr. Gerald Herman moved to adopt the FYs 2022-23 UPWP with Mayor Anthony Holt seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

a) Update on COVID Relief Funds Call-for Projects

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

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. Of those, staff advanced 20 applications that totaled approximately \$14 million to the full application for formal consideration. 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 UZA and the funding allocated to the Murfreesboro UZA has a shortened deadline of December 31, 2022.

Mr. Pfalzer said that the full application is available at GNRC.org/apply/crrsaa and the remaining steps of the schedule are as follows:

- **August 9- August 27** – Open Formal Application Period
- **August 30- September 10** – Evaluation of Formal Applications
- **September 15** – Announce Awards
- **December 15** – Formal Amendments to TIP to Incorporate Awards

There were no questions asked.

b) 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. They are listed below and also available at www.gnrc.org/tip or www.gnrc.org/maps/2023TIP. The amendments will go out for the required public review and comment period and will be adopted after a public hearing on September 15th.

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
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

Mayor Rogers Anderson asked if there is any thought being given to how the upgrade of future 5G infrastructure will coordinate with road projects. Ms. Emerson said that the locals would know about this. Mr. Matt Meservy, TDOT, said that it is being looked into by the department. Mayor Anderson requested that staff consider potential policy to develop and Mr. Pfalzer said that staff will explore this issue.

c) Overview of Data Tools and Software

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.

Ms. Carson Cooper demonstrated the Environment Application (www.gnrc.org/maps/environment) that contains environmental data layers and the Social Equity Application (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, 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 thanked the local government staff for their geographic information system (GIS) information that allow GNRC staff to compile the tools being shared.

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 or additional data they might want or would be helpful to support local planning.

Mayor Ken Moore thanked Max and his team for their efforts.

Mayor Anderson said that one missing element in the 2045 RTP is what is being done to preserve agricultural and rural lands. Mr. Baker said that land is being classified in 10-acre tracks and is being tracked over time, and measures tree canopy and impervious surfaces. Mayor Anderson said that tracts should start with 15 acres because that is where the greenbelt begins. Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, said that the Environmental Roundtable will look at preserving land and potential policies that would be necessary in order to do so. Mayor Vogle mentioned that incentives for Land Trusts to keep tracks together is a possible solution. Mayor Holt said that there is little incentive to farm in the next generation because it is very expensive to do so. He said that the loss of green space and farmland will affect the whole region. Mayor Anderson said that this issue needs to be addressed at the local level. He said that in March 2020, there were more building permits given than any other month on record. Mayor Holt said that five-acre tracks are of little utility to farmers, and farmland is worth protecting.

No more questions were asked.

Mayor Vogle thanked Max and the rest of his team for the work they do.

Regular Reports

a) FHWA and FTA Report

Ms. Pam Kordenbrock said that the Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It is now in the House and hopefully it will pass by September 30th and head to the president for his signature.

b) TDOT Report

Mr. Meservy said that TDOT is interviewing peer states in their update of the Statewide Long Range Plan. He said that TDOT is awaiting updated Census information before moving on with the plan update.

He said that all the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program evaluations are done. He noted that the removal of emissions testing in several counties in Middle Tennessee does not impact CMAQ funding.

c) Chair's Report

Mayor Vogle said that he named Mayor Mary Esther Reed as chair of the Project Delivery Task Force last month. This committee will make sure all projects are on track and will work to streamline the project delivery and development process. They intend to meet quarterly. She noted that the first meeting will be in mid-September to discuss goals and objectives and the second meeting to discuss projects will be in October.

The members are Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Mayor Mike Callis, Mayor Randall Hutto, Mayor Ken Moore, Mayor Derek Adams, Mr. Gerald Herman, Mr. Glenn Harper, Mr. Andy Barlow, Mr. Josh Suddath, Mr. Jonathan Marston, Mr. Jim Kerr, Ms. Faye DiMassimo, Mr. Steve Bland and Mr. Preston Elliott.

Mayor Vogle said that he appointed Mayor Rick Bell to gauge interest in studying the Amtrak proposal. Mayor Bell worked with GNRC staff to poll membership and regional partners to learn how you want to be involved in the effort. Sean shared the preliminary results of the survey. He said that respondents are very interested in Amtrak service returning to the region. He also said that respondents want to participate via surveys and online engagement.

d) Staff Report

Ms. Emerson asked the members to review the TIP project tracker and submit updated project details and documentation by August 25th.

Other Business

Mayor Moore said that it is not easy to completely understand a lot of the information provided at the meetings. He asked staff if there could be other times for the TPB to receive presentations. Mayor Vogle and Mayor Mike Callis agreed. Mayor Holt suggested that maybe the staff can go to the jurisdictions to discuss so that the mayors are better prepped for the TPB meetings. Mayor Vogle

suggested that the staff send out a questionnaire with potential options. Mr. Skipper said that the staff will investigate this and encouraged mayors to meet with their TCC representative prior to this meeting.

Mayor Moore said this group should look at a greater interaction with partners.

Mr. Gerald Herman said that the task force could help with better understanding of the issues.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Date: 9-15-21

Billy Vogle

The Honorable Billy Vogle
Chairman, MPO Transportation Policy Board

Sean Pflzer

Sean Pflzer, Transportation Planning Manager
Secretary, Transportation Policy Board