

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Addendum #1 to the Regional Transportation Plan

Effective October 1, 2017

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
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Inside Cover Photo: Tennessee Bicentennial Mall, Max Baker, Nashville Area MPO

Addendum to the Regional Transportation Plan

About the Regional Transportation Plan

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range, 25-year multimodal strategy and capital improvement program developed to guide the effective investment of public funds in transportation facilities to help manage congestion, increase regional mobility options, and conform to national air quality standards. The RTP is updated every five years and may be amended periodically to reflect changes in anticipated federal, state, and local funding or project cost estimates, and to incorporate project recommendations from major transportation studies that are carried out as part of the plan's implementation.

The 2040 Regional Transportation Plan was adopted by the MPO Executive Board on February 17, 2016 and identifies more than 8 billion dollars in federal, state, and local funding for transportation projects over the next two and a half decades. The plan includes the following information:

- Introduction to the metropolitan planning process and requirements,
- Overview of the metropolitan area and regional challenges and opportunities,
- Summary of public and stakeholder outreach and input,
- Overview of regional goals and objectives,
- Population and employment growth trends and forecasts,
- Land use and traffic trends and forecasts,
- Evaluation of existing transportation systems,
- Identification of future transportation system deficiencies and project needs,
- Recommendations for local and regional transit improvements,
- Recommendations for local and regional pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements,
- Recommendations for improvements to area roadway and bridges,
- A 5, 10, and 25-year financial plan that directs \$6 billion into regional priorities,
- Evaluation of the impact of proposed projects on vulnerable populations and natural environments.

Members of the public and interested stakeholders are encouraged to review the adopted RTP document and its supporting material by visiting <http://2040.NashvilleMPO.org>.

Purpose of the Addendum

Effective October 1, 2017, the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) is responsible for carrying out the staffing and administrative functions of the Nashville Area MPO in accordance with the *Transportation Planning and Policy Agreement* adopted on September 20, 2017. The agreement designates the GNRC as the MPO's sponsor agency, a responsibility previously held by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) of Nashville-Davidson County.

This change was made to account for the steady expansion of the MPO planning area outside Davidson County that has occurred over the last three decades, and to better position the region to respond to challenges resulting from rapid economic growth and development. The integration of the MPO program into GNRC seeks to streamline and improve regional coordination among local governments across Middle Tennessee, align infrastructure planning with economic development initiatives, and bring Middle Tennessee in line with the state of practice in peer regions across the nation. Nearly 70 percent of metro areas across the U.S. with a population of one million or more people have the federally-required MPO function integrated into their regional council or its GNRC equivalent.

The purpose of this addendum is to communicate to members of the public and interested parties how the integration of the MPO and GNRC will affect the Regional Transportation Plan.

Additional information about the integration of the MPO program into GNRC can be found online at <http://COG.NashvilleMPO.org>

About the GNRC

GNRC is one of nine regional economic development districts established by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965. GNRC is a public body corporate and politic and operates as a council of

governments (COG). It is owned and operated by its municipal and county government members in order to deliver regional programs and services that are funded, in part, by state and federal grant programs.

GNRC's mission is to assist local communities and state agencies in the development of plans and programs that guide growth and development in the most desirable, efficient, and cost-effective manner, while ensuring the continued long-term livability of the region. GNRC is governed by a regional council comprised of city mayors, county mayors/executives, state legislators, appointments representing business/industry, and appointments representing minority populations and employs nearly 80 full-time staff.

Summary of Changes

Changes resulting from the MPO and GNRC integration described in this addendum:

- New office location and staff contact information as provided in Attachment B.
- References to the MPO's governing body in the adopted RTP will change, from "Executive Board" to "Transportation Policy Board," per updated MPO Organizational Bylaws amended on August 16, 2017. The change in name is intended to prevent any confusion with the pre-existing and separately functioning GNRC Executive Committee. The new name is derived from terminology used in federal regulations and planning guidance for references to MPO governing bodies.

Items unaffected by the MPO and GNRC integration described in this addendum:

- MPO's planning area or governing board membership,
- MPO governing board's decision-making authority,
- MPO's public participation process,
- MPO's project selection process,
- MPO's RTP development, adoption, and amendment process,
- RTP revenue levels, funding sources, or project awards, and
- Any other items included in the current RTP that are not specifically identified on the list of changes.

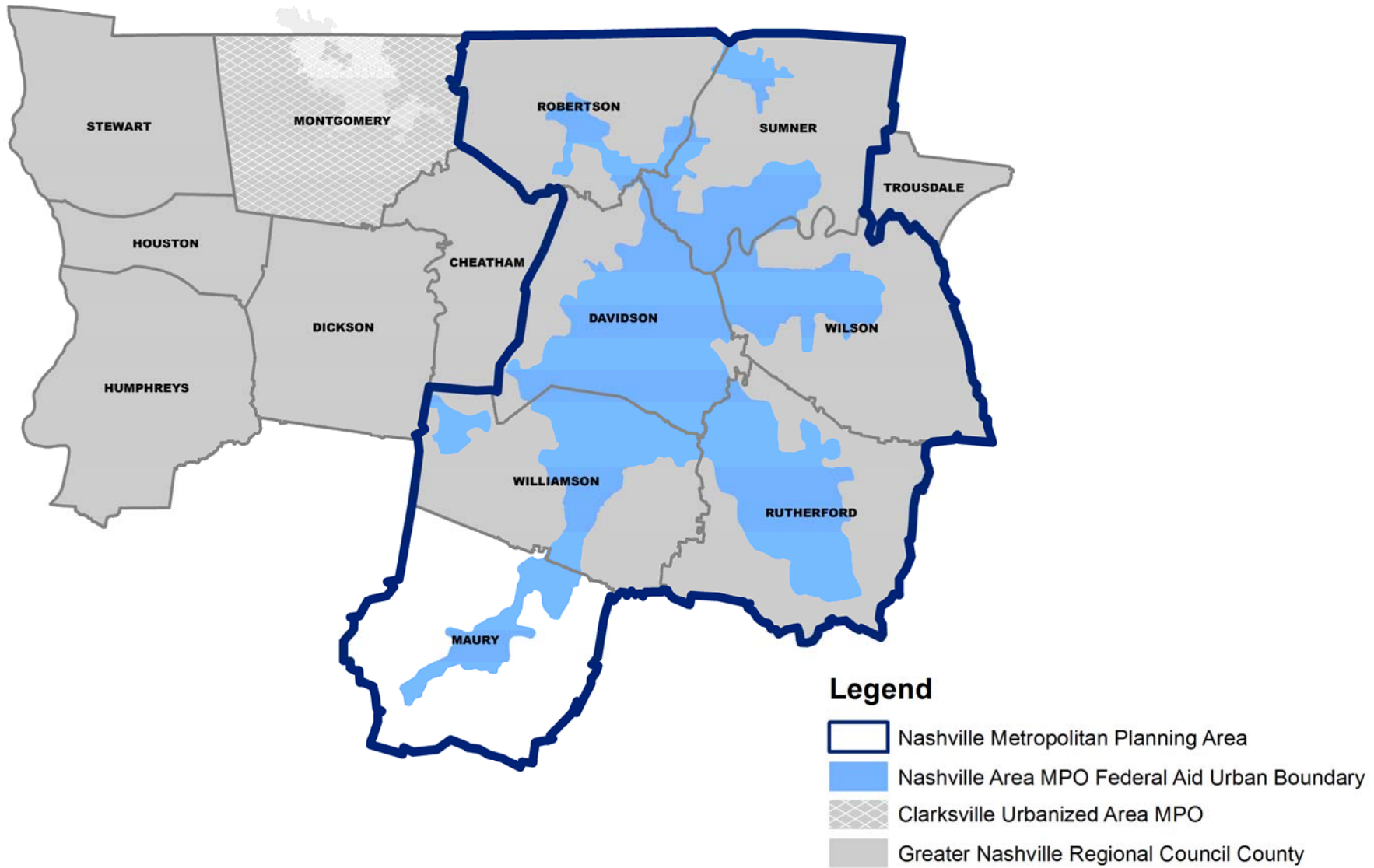
Next Scheduled Update

Under current federal law, the MPO's Regional Transportation Plan must be updated at least once every five years. As such, the 2040 RTP will be replaced by the 2045 RTP early in the 2021 calendar year. Major revisions to the adopted RTP will be carried out, as needed, in the form of formal amendments. All amendments are publicly-noticed according to the procedures contained in the MPO's *Public Participation Plan* prior their adoption.

Proposed amendments will be posted to the MPO's website at the following link:

http://www.nashvillempo.org/public_notices/public_comment.aspx

Attachment A. Map of the MPO Planning Area



Attachment B. Office Locations and Key Contact Information

Office Location and Hours

GNRC offices for MPO and transportation planning program staff are located on the third floor of 138 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201. GNRC administrative offices are located on the sixth floor of 501 Union Street, TN 37219. Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

Telephone/ Fax Numbers

- GNRC Main Number: 615-862-8828
- GNRC Fax Number: 615-862-8840
- MPO/ Transportation Planning Section: 615-862-7204

Websites

- Main GNRC Website: <http://www.GNRC.org>
- MPO/ Transportation Planning Website: <http://www.NashvilleMPO.org>
- Online Database for MPO's Transportation Improvement Program: <http://TIP.NashvilleMPO.org>

Key Staff Contacts*

- MPO Coordinator, Michelle Lacewell, mlacewell@gnrc.org
- Transportation Improvement Programming, Anna Emerson, aemerson@gnrc.org
- Research and Data, Max Baker, mbaker@gnrc.org
- Policy and Legislation, Peter Westerholm, pwesterholm@gnrc.org
- GNRC Finance Director, Gayle Wilson, gwilson@gnrc.org
- GNRC Executive Director, Michael Skipper, mkipper@gnrc.org

*Emails sent to the old NashvilleMPO.org address will be automatically forwarded to GNRC.org addresses for all current GNRC staff who previously had a NashvilleMPO.org email address. In the meantime, please note the change in email addresses.



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