

**Johnson City Metropolitan Planning Organization
Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Johnson City Transit Center, 1st Floor Training Room
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
November 17, 2009**

Executive Board Present

Alan Bridwell, for the Honorable Mayor Jaynes (Washington County)
Deborah Fleming, for Governor Phil Bredesen (TN)
Jane Myron, Honorable Mayor (city of Johnson City)
David Ornduff, for the Honorable Mayor Alexander (city of Elizabethton)

Executive Board Not Present

Bob Browning, for the Honorable Mayor Wolfe (Town of Jonesborough)
Johnny Holder, the Honorable Mayor (Carter County)

Executive Staff Present

Pete Peterson, (city of Johnson City)
John Deakins, Jr., (Washington County Highway Department)
Eldonna Janutolo, (Johnson City Transit)
Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi
Charles Alley, for Glenn Rosenoff (State Local Planning Office)

Executive Staff Not Present

Jack Perkins, Carter County Highway Department
Larry Ray, Unicoi Town Recorder
Chris Craig, for Susan Reid (First TN Development District)

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Allan Cantrell, Johnson City Public Works/ Engineering Division
Jon Hartman, Elizabethton Planning Department
Jane Fillers, Johnson City Transit
Brian Johnson, Qk4
Donna Bridwell, Johnson City Transit
Dustin King, city of Johnson City Planning Department
Steve Neilson, city of Johnson City Planning Department
Phil Pindzola, Public Works Director
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City MTPO
Gary Tysinger, TH & P

Summary of Motions Passed:

- Minutes from August 5, 2009 approved.
- Presented and approved Exhibit A. List of Priority Projects from Johnson City MTPo and Member Jurisdictions (State Projects) to be submitted to TDOT (Resolution 2009-12).
- Approved Resolution urging congress to pass a new Transportation Act (Resolution 2009-13).

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item 1: Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Mayor Myron. A sign-in sheet was passed to each member.

Agenda Item 2: The minutes from the August 5, 2009 were reviewed. David Ornduff made a motion for the board to approve the document. Alan Bridwell seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3: Mr. Glenn Berry stated that each Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) has been requested by Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to develop a List of Priority Projects to submit to TDOT. Mr. Berry explained that MTPO works with TDOT on developing its Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan. The Priority Projects List is derived from the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, and will be submitted for the Johnson City MTPO area to TDOT. Mr. Berry briefly explained the phase needed for each project listed. Alan Bridwell agreed that the SR Interchange Improvements should be added to the Priority List. Pete Peterson asked if the Priority list was prioritized enough. Ms. Fleming stated that TDOT would like to see the list prioritized on a need basis. Mr. Bridwell also stated that it should be noted that in regard to Interstate Funds, I-40 issues (i.e., recent rockslide) have made I-26 an alternative detour route for the third time in eight years. Ms. Fleming concurred and stated that this should be included in the Priority List cover letter. Mr. Berry concluded by stating that the projects included in the list are vital to the transportation infrastructure and economic development for the Johnson City MTPO area; and an Executive Board vote was required to approve the Priority Project List in Exhibit A, including the SR Interchange Improvements to be submitted to TDOT. David Ornduff made a motion for the board to approve. Johnny Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 4: Mr. Berry stated that an Executive Board vote was required to approve Resolution urging Congress to pass a new Transportation Act (Resolution 2009-13). The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity, Act, a Legacy of Users, commonly referred to as SAFETEA-LU, was enacted by the U.S. Congress in August 2005, and expired on September 30, 2009. Mr. Berry explained that on September 30, 2009, the U.S. Senate voted on a one-month continuing resolution to extend SAFETEA-LU and failed to repeal Section 10212 of SAFETEA-LU thus rescinding 8.7 billion dollars in transportation infrastructure funds. The State of Tennessee lost 190 million dollars in transportation funds resulting in delays and possible elimination of transportation infrastructure projects already programmed into the Johnson City MTPO Transportation Improvement Program. The transportation infrastructure of the Johnson City MTPO Region included bridges, highways, trails, pedestrian facilities, and maintenance. Mr. Berry concluded by stating that at this time a new and fully funded transportation bill has not been passed to provide transportation funding for state and local governments. The Executive Board and staff of the Johnson City Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization stresses the urgency and need for congress to pass a new fully-funded transportation bill and for it to be enacted into law.

Alan Bridwell made a motion for the board to approve. Pete Peterson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5: Review/ Discussion of the Federal Obligation Process as it's related to FHWA Funds. Mr. Berry stated that on October 19, 2009, the Department of Transportation received from the Federal Highway Administration tables showing the final amounts that were rescinded on September 30, 2009, pursuant to section 1102 of EISA and section 10212 of SAFETEA-LU, as amended. Johnson City's prior apportionment balance was \$ 6,882,646, after the September 30th rescission of \$ 3,060,982, the remaining apportionment is \$ 3,821,665. The remaining apportionment is the MPO's share of the funds the department was able to preserve by utilizing the apportionment on projects in FY 2009. The remaining apportionment is actually FY 2010 apportionment. Mr. Berry concluded by stating that not only will MPO's be required to re-prioritize projects in their TIP's based on the reduced apportionment; but a letter is also required to be included and sent to TDOT, from the MTPO Executive Board Chairperson. Mr. Peterson made a motion for the board to approve. David Ornduff seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 6: Mr. Rawles gave a brief update on the transportation model and air quality. Mr. Rawles gave an update on the travel demand model and stated at this time data is be updated on a regular bases, for the next LRTP. He explained how what data will have to be updated to run the next model. Updated traffic counts, demographics, population, and any new roads that may have been completed. Mr. Rawles asked Ms. Fleming what the target date would be for the new regulations. Ms. Fleming stated that it was supposed to be the first of March. 2010, now the target date is set for March 2011.

Agenda Item 7: Mayor Myron made closing statements, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:52 a.m.