

**Johnson City Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting, Thursday at 9:00 a.m.  
Johnson City Transit Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room  
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN  
November 3, 2011**

**Executive Board Present**

The Honorable Mayor Eldridge, Washington County  
Deborah Fleming, for Governor Bill Haslam, State of Tennessee  
The Honorable Vice Mayor Carriger, City of Johnson City  
Bob Browning for the Honorable Mayor Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough  
The Honorable Mayor Lynch, Town of Unicoi  
Jon Hartman for the Honorable Mayor Alexander, City of Elizabethton

**Executive Board Not Present**

Mayor Humphrey, Mayor Carter County

**Executive Staff Present**

Pete Peterson, City of Johnson City  
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Superintendent  
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough  
Chris Craig, FTDD

**Executive Staff Not Present**

Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit  
Jack Perkins, Carter County Highway Department Superintendent  
Glenn Rosenoff, Local Planning Office

**Others Attending**

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO  
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City MTPO  
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO  
Steve Neilson, City of Johnson City- Planning Department  
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton  
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City- Traffic Engineering Manager  
David Ornduff, Citizen  
Preston Elliott, RPM Transportation Consultants

### Summary of Motions Passed:

- **Approved** minutes from June 8, 2011.
- **Approved** amendment adopting additional information on climate change and livability to the FY 2012 UPWP.
- **Approved** Self Certification Resolution for the TIP (Resolution 2011-08).
- **Approved** amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for railroad crossing safety improvements at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Jonesborough (Resolution 2011-09).
- **Approved** amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for additional capital funds for JCT under section 5307 program for FY 2011 (Resolution 2011-10).
- **Approved** amendment approving, recommend/reaffirming priority list for major road projects for TDOT's work program (Resolution 2011-11).

## Meeting Minutes:

**Agenda Item 1:** Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Carriger. A sign-in sheet was passed to each member.

**Agenda Item 2:** The minutes from the June 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Fleming made a motion for the board to approve the document. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 3:** Mr. Berry stated that an Executive Board vote was required to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Berry informed the Board that additional information on livability and climate change was requested by FHWA, to be added to the UPWP. Mr. Browning made a motion for the board to approve. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 4:** Mr. Berry stated that an Executive Board vote was required to approve and endorse the Self Certification Resolution for 2011-2014 TIP (Resolution 2011-08). The Johnson City MTPO is required by federal law to provide Self Certification that the Johnson City MTPO meets requirements of U.S. Code 23 of the Federal Regulations 450.334. Mr. Lynch made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Eldridge seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 5:** Mr. Berry explained that the Town of Jonesborough was requesting funds from the MPO's local allocation of STP funds (STP-LOCAL) to be used in upgrading the rail crossing at 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue on Jonesborough to meet current federal standards. Mr. Berry stated that the Town of Jonesborough is currently in the process of extending a bicycle/pedestrian trail. The location of the future trail falls within 200 feet of the Norfolk Southern railroad, due to this distance, it is required that all rail crossings meeting certain safety standards. It was also pointed out this requirement was established by the state of Tennessee due to a Supreme Court case where a driver of a vehicle, Mr. Shanklin was unfortunately killed at railroad crossing in west Tennessee several years ago.

At this time, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is does not meet all current safety standards, namely automatic crossing gates. After researching federal legislation and consulting with the Tennessee Department of Transportation it was the concurrent opinion, improvements for this project would be funded at 100% and required no local match. Mr. Berry explained that the FY 2011-2014 TIP must be amended to reflect a new project for railroad crossing safety improvements at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Jonesborough. Mr. Carriger made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6:** Mr. Berry explained that additional capital funds were anticipated to Johnson City Transit (JCT) under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 program for Fiscal Year 2011 and before the funds were approved FTA required the funds be included in the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Eldridge made a motion for the board to approve the TIP amendment. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 7:** Mr. Berry explained that the Tennessee Department of Transportation had sent a list of projects to be ranked and considered for funding in the upcoming TDOT three year work program. Mr. Berry presented the list and stated they were all included on last year's list of projects that were sent to the TDOT Commissioner along with other key TDOT staff and state legislators that had requested the MTPo to keep them informed of projects. The list provided by TDOT, identified two projects that were already funded and did not have to be ranked. They were the SR-36 project (Boone Avenue) to SR 75 in Washington County and SR-362 (Gap Creek Road) Project in Carter County. He pointed out while TDOT did not request the MTPo to rank them, he strongly suggested the projects be bid and a contract awarded for their construction. All members agreed.

Mr. Berry referred to the list provided by the TDOT and pointed out only one project was identified by TDOT to be considered for construction funding in FY-2013 and that was the Interchange Modification project for I-26 (Exit 13) interchange with SR 75 and therefore it would be ranked number 1 for FY 2013 if the Board agreed.

Under FY-14 / FY-15 program Mr. Berry pointed out there were three projects were being requested for ranking, I-26 Exit 17 Interchange with SR-354 (Boones Creek Road), I-26 Exit 24 Ramp Improvements at SR 67, both located in Washington County and SR 91-Ext Project located in Carter County from the intersection of SR 91 and SR 67 on the west end to the intersection of SR 91 and US321 / US 19E / SR 37 on the east end. Initially there was discussion on lumping the all the interchanges on I-26 with the same ranking at number 1, however it was pointed out by Deborah Fleming, TDOT that while it was possible to rank all the interchanges as a "group" doing this would be "all or nothing" type of scenario; thus they would all receive funding or none of them would receive funding. Mr. Berry also pointed out the average daily traffic along I-26 near these projects were close to 50,000 plus vehicles per day. He also stated improvements on I-26 had significant regional impacts, especially in the event of I-40 to North Carolina being shut down and traffic being diverted to I-26 through Johnson City again.

In the discussion about SR 91 improvements the project was, at this time, still in and Environmental Impact Statement and the final recommendation for project alignment had not been completed. With these considerations Mr. Berry recommended the projects for FY14/FY15 be ranked as follows:

Exit 17 on I-26 ranked number 1 for FY14/FY15  
Exit 24 on I-26 ranked number 2 for FY14/FY15  
SR 91 Ext. Project ranked number 3 for FY 14/FY15

In addition, Mr. Berry stated all of these projects were a priority for the MTPo and if funds were available they all be completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Berry stated it was now up to the Board to rank the projects. Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the project ranking as follows:

FY 2013

1. Exit 13 on I-26 be number 1 for FY 2013 – Construction

FY 2014 / FY 2015

1. Exit 17 on I-26 ranked number 1 for FY14/FY15
2. Exit 24 on I-26 ranked number 2 for FY14/FY15
3. SR 91 Ext. Project ranked number 3 for FY 14/FY15

Mr. Browning seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 8:** Mr. Rawles gave an update on the Johnson City Transit ITS project. Mr. Rawles gave a brief review of the ITS project for JCT. He stated that JCT was currently implementing a real time bus stop/AVL on the entire fleet for JCT. Mr. Rawles stated that the installation for all JCT vehicles had just been completed at the beginning of October. He said the entire project should be completed by April – May of 2012.

**Agenda Item 9:** Mr. Elliott with RPM Transportation Consultants was introduced and gave an update on the 2035 Long Range Plan Update. Mr. Elliott informed they were currently updating the transportation model. He indicated 2010 census data was available and the model will be calibrated using this data. He said the model will be a more robust model that will cover all of Washington, Carter, and Unicoi Counties. Mr. Elliott said the other section that was underway, was the Human Services Coordination Plan. He also informed the Board of the public participation process, which will include an online survey, public meetings, and stake holder meetings.

**Agenda Item 10:** Other Business/Citizens concerns. There was no other business or concerns.

**Agenda Item 11:** Mr. Carriger made closing statements, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:07 a.m.