

**Johnson City Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting,  
Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.  
Johnson City Transit Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room  
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN**

**Executive Board Present**

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

**Executive Board Not Present**

**Executive Staff Present**

Angie Carrier for Pete Peterson, City of Johnson City  
Sherrie Staloup for John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Superintendent  
Jon Hartman for Fred Edens, Elizabethton  
Jane Fillers for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit  
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough

**Executive Staff Not Present**

Jack Perkins, Carter County Highway Department Superintendent  
Susan Reid, First TN Development District

**Others Attending**

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO  
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City MTPO  
Donna Bridwell, Johnson City Transit  
Charlie Stahl, City of Johnson City  
Mary Butler, JC MTPO/JCT  
Tarren Barrett, TDOT  
Jason Carder, Mattern and Craig  
Jack Qualls, TDOT  
Chad R. Bruckmen, WC/JC EMA  
Preston Elliott, RPM  
The Honorable Commissioner Jane Myron, City of Johnson City  
Rex Montgomery, Bristol MPO  
Alex Lester, ECC EMA  
Mike Arsenault, City of Johnson City  
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City

### Summary of Motions Passed:

- **Approved**- minutes from August 28, 2012.
- **Approved**- Resolution 2013-01- "Smoothed/Adjusted" Urbanized Area and Metropolitan Planning Area resolution.
- **Approved**- Resolution 2013-02- 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- **Approved**- Resolution 2013-03- Self Certification Resolution.
- **Approved**- Resolution 2013-04- FY 2011-2014 TIP amendments for additional funding for existing Johnson City Safe Routes to School (Cherokee School) for construction phase and additional funding for enhancement/upgrade the traffic management system for Johnson City.

## Meeting Minutes:

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice Mayor Carriger. A sign-in sheet was passed to each person.

Before the Board addressed various items on the agenda, former MTPO Chairman Jane Myron, Johnson City Commissioner, made a special presentation to Ms. Deborah Fleming, Tennessee Department of Transportation for her outstanding dedication and service to the Johnson City Metropolitan Transportation Organization. Commissioner Myron stated Ms. Fleming was instrumental in providing technical guidance to the Board. She also expressed her appreciation to Ms. Fleming for working with the MTPO after the I-40 rock slide. During this time I-81 / I-26 became the official detour for traffic to North Carolina and dramatically increased traffic through Johnson City on I-26. While many people were involved in arranging for the HELP Trucks to be deployed to our area, Commissioner Myron stated Ms. Fleming was instrumental in providing assistance with this process. As such Commissioner Myron presented Ms. Fleming with a model HELP Truck for her office.

In addition to this, Mr. Berry officially presented Ms. Fleming with a plaque and recognized her service to the MTPO. It was noted that Ms. Fleming would still be working for TDOT but not attending as many meetings due to the creation of the new Office of Community Transportation.

**Agenda Item 1:** The minutes from the August 28, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Hartman made a motion for the board to approve the document. Mayor Lynch seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 2:**

Consider approval of Resolution 2013-01- Smoothed/Adjusted Urbanized Area and Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Berry presented an overview of the “Smoothing / Adjusting” process for the MTPO members. He stated it is the responsibility of the U.S. Census Bureau to not only define the criteria for urban and rural areas in the United States, it is also their responsibility to define the geographic boundaries. He stated the U.S. Census Bureau uses a national standard in defining these areas and they may not always reflect what local jurisdictions classify as urban and rural; however they are the official designating agency at the federal level. During this process Mr. Berry stated they (U.S. Census Bureau) use an automated national process to delineate these areas based on their TIGER base maps and as such the TIGER base maps do not always accurately reflect what is “on the ground.” In many cases they do not match up with existing conditions and in some areas the automated process will jump from one side of the road to the other leaving out sections of the highway. He stated federal agencies recognize this inconsistency and federal law allows for “smoothing and adjusting” of the urbanized area for transportation planning purposes. It does not change the official population totals for the urbanized area, however.

Mr. Berry stated he and his staff used current aerial photography and parcel boundary information provided by the state of Tennessee to smooth the urbanized area and eliminate the irregular nature of the urbanized area as delineated through the automated process used by the U.S. Census Bureau. Once this was completed Mr. Berry reviewed this information with his staff, consultant and Bristol MPO staff as there was an area previously defined as the Bristol Urbanized Area that is now part of the Johnson City Urbanized Area. He further stated in developing the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary that an Urbanized Area (with a population over 50,000) must be included in an MPO and that one

Urbanized Area could have more than one MPO; however, the MPA could not overlap. He stated that in meetings with the Bristol MPO their existing MPA boundary covered part of the newly defined Johnson City Urbanized Area, heading south from Bristol along U.S. 11E and specifically stopping at the intersection of U.S. 11E and Allison Road and the Johnson City corporate limits. The corridor south of this intersection along U.S. 11E would be in the Johnson City MPA boundary and it was also inside the corporate limits of Johnson City.

Mr. Berry went on to say he, his staff and consultant took into consideration areas that are likely to become urbanized in the next 20 years, and census boundaries such as census block groups in determining the MPA boundary for the Johnson City MTPO. While federal law does allow MPOs to extend the MPA boundary to the entire county, the MPO did not pursue this option at present. In closing his presentation Mr. Berry stated the Bristol MPO would be updating their Long Range Transportation Plan in the next two years and the MPA boundary would be discussed again.

Mayor Humphrey made a motion for the board to approve. Vice Mayor Carriger seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 3:**

Consider approval (Resolution 2013-02) for adoption of 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Berry presented the Johnson City MTPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan for adoption. He reviewed the process of developing the LRTP including public involvement, the consultation process, existing plus committed project list (provided on display) and federal review process. He stated his office had received responses from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Memphis District and the Natchez Trace Scenic National Parkway to be removed from the Johnson City MTPO Consultation list.

Mr. Berry went on to discuss that during the federal review of the LRTP from FHWA and FTA several comments were submitted to be addressed before they could receive “concurrence” that the plan could go forward. He stated these unforeseen comments from FHWA and FTA required additional work by the MTPO and consultant team that had to be completed in order to move the plan forward. He stated the additional work resulted in all comments and questions being answered satisfactorily and was released for public comment.

During the 30 day public comment period, copies of the LRTP distributed at nine public locations throughout the MTPO region along with comment sheets. During this time were no comments received by the public at these locations. Mr. Berry the MTPO has been monitoring the response from these location for the past several years and there have not been any comments from these locations. He then asked Mr. Jeff Rawles how the website was being utilized by the public. Mr. Rawles stated he monitored the website constantly and during this period there were numerous visits to the website including the online version of the LRTP, but no official comments. At this point Mr. Preston Elliot, Project Manager for RPM Transportation Consulting LLC, spoke and stated there were approximately 180 online surveys completed during the development of the plan by the public. Mr. Berry stated the MTPO would be reviewing the Public Participation Plan in the next few months.

Finally he stated FHWA, FTA and TDOT concurred that the MTPO had meet all state and federal requirements and the plan was ready for adoption.

Mayor Humphrey made a motion for the board to approve adoption of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Browning seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 4:**

Consider approval of Self-Certification (Resolution 2013-03).

Mr. Berry stated that an Executive Board vote was required to approve and endorse the Self Certification Resolution before proceeding to amend the 2011-2014 TIP. The Johnson City MTPO is required by federal law to provide Self Certification that the Johnson City MTPO meets requirements of Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 450.334.

Ms. Fleming made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 5:**

Consider approval of amendments (Resolution 2013-04) to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Resolution 2013-04- one resolution for two TIP items: 1. Approval of additional funding for the existing Safe Routes to School (Cherokee School) project for construction phase. 2. Approval of additional funding to enhance/upgrade the existing traffic management system for Johnson City.

Ms. Fleming made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6:**

Mr. Berry gave an update on various programs and projects, including FY 2014-2017 TIP development, Regional ITS Architecture, and new two-year UPWP. He also introduced Mr. Jack Qualls and Ms. Tarren Barrett from the newly created Office of Community Transportation, Tennessee Department of Transportation. At this point Mr. Qualls presented a PowerPoint presentation on the new office and its roles and responsibilities. Mr. Qualls stated he and Ms. Barrett were located in the Knoxville Regional Office of TDOT and would be attending MPO meetings for Region One.

**Agenda Item 7:**

Other Business/Citizens Concerns

No citizens' concerns were raised and as the meeting was wrapping up Mr. Berry explained that the process of developing the LRTP was challenging but also enjoyable. This was in no small part due to the consultant team lead by RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC. At this point Mr. Berry played a video that was created by Mr. Jeff Rawles highlighting the Long Range Transportation Plan development. It was very well received by the MTPO members and staff.

**Agenda Item 8:**

Vice Mayor Carriger made closing statements, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 a.m.