

**Johnson City Metropolitan Planning Organization
Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting, 2 p.m.
JCT Training Room 1st floor,
January 11, 2007**

Executive Board Present

David Ornduff, for the Honorable Mayor Alexander (City of Elizabethton)
The Honorable Mayor Darden (City of Johnson City)
Deborah Fleming, for Governor Bredeson (Tennessee)
Johnny Deakins, for the Honorable Mayor Jaynes (Washington County)

Executive Board Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Bledsoe (Town of Jonesborough)

Executive Staff Present

Rusty Treadway, (City of Elizabethton)
Eldonna Janutolo, (Johnson City Transit)
Charles Alley, for Stan Harrison, (Office of Local Planning)
Pete Peterson, City Manager (City of Johnson City)
Johnny Deakins, Washington County Highway Department
Matt Garland, for Susan Reid, (First TN Development District)

Executive Staff Not Present

Jack Perkins, Carter County Highway Department
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Donna Bridwell, Johnson City Transit
Dustin King, City of Johnson City Planning Department
Les Levotch, Director Emergency Management, City of Johnson City
Steve Neilson, City of Johnson City Planning Department
Phil Pindzola, City of Johnson City Public Works
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City MTPO
Corey Shoun, Johnson City Press
Jeanne Stevens, Director of Planning, TDOT
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City Public Works
Ralph Bandy, Johnson City MTPO
Jennifer Humphreys, Wilbur Smith Associates
Hollis Loveday, Wilbur Smith Associates

Summary of Motions Passed:

- Minutes from August 22, 2006 approved.
- Approved appointment of Transportation Planning Coordinator for the Johnson City MTPO.
- Approved Memorandum of Agreement with Kingsport MPO regarding Urbanized Areas.
- Approved Amended FY 07 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include itemized description of equipment, and to include a Transportation Planning Report (TPR).

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item 1: Meeting called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Mayor Darden.

Agenda Item 2: A sign-in sheet was passed to each member.

Agenda Item 3: The minutes from the August 22, 2006 meetings were reviewed. John Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the document. David Ornduff seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. Pete Peterson made a motion for the staff to approve the document. David Ornduff seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 4: The Bylaws of the Johnson City MTPO requires the Executive Board to appoint a Transportation Planning Coordinator for MTPO. Currently this position has been filled by Mr. Glenn Berry. Mr. Berry had met all requirements of the application process by the city of Johnson City, and had completed his six months probationary period. Mr. Alley from the State Planning Office made the motion to appoint Glenn Berry. David Ornduff seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5: Mr. Berry distributed through the packet, the Johnson City MTPO Boundary Map for the review of the MTPO Boundary for informational purposes. The MTPO, by federal law, must include the urbanized area of the jurisdiction it serves. The U.S. Census Bureau defines the urbanized area and bases it upon its population density. The MTPO previously approved the boundary, and the accompanying map was signed by the MTPO chairman at that time. No action was required for Item 5A.

Mr. Berry presented a map that illustrated how the Kingsport Urbanized area is overlapping with the Johnson City MTPO study area, and the Johnson City urbanized area is overlapping with the Kingsport MPO study area. By a verbal agreement between the aforementioned MPO's, the map identified Area B as the responsibility of the Johnson City MTPO and Area A the Kingsport MPO. David Ornduff made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement. Deborah Fleming seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 6: Mr. Berry introduced the proposed amendments to the FY 07 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Berry explained that the amendment would include an itemized description of equipment to be purchased with planning funds, and to include a Transportation Planning Report (TPR) for three intersections on I-26. Mr. Berry explained that all Planning funds must be itemized in the UPWP; and the Tennessee Department of Transportation must complete the TPR to be included in the UPWP. The TPR will analyze the interchanges and make recommendations for improvements. The three interchanges fall under control of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, due to being all along I-26. These interchanges are State Route 75 Exit 42, State Route 354 Exit 38, and State Route 67 Exit 31. John Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the amended FY 07 UPWP. David Ornduff seconded the

motion. All approved. Motion carried. David Ornduff made a motion for the staff to approve the amended FY 07 UPWP. Pete Peterson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 7: A PowerPoint presentation was made by Glenn Berry and Jeff Rawles on the Long Range Transportation Plan, and also by representatives from Wilbur Smith and Associates. Mr. Berry showed various clips of past years transportation usage, airports, interstate congestion, signage, and freight issues. Jeff Rawles presented the Bikeway and Pedestrian Systems portion of the presentation. Mr. Rawles explained how important it is to link the bikeways and sidewalks together for the best routes for the public to use. Mr. Rawles also explained the MTPO, has been in contact with The Southern Appalachian Greenway Alliance (SAGA), since they have just completed a Long Range Bikeway- Greenway Plan.

The highway portion of the presentation was presented by representatives from Wilbur and Associates. Jenny Humphreys was responsible for developing the Travel Demand Model for the MTPO area. Ms. Humphreys explained that this was very integral part of the Long Range Plan, by estimating the traffic issues for the next 25+ years. Ms. Humphreys explained each of the segments that were analyzed to develop the model. Overall, Johnson City has very evenly distributed growth patterns, and the forecast looked optimistic. Hollis Loveday was responsible for highway section of the study. He explained that they started studying the area back to the year 2000 through 2030. Mr. Loveday also explained the difference with the “build” and “no-build” roadway conditions.

Mayor Darden questioned with I-26 being rated “F”, should it be widened to six lanes? Mr. Loveday answered by saying that it was a tough issue, but it may be more economical to go ahead and widen to six lanes. Ms. Humphreys stated that it could be looked into further by a traffic analysis. Phil Pindzola questioned the growth patterns concerning the overall traffic volume. Ms. Humphreys stated that the traffic volume would increase 3 % to 4% per year for 30 years.

Agenda Item 8: Jeanne Stevens, Director of Planning for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, closed the meeting commending the staff and the consultants involved with this meeting. Ms. Stevens also passed along some comments made by Commissioner Nicely from the State legislature about the transportation funding budget for this year.

Agenda Item 9: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:57 p.m.