

**Johnson City Metropolitan Planning Organization
Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting, Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
Johnson City Transit Center, 1st Floor Training Room
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
December 14, 2011**

Executive Board Present

Johnny Deakins for the Honorable Mayor Eldridge, Washington County
Angie Midgett for Governor Bill Haslam, State of Tennessee
M.D. Peterson for Vice Mayor Carriger, City of Johnson City
Craig Ford 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
The Honorable Mayor Humphrey, Carter County

Executive Board Not Present

Executive Staff Present

Pete Peterson, City of Johnson City
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Superintendent
Craig Ford, Town of Jonesborough
Jon Hartman for Fred Edens, Elizabethton

Executive Staff Not Present

Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Jack Perkins, Carter County Highway Department Superintendent
Glenn Rosenoff, Local Planning Office
Susan Reid, First Tennessee Development District

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO/Johnson City Transit
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City- Traffic Engineering Manager
Randy Dodson, Mattern and Craig Engineering
Jane Fillers, Johnson City Transit
Donna Bridwell, Johnson City Transit
Amber Sanderson, MTAS inter- Town of Unicoi
Travis Barber, Town of Unicoi
Mitch Eberle, Info Group Gov.
Gary Gray, Johnson City Press

Summary of Motions Passed:

- **Approved** minutes from November 3, 2011.
- **Approved** Self Certification Resolution for the TIP (Resolution 2011-12).
- **Approved** amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for stream mitigation project, due to impacts of projects to SR-362 (Resolution 2011-13).
- **Approved** amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for additional funding for SR-91 Extension for Right of Way and Preliminary Engineering (Resolution 2011-14).

Meeting Minutes:

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Mr. Peterson. A sign-in sheet was passed to each person.

Agenda Item 1: The minutes from the November 3, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Lynch made a motion for the board to approve the document. Mr. Ford seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 2:

Consider approval of Self-Certification Resolution

Mr. Berry stated that an Executive Board vote was required to approve and endorse the Self Certification Resolution for 2011-2014 TIP (Resolution 2011-12). 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. Humphrey made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3:

Consider approval of Amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for Stream Mitigation Project, due to the impacts of the SR 362 (Gap Creek Road) Project.

Mr. Berry gave an overview of the SR 362 (Gap Creek Road) project. In the overview Mr. Berry stated the project impacted Gap Creek near the southern terminus adjacent to the Cherokee National Forest. Mr. Berry explained he had discussed these impacts with the Tennessee Department of Transportation Project Manager, Mr. John Barrett of Region I in depth. Mr. Barrett had informed Mr. Berry the impacts of the SR 362 (Gap Creek Road) project could not be mitigated at the actual location. To offset these impacts the Tennessee Department of Transportation had worked diligently with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conversation, City of Elizabethton, and Carter County to identify other locations which could offset these impacts. At this point, Mr. Joe Barnett, Storm Water Coordinator for the City of Elizabethton, stated a location on Doe River in Downtown Elizabethton, just downstream of the Historic Covered Bridge would be used as mitigation offset for the SR 362 (Gap Creek Road) project. He further went on to say this mitigation project was one the City had identified for several years; however they did not have the funding for the project. Now, due to the SR 362 (Gap Creek Road) project, the project would be completed with no cost to the City of Elizabethton and they were extremely pleased. The total cost of the mitigation project on the Doe River was estimated to be around \$700,000.

In addition to this project, Mr. Berry stated another mitigation location was identified by TDOT and TDEC on Buffalo Creek near the Lyons Baseball field just off of SR 67 that would be used as an offset for the impacts of the SR 362(Gap Creek Road) project. This site would complement another stream mitigation project on Buffalo Creek. Together these two stream mitigation projects would offset the impacts on Gap Creek and had been approved by TDEC.

Mr. Humphrey made a motion for the board to approve the amendment to the TIP. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 4:

Consider approval of Amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for the State Route 91 Project Right-of-Way and add additional PE funds.

Mr. Berry stated the Tennessee Department of Transportation had contacted his office with a request to amend the FY 2011-2014 by adding funding for Right-of-Way (\$5,200,000) and PE (\$435,089). Mr. Berry stated the final recommendation for SR 91 Extension Project, previously known as “Northern Connector” was for improvements along the existing route. He briefly reviewed the project history stating several alternatives had been reviewed during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the course of the EIS a “one way pair” alternative had been recommended by the Tennessee Department of Transportation along the section of SR 91 starting at McArthur Avenue in Elizabethton, next to “Pal’s”, and continuing to the intersection of Broad and Roan street, near the “large U.S. Flag.” Mr. Berry went on to state the City of Elizabethton had proposed a counter alternative to the one-way pair option which was to widen SR 91 along the aforementioned section of roadway on the northern side of the route. Mr. Berry stated the Tennessee Department of Transportation worked with the City of Elizabethton to accommodate their request, and in the end this was now the preferred alternative. Mr. Berry stated a motion was required to add this project back in to the 2011-2014 TIP and noted it was in the previous 2008-2011 TIP as well.

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

Agenda Item 5:

Update on Senate Bill 1813 “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” MAP-21, the “New Transportation Act.”

Mr. Berry gave an update on Senate Bill 1813 “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” MAP-21, the “New Transportation Act.” This is the Senate’s version of the new Transportation Act. In his briefing he stated the population threshold for MPOs had changed from urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 to urbanized areas with a population of 200,000. He went on to state existing MPO with an urbanized population of under 200,000 would automatically be put on probation for one year and given the opportunity to “prove” they could meet the requirements of the new transportation act and guidelines set forth by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. He further stated the U.S. Secretary had up to one year after the passage of the Act in its current form to “promulgate” these guidelines. Mr. Berry stated the bill did require the MPO to create and maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan, a Transportation Improvement Program, and most likely some type of travel demand forecast modeling. He went on to state the Johnson City MTPO currently meets all of these tasks and fully expects to meet any new guidelines or policy’s if and when a new transportation act is enacted in to law.

Mr. Berry pointed out we (the U.S.) is currently working under a Continuing Resolution (C.R.) and that this was at least the ninth C.R. that had been passed by Congress. He stated the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, and Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), had expired on September 30, 2009. He further stated he did not expect a new Transportation Act until after the Presidential elections in November of 2012; however, it could be possible for Congress to come together and pass an Act before then.

Mr. Peterson then asked what would happen if the MPO did not meet the criteria set for by the pending legislation. It was discussed that the transit operations would continue as is and the MPO would have to develop a plan to turn over transportation planning functions to the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Berry stated he would continue to track Senate Bill 1813 as well as the house version(s) of the transportation act, any and all amendments and keep everyone informed of any major changes.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business/Citizens concerns. There was no other business or concerns.

Agenda Item 7: Mr. Peterson made closing statements, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.