

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board / Executive Staff Meeting
Friday, November 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Jon Hartman for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton
The Honorable Mayor Daniel Eldridge, Washington County
Michelle Bradburn for Governor Bill Haslam, State of Tennessee
John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Board Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Clayton Stout, City of Johnson City
The Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Mayor Leon Humphrey, Carter County

Executive Staff Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Jerome Kitchens, City of Elizabethton
Angie Carrier for M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Michelle Bradburn, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Executive Staff Not Present

Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough
Mike Housewright, Town of Unicoi
Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Matthew Balogh, City of Elizabethton
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Bill Albright, Kingsport MTPO
Troy Ebbert, Kingsport MTPO
Stephanie Livingston, LDA Engineering

Summary of Motions Passed:

- **Approved** – Minutes from August 25, 2016
- **Approved – Resolution 2016-07** –Self-Certification Resolution
- **Approved – Resolution 2016-08** – Adoption of the Fiscal Years 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- **Approved – Resolution 2016-09** – Recommendation / Reaffirmation of the Priority Project List for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the acting Chairman, the Honorable Mayor Daniel Eldridge.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Mayor Eldridge proceeded to ask if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments from the public attending the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: The minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells made a motion for the board to approve. Mr. Jon Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Consider approval of Resolution 2016-07 to sign Self-Certifications

Mr. Glenn Berry thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Berry stated that these self-certifications are required when adopting a TIP to assure the federal government that the Johnson City MTPO is following regulations. He explained that since the Johnson City MTPO is classified as a small urbanized area and not a Transportation Management Area as defined by federal law, the Johnson City MTPO was allowed to “self-certify.”

Mr. Berry continued with a discussion about ADA compliance. He said that TDOT has recently received a letter from FHWA regarding ADA compliance and is in the process of responding to the letter. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to sign the Self Certifications for the Johnson City MTPO. Ms. Michelle Bradburn seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Consider approval of Resolution 2016-08 to adopt the Fiscal Years 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Berry proceeded to describe the TIP process. Many projects from the old TIP are completed or under construction. Several projects are carried over from the old TIP – the Veterans Affairs Hospital Connector project, the SR 381 at Indian Ridge Road project and the Traffic Circle at Mountainview Road project. Also carried over were the Adaptive Signal Control Phases 1 and 2; however, they were moved to the latter years of the TIP.

Mr. Berry reviewed each of the projects in the new TIP. He specifically mentioned that the Traffic Circle on Greenline Road Project may end up a different type of project, possibly an entrance realignment, but it is not known for sure at this time. Jeff Rawles with Johnson City Transit assisted with the review of the transit projects. The TIP was advertised for a 14-calendar day public comment period that ended October 31, 2016. No public comments were received.

Mayor Wells made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to adopt the Fiscal Years 2017-2020 TIP for the Johnson City MTPO. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Consider approval of Resolution 2016-09 to Recommend/Reaffirm the Priority Project List for TDOT’s Three-Year Work Program

Mr. Berry stated that TDOT has not yet provided a list of projects slated for inclusion in the Three-Year Work Program; however, there are two projects from the last Three-Year Work Program that have not yet gone to construction that will more than likely be on the upcoming list. These two projects are I-26 Exit

17 (Boones Creek Road) project and the SR 91 Improvements project in Elizabethton. Mr. Berry explained that the Board is voting to re-affirm the previous rankings, as follows:

1. I-26 Exit 17 (Boones Creek Road), Johnson City, Washington County
2. SR 91 Extension Project, Elizabethton, Carter County

If TDOT includes any additional projects, he will bring the projects back before the Executive Board for another vote.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the resolution for the Priority of Projects List for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program for the Johnson City MTPO as submitted. Ms. Bradburn seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 6: Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Mr. Berry proceeded to present the annual listing of obligated projects. He explained that this list is published after each federal fiscal year showing all federally funded transportation projects that were obligated during the previous year. He noted this was a federal requirement and it is posted on the Johnson City MTPO website. Larger printed versions of the list were also made available.

Agenda Item 7: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) by Federal Highway Administration – Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform

Mr. Berry reviewed that FHWA has issued a notice that they are proposing new regulations, or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), that will alter how MPOs operate. Mr. Berry gave an update that the NPRM comment period had been extended. It is not expected that the final rule will be published before the election and possibly not until after the first of the year. He explained that a portion of the Kingsport Urbanized Area is in the Johnson City MTPO Metropolitan Planning Area. The population of that area is approximately 4,230. Adding this number to the various formulas for transportation and transit funding would not alter the amount of money that would be received. The funding is based on a percentage of total population in the funding formula, not a per-person basis.

Mr. Jerome Kitchens asked what will change if the MPOs go over a population of 200,000. Mr. Berry explained that the area will become a TMA, which is a transportation management area. This would involve additional requirements under federal law such as developing a congestion management process, among other tasks, and further research would be required to identify all the requirements of a TMA. If the Johnson City and Kingsport MPOs are combined, we will become a bi-state MPO, with part of the area in Virginia. We could possibly go into non-attainment status, depending on the air quality in Sullivan County. Also issues regarding who was on the Executive Board of the combined MPOs would have to be worked out and this would involve the Governors.

Agenda Item 8: Update on I-26 in North Carolina

Mr. Berry gave an update on the improvements to I-26 in North Carolina. He recently attended a public hearing regarding a portion of the project that is to the south of Asheville, towards Hendersonville. The project has chosen an alternative to improve I-26 from four lanes to six-to-eight lanes from the interchange with I-40/240 south to the US 25/Airport exit. He mentioned that the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge over I-26 will need to be rebuilt, since the bridge pillars are not wide enough to accommodate the extra lanes for Interstate 26 underneath. The new bridge for the Parkway will include pedestrian walkways for a trail that goes through that area. This phase of the project is approximately 22.2 miles and

will cost over \$392 million for construction. A flyover of the corridor was developed by NC DOT. At the request of Mr. Berry to NC DOT the video was made available on YouTube at the following direct link <https://youtu.be/DAEdS5rhzE8> or through the NC DOT Project Website at <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26widening/>.

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

Chairman Mayor Eldridge asked if there was any other business. Mr. Berry asked Ms. Mary Butler to demonstrate the new TIP Database that is now available for all jurisdictions and public via the Internet. He pointed out Ms. Butler took the lead on this cooperative effort with the Nashville MPO and it was a great improvement over the previous TIPs that were maintained in an Excel workbook.

Ms. Butler explained that the website was geared toward the Nashville MPO, a large urban area, which required some customization to make it fit the Johnson City MTPO, a small urban area. It can be found by going to the Johnson City MTPO website at www.jcmpo.org, hovering on “Plans & Documents” then hovering over “Transportation Improvement Program” and clicking on “Interactive TIP.” The direct link is <http://jcmpotip.johnsoncitytn.org/>. The database will be very helpful, especially the project funding summaries, where each funding source is totaled automatically. Additional people can create their own customized views for the area and find out financial information regarding projects in the TIP. This website will become a project tracking and document depository, along with a way for people to submit comments specifically for a project.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.