

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board / Executive Staff Meeting
Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor David Tomita, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Jon Hartman for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton
Bob Browning for the Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Daniel Eldridge, Washington County
Michelle Christian for the Honorable Governor Bill Haslam, State of Tennessee
John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Board Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Mayor Leon Humphrey, Carter County

Executive Staff Present

Jerome Kitchens, City of Elizabethton
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough
M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Cory Osborne for Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Michelle Christian, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Executive Staff Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Larry Rea, Town of Unicoi
Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Troy Ebbert, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Jason Farmer, Tennessee Department of Transportation
John Penland, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Mike Russell, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Ashley Davies, Tennessee Department of Health
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Matthew Balogh, City of Elizabethton
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Jason Carder, Mattern & Craig
Preston Elliott, KCI Technologies (RPM Transportation Consultants)
Stephanie Livingston, LDA Engineering
Rab Summers, Summers-Taylor

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from September 14, 2017;
- **Approved – Resolution 2017-05** –Self Certification Resolution;
- **Approved – Resolution 2017-06** – Amendment 1 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to revise the project description and termini of the State Route (SR) 91 Extension Project;
- **Approved – Resolution 2017-07** – Resolution to recommend and reaffirm the Priority Project List for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program;
- **Approved – Resolution 2017-08** – Adopted resolution to support Safety Performance Targets by TDOT.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chairman, the Honorable Mayor David Tomita.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Mayor Tomita 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 September 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. John Hartman made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting. Mr. John Deakins, Jr. seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Consider approval of Self-Certification Resolution

Mr. Glenn Berry reviewed the purpose of the self-certifications and that small urban areas self-certify, unlike large urban areas that must go through a formal federal certification review process. Mr. Berry also reviewed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that updates to jurisdictional ADA transition plans are required to be implemented before the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) can be approved.

Mayor Tomita asked how do we self-certify. Mr. Berry explained the process for large urbanized areas is they go through a federal review process where the federal agencies do an onsite visit review of their documentation, procedures, etc. For small urbanized areas, the MPO states they adhere to all federal laws in the self-certification resolution. Mr. Berry then gave examples of this, such as the public notice of MTPO meetings, the meetings are held in facilities that are ADA accessible, and then Mr. Berry noted he knows that TDOT oversees compliance with all federally funded transportation projects like traffic signals, road projects, sidewalks, etc. Then Mr. M. Denis Peterson noted that the oversight of those type of projects were not part of the MTPO oversight and compliance. Mr. Berry then corrected himself and stated Mr. Peterson was correct.

Mr. Peterson made a motion for the board to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. Mr. Bob Browning seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Consider approval of amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to revise the project description and termini of the State Route (SR) 91 Extension Project

Mr. Berry explained history of the SR 91 project and that it began as the Northern Connector Project in Elizabethton. It has changed over the years and is now in the right-of-way phase. TDOT is amending the project description to include improvements to the North Roan Street and East Elk Avenue intersection. They are also shortening the original termini from 5 miles to exactly 4 miles.

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

Agenda Item 5: Consider approval of recommendation and reaffirmation of the Priority Project List for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program

Mr. Berry proceeded to explain the process of prioritizing projects and that even though a project may be ranked high by the MPOs, TDOT can implement other projects as time and funding permits. The two projects to rank for construction are the Interstate 26 Exit 17 (Boones Creek Road) project as Ranking Number 1 and the SR 91 Extension project as Ranking Number 2. Mr. Berry asked Mr. Mike Russell with TDOT to give an update on the status of the Exit 17 project. Mr. Russell explained that the project is in the Right-of-Way Phase but funding for construction has not been identified. Mr. Russell also noted that TDOT was awaiting the release of HPP funds from FHWA to continue the ROW phase of the SR 91 Project in Carter County.

Mr. Berry then informed the member and guests at the meeting there was a new category to rank is was for the project to begin preliminary engineering that were in the Improve Act. He noted the Johnson City MTPO only had one project included in this category to rank, which is the new state route XXX on Knob Creek Road that was proposed in the IMPROVE Act passed earlier this year.

Mr. Berry informed the Board that he had received a call from a Mr. Jim Taggart and had a long conversation about the status of SR 36 and the last portion to be improved from SR 75 to I-81. Mr. Taggart was upset that the project was taking a very long time. Mr. Berry had to explain to Mr. Taggart that even though we support this project, it is not located in the Johnson City MTPO planning area and there is not much we can do about it. Mr. Berry stated since the conversation with Mr. Taggart he did find out that it was ranked as the number 2 project in the Kingsport MTPO Priority Project List. This project is also supposed to be funded by the IMPROVE Act. Mr. Taggart was informed by someone with TDOT that this project is in our area, so Mr. Berry proposes writing a letter to TDOT to explain the situation and that this project is not in our area. The Honorable Mayor Dan Eldridge asked if this was located in Washington County. Mayor Eldridge also noted he had received calls from the Sullivan County officials asking to the status of this project and why the Johnson City MTPO was not pursuing the project. Mr. Berry explained that there is a small portion of the unimproved segment of SR 36 located in northern Washington County before it moves into Sullivan County. Mayor Eldridge recommended letting Sullivan County leaders know this was in the Kingsport MTPO. Mr. Berry said he would let them know also.

Next Mr. Berry stated the projects in the agenda, with the exception of the new SR-XXX Knob Creek project, were previously ranked for several years with Exit 17 on I-26 Interchange improvements at SR 354 (Boones Creek Road) being number 1 and the SR 91 Project in Carter County being number 2. He noted while the staff recommended keeping the projects the same ranking it was up to the Board for their consideration and their decision and that while the MTPO may rank a project as number 1 it may not be completed first due to funding, programming scheduling or other reasons.

Mayor Eldridge made a motion for the board to approve the Priority of Projects as proposed. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 6: Consider approval of resolution to support Safety Performance Targets by TDOT

Mr. Berry explained to the Board that they heard about the Safety Performance Targets at the last meeting in September. These safety performance targets are being set to meet the performance measures set by Congress in 2012 in the MAP-21 legislation. Mr. Berry stated that the targets are a rolling five-year average, which is currently 2014-2018, and that a baseline has been set. Each year, the average will move ahead by one year. Unfortunately, the fatality rate is a delicate subject to estimate the average number of deaths that might occur over the five-year period. Mr. Berry has contacted other MPOs across the state, namely Kingsport, Bristol, Lakeway (Morristown) and Memphis MPOs, and they are all supporting the state's targets. Mr. Berry explained the staff expertise and availability of data that would be required in order to set their own targets.

Mayor Tomita stated we could set our targets regionally. Mr. Berry explained due to the complexity of the MTPO geography and data needed, it would be extremely difficult for the MTPO at this time to achieve this and stated this is a new process initiated by Congress and recommended supporting the state's targets at this time, learn how the process proceeds, and adjust as deemed necessary.

Mr. Troy Ebbert said there would be other performance measures and targets to be set in the future, notably pavement management. Mr. Deakins said this was very much like the drive to zero initiative to eliminate all

deaths on highway. Mayor Tomita responded by saying it is recommended we bless the state's targets and keep doing what we are doing. Mr. Berry said yes.

The Honorable Mayor Dan Eldridge made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to support Safety Performance Targets by TDOT. The Honorable Mayor David Tomita seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 7: Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Mr. Berry went over the purpose of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. This list includes all funding that is obligated for a project. Amounts listed in red is funding that is returned to the state as that money was left over for a project. Full size handouts of the listing are available to the members.

Agenda Item 8: Progress Update and Draft of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Preston Elliott of KCI Technologies gave a short update about the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Ms. Mary Butler handed out an Executive Summary that KCI created as a short, concise version of the full document. Mr. Elliott explained that they had received comments from FHWA and FTA and that there were three required changes along with various other suggested changes. The required changes can be addressed by simply removing a couple of sentences. Mr. Elliott gave a brief overview of the remaining schedule to adopt the MTP. The public review period will begin on December 27 and end January 25, 2018. A public meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2018. An Executive Board meeting will be schedule for February to adopt the plan.

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

Mr. Berry proceeded to close the meeting by showing a video he took at the Johnson City Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked them for coming.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.