

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board / Executive Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

Jon Hartman for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton, Acting Chairman
The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Charles Stahl for the Honorable Mayor David Tomita, City of Johnson City
Bob Browning for the Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough
John Deakins, Jr. for 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 David Tomita, City of Johnson City
The Honorable Mayor Leon Humphrey, Carter County
The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi

Executive Staff Present

Charles Stahl for M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City, Chairman
The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Jon Hartman, City of Elizabethton
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Russ Davis, First Tennessee Development District
Troy Ebbert, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Executive Staff Not Present

Michael Borders, Town of Unicoi
Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Candace Gump, First Tennessee Development District
Jason Carder, Mattern & Craig
Randy Dodson, Mattern & Craig
David Gemar, Johnson City Transit

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from February 22, 2018;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-05** –Approved Self Certification Resolution;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-06** – Approved Amendment 3 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to add a new traffic signal project for Jonesborough.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. by the Acting Chairman, Mr. Jon Hartman.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Hartman 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 February 22, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting. Mr. Bob Browning 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, in order to pass an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. He mentioned that the MTPO had recently completed their Planning Status Review (PSR), which is conducted by TDOT, pointing out that Mr. Troy Ebbert and Ms. Michelle Christian were part of the review process. Mr. Ebbert spoke about the PSR and explained that the review of the Johnson City MTPO went well. Mr. Ebbert complimented the MTPO staff for good work and said that we are an example for MPOs across the state.

Ms. Michelle Christian made a motion for the board to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Consider approval of amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new traffic signal project for Jonesborough.

Mr. Berry explained that an amendment to the TIP was needed to add funding for a new project for Jonesborough to add a traffic signal at the intersection of 11E and Smith Lane. He showed the Board a map of the location of the signal. He asked Mr. Browning, the Town Administrator for Jonesborough, to explain more about the project. Mr. Browning explained that the signal now located at Second Avenue could not originally be located at North Cherokee Street, which had one of the highest crash rates, because there was no connection to downtown or State Route 81. In order to provide the best access, TDOT approved for a signal to be located at Second Avenue. Even with the signal installed, drivers are still trying to access 11E by leaving the Justice Center using Cherokee Street. Once the intersection of Cherokee Street and 11E was modified to prevent left turns, drivers started cutting through the parking lot of the commercial center in order to make a left at Smith Lane. This has created a hazard with drivers making an unprotected left turn.

Mr. Berry took this opportunity to mention that this is something of a limitation for travel demand models, that computers are not able to predict the movements of people very well. What would seem a logical course of action – making a protected left turn at the Second Avenue traffic signal – is not the case for real-life situations – going through a parking lot in order to make a left turn at Smith Lane.

Mr. Browning showed how a new connector road will be built between Cherokee Street and Smith Lane in order to provide access from the Justice Center to the new traffic signal. Jonesborough is funding this improvement with local funds and needs additional funding from the MTPO in order to build the signal. Mr. Browning said this new signal should help solve several problems for both the town and the county.

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

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

Crash Analysis Report

Mr. Berry proceeded to inform the Board that several graduate students studying Geographical Information Systems (GIS) at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) were analyzing crash data as part of a class project. In the next month, the group will be presenting the MTPO staff with a report of the crash analysis. Mr. Berry would like for the students to come back and present to the Board at a later date. This data will be very useful as evidence of crashes is needed to justify improvements in several corridors across the region. He pointed out that the corridor of 11E in Jonesborough is one of those high crash rate areas.

First Tennessee Human Resource Agency is now a Section 5307 Grantee

Ms. Candace Gump, the director of NET Trans, the rural transportation provider, made an announcement to the Board that the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency (FTHRA) was approved by the Federal Transit Administration as a new grant recipient for Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grant funding. At this time, funding provided from TDOT has no disparate impact on the other urban transit agencies. She also mentioned that a future TIP amendment will be required to include their funding. Mr. Berry pointed out that the MTPO will also need to receive transit performance targets from them to include in the TIP. He also stated that the MTPO needs some kind of formal notification in writing about the new status of FTHRA as a grant recipient. Ms. Butler asked Ms. Gump if the additional funding comes from the Critical Trips Grant Program from TDOT. Ms. Gump said that the Critical Trips program will continue to provide funds across the state; however, the additional funds they will receive are Section 5307 funds.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.