

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board / Executive Staff Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 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 Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Mayor Rusty Barnett, Carter County
The Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County
Troy Ebbert 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

Executive Staff Present

M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City
Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Chase Milner for Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Executive Staff Not Present

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

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Shauna Crowe, Johnson City Transit
Mike Potter, City of Elizabethton
Calvin Clifton, Mattern & Craig
Randy Dodson, Mattern & Craig

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from August 23, 2018;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-12** – Approved Self Certification Resolution;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-13** – Approved Amendment 6 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to add a new Section 5310 transit project for the Jonesborough Senior Center’s vehicle purchase;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-14** – Approved Amendment 7 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to add a new STBG-Local project for the Elizabethton ADA Transition Plan;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-15** – Approved Amendment 8 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to amend an STBG-Local project for a traffic signal upgrade at Broad Street and 19E in Elizabethton;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-16** – Adopted TDOT’s Safety (PM1) Performance Targets;
- **Approved – Resolution 2018-17** – Adopted TDOT’s Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets; and
- **Approved** – Priority Project List for TDOT’s Three-Year Work Program.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:01 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 August 23, 2018 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. Johnny Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the August 23, 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.

Mr. M. Denis Peterson made a motion for the board to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. Mr. Troy Ebbert 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 Section 5310 transit project for the Jonesborough Senior Center's vehicle purchase.

Mr. Berry explained that the Jonesborough Senior Center is receiving a Section 5310 grant of \$40,800 federal and \$3,600 state funds from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), for a project total of \$48,000. He stated that the Senior Center has been applying for this grant for several years. He asked Mr. Browning to elaborate on the project. Mr. Browning stated that the Jonesborough Senior Center is a fully ADA-accessible facility with membership that keeps expanding into the surrounding community. The facility does not have an ADA-accessible vehicle and this grant will provide the funding to purchase one and provide for the transportation needs of the disabled members.

Mr. Browning made a motion for the board to approve the TIP amendment to add the Jonesborough Senior Center's vehicle purchase project. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Consider approval of amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new STBG-Local project for the Elizabethton ADA Transition Plan.

Mr. Berry explained that the City of Elizabethton is in the process of updating their ADA Transition Plan and they need technical assistance to complete their self-evaluation portion of the Plan. Elizabethton is asking for \$124,000 in federal STBG-Local funds, with \$31,000 in local match, for a project total of \$155,000. Mr. Berry asked Mr. Hartman to confirm they (the city of Elizabethton) did not have a City Engineer on staff. Mr. Hartman stated they did not and needed technical assistance for the development of this plan.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the TIP amendment to add the Elizabethton ADA Transition Plan project. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 6: Consider approval of amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to amend an STBG-Local project for a traffic signal upgrade at Broad Street and 19E in Elizabethton.

Mr. Berry explained that in the past, TDOT allowed project descriptions of a grouping of various locations for traffic signals. Now, with new staff at both TDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, the project

description must provide the actual location of individual signals. This project is being updated to change the description to a single location to upgrade the traffic signal at the intersection of Broad Street and 19E in Elizabethton. Chairman Tomita stated this clearly identifies the location of the project. Mr. Berry stated that yes, it does.

Mr. Daniel Estes made a motion for the board to approve the TIP amendment to amend the Broad Street and 19E traffic signal project. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 7: Consider adoption of resolution to support Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry showed the proposed targets for Safety Performance measures that were set by TDOT in August. These safety targets must be adopted annually. Mr. Berry explained that it is not possible to achieve a target of zero fatalities. Mr. Peterson said you would need to remove the human element from driving. Mr. Ebbert explained that the fatality percentage that determines the rate has gone down, even though the number of actual fatalities has increased, because more people are driving more miles across the state.

Mr. Browning made a motion for the board to support TDOT's Safety Performance Targets. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 8: Consider adoption of resolution to support Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry explained that there are three new performance targets for the Board and Staff to consider. He offered to show a PowerPoint presentation to go over each target and how they are calculated, but the members preferred a quick explanation. Chairman Tomita suggested sending the PowerPoint presentation to all the members. Mr. Berry said he would email the members the PowerPoint to view after the meeting. The first measure presented was pavement, where he showed the percentage of pavement that is in good and poor condition and the 2- and 4-year targets. He also showed the same for bridge condition.

Mr. Peterson asked the question about why the percentage of pavement and bridges in poor condition goes up in the targets. With additional revenue from the IMPROVE Act, the state should be able to, at a minimum, maintain the same percentage, preferably improve it. Mr. Ebbert explained that the IMPROVE Act is providing funding for capital projects like bridges, but the state still struggles to have enough funding for all the maintenance and pavement projects. TDOT did not receive all of the funding that was requested in the IMPROVE Act.

Mr. Berry showed the system performance targets, which are essentially congestion management targets. Mr. Berry explained that in the future, we will be noting specific projects that help with congestion management, namely the State of Franklin and Indian Ridge Road project that was recently completed. This project eliminated a bottleneck where traffic was backing up on State of Franklin at the intersection, waiting to turn right on Indian Ridge to go toward Woodridge Elementary School. Mr. Ebbert stated that adding a dedicated right turn lane improved congestion along that section of State of Franklin.

Mr. Berry also explained what the National Highway System (NHS) was and showed a map of the roads in the Johnson City Urbanized Area that are included on the NHS. Each of the performance measures and targets apply to interstates and roads on the NHS, which is all owned and maintained by TDOT. Since TDOT maintains these roads, Mr. Berry recommended that the Board and Staff vote to adopt and support TDOT's targets.

Mr. Hartman made a motion for the board to support TDOT's Pavement and Bridge Performance Targets and System Performance Targets. The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 9: Consider Priority Project List for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program.

Mr. Berry announced that each year, TDOT forwards to each MPO a list of projects they are considering to fund for the next three-year work program. He explained the Interstate 26 Exit 17 (Boones Creek Road) project is not on the list, as bids will be solicited for construction in the spring. The new state route (SR-XXX) on Knob Creek Road was ranked second last year and will move up to number one on this year's list.

Mr. Berry also recommended that a new project be added to the list. The Jonesborough Parkway, or By-Pass as it is listed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), has been included in current and past MTPs and it is an important project that the MTPO is asking TDOT to fund. The project was being considered for a study, but is now on hold until after the new administration takes office. There is currently no funding identified for this project.

Chairman Tomita asked if the members were comfortable with the rankings or would they like to change the order. Mr. Peterson stated it will take time for the state to acquire funding for the SR-XXX project. He and Mr. Grandy both stated the ranking was good with them.

Mr. Browning made a motion for the board to approve the Priority Project List. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion. All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 10: Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

Mr. Berry explained that the list of projects that are included in the agenda is every project that had funding obligated during the past federal fiscal year. The listing is also available in a large handout for those who need one. The listing is provided annually. Mr. Berry pointed out several key projects.

Agenda Item 11: Upcoming Work – New TIP & New Two-Year UPWP.

Mr. Berry informed the Board and Staff that the MTPO staff will begin working on a new TIP next year. There are limited STBG-Local funds for projects, as construction funding will need to be identified for the Knob Creek Road Extension project. He referred to the STBG funding summary table in the packet and stated if projects stay on time and on budget there would be approximately \$5.3 million dollars available in 2020, with the Knob Creek Road project being the major project in the region.

Mr. Berry also mentioned that the MTPO staff will be creating a new two-year Unified Planning Work Program. He is going to recommend that in the first year of the Work Program that a sub-area study be conducted in Johnson City. Most of the federal projects identified in Johnson City have been completed and a study is needed to identify new areas of need. He also stated the dynamics of Johnson City have changed due to the reinvestment in downtown Johnson City, the change in annexation laws, among other items, have changed the dynamics of growth Johnson City has seen in the past.

Mr. Berry also recommended that in the second year of the Work Program, the MTPO staff conduct a study of the ramifications of becoming a transportation management area (TMA), should the two urbanized areas of Kingsport and Johnson City become one area after the new census in 2020. New urbanized areas will be announced two years after the census in 2022. Mr. Berry explained that there can be more than one MPO in an urbanized area; however, it gets complicated because all the MPOs must agree on certain things. For example, the MPOs must agree on a single set of performance targets for the entire urbanized area. He used Florida and Charlotte as examples where multiple MPOs exist and must agree on projects. He stated as it stands now there are more questions than answers and we must be prepared to effectively plan for the future.

Agenda Item 12: Other Business.

Mr. Berry showed a simulation of new traffic patterns after the construction at the interchange of Interstate 26 and Boones Creek Road (Exit 17) is finished, resulting in a diverging diamond design.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.