

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Staff TIP Workshop
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Staff Present

Glenn Berry for M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Logan Engle for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Executive Staff Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough
Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department
Johnny Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Others Attending

Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Kim Kreckow, Johnson City MTPO/Transit
Jon McCurry, NET Trans

Summary of Actions: No action items were conducted during this workshop.

Mr. Glenn Berry, MPO Manager, started the workshop at 10:14 a.m. and gave a presentation. He explained the need for the TIP workshop and that circumstances have changed regarding the STBG balance available to the Johnson City MTPO. The State of Tennessee is going to take over the Construction phase of the Knob Creek Road project that runs from Marketplace Blvd to Mizpah Hills Drive. This relieves a major financial burden from the Johnson City MTPO, the City of Johnson City and Washington County.

He announced that the new transportation authorization act has been passed by Congress and was signed by the President on Monday, November 15. The new act is called the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This act will cover the next five years, 2022 through 2026, and authorizes \$284 billion. We will be looking forward to seeing what the new STBG allocations will be for the Johnson City MTPO. There are several new funding categories, namely electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, protection from cyber threats, tourism, wildlife collision management and resiliency.

Mr. Berry explained some of the next steps ahead. First, the MTPO is recommending we rank two projects for TDOT's Three-Year Work Program. Section One of Knob Creek Road, from Marketplace Blvd to Mizpah Hills Drive, and Section Two of Knob Creek Road, from Mizpah Hills Drive to SR 354 (Boones Creek Road). Section One is recommended to be ranked number one, because it is almost ready to go to construction, and Section Two ranked as number two.

Mr. Berry gave an update on several projects that are currently programmed into the TIP. The new traffic signal planned for Jonesborough, at the intersection of SR 34/11 E (West Jackson Blvd) and Tiger Way, is under contract. The traffic signal upgrade for Elizabethton, at the intersection of SR 67/91/US 321 (Broad Street) and SR 37/US 19E, is scheduled for a bid letting on December 10. Both of these projects will need additional funding for completion. The SR 91 Extension project is also scheduled for the December 10 bid letting. This project may also need additional funding, but it will come from state funding if needed, not local funds.

Mr. Berry discussed several new projects that are recommended to be amended into the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) now and several projects that could be in the new TIP. The Johnson City MTPO received an allocation of HIP-CRRSAA (Covid Relief) funds of \$698,197 and proposes to use those funds on a new project, the Downtown Johnson City Crosswalk Safety Project. This project is estimated to cost \$1,000,000, so an additional \$301,803 is needed. \$241,442 will come from the MPO's STBG funds with local match coming from Johnson City. The project will be managed by Johnson City Public Works, Traffic Division.

A second project is also recommended to be amended into the TIP is the installation of several traffic signals throughout Johnson City. This project is estimated to cost \$2,375,000, 100 percent federal funds. Again, this project will be managed by Johnson City Public Works, Traffic Division.

Mr. Berry also discussed several other projects he had received during the Call for TIP Projects. Elizabethton is considering a roundabout be installed at the entrance of Wal-Mart at Overmountain Drive. Another project that was mentioned is to improve the intersection of SR 75 (Bobby Hicks Hwy) and Old Gray Station Road. The traffic signal itself would be eligible to be added to the TIP now; however, the approaches on Old Gray Station Road, which need added capacity, will not be eligible until the project is added to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Mr. Berry mentioned that the intersection of SR 381 (North State of Franklin Road) and Knob Creek Road is also under consideration as a new project. Mr. Berry recommended considering the entire Knob Creek Road corridor in that area, as improvements are made and new developments are going in.

Mr. Berry mentioned that the Johnson City MTPO has hired a consultant to begin the update to the MTP, which is KCI Technologies. We will be meeting with them on Monday, November 22. Also, Kimley-Horn has started the update to the Regional ITS Architecture. Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure is now a part of the ITS Architecture and will need to be added to the plan. The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan is also underway and the consultant preparing that plan is RLS and Associates.

Mr. Berry finished the presentation with a review of a spreadsheet showing the current balance of STBG funds the MTPO has, the estimated cost to finished projects currently in the TIP, the estimated cost of projects to amend into to the current TIP, and the estimated cost of proposed projects for the new TIP.

Mr. Berry ended the presentation and the workshop was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.