

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

Charlie Stahl for the Honorable Mayor Joseph C. Wise, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Logan Engle for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton
The Honorable Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough
Johnny Deakins, Jr. for the Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County
Ronda Sawyer for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee
John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Board Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Richard Bowling, Town of Bluff City
The Honorable Mayor Kathy Bullen, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County

Executive Staff Present

Charlie Stahl for Cathy Ball, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Logan Engle for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Kim Kreckow for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Executive Staff Not Present

The Honorable Mayor Richard Bowling, Town of Bluff City
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi
Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department
Susan Reid, First Tennessee Development District
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Matthew Balogh, Elizabethton
Anthony Todd, Johnson City
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Candace Long, NET Trans
Jon McCurry, NET Trans
Tracy Kissel, NET Trans
Jason Farmer, TDOT District 17
Michael Dick, TDOT District 17
Randy Dodson, Mattern & Craig
Kayla Ferguson, KCI

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from January 27, 2022 meeting;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2022-01 – Adopted the 2022 Johnson City Urbanized Area Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan; and
- **Endorsed** projected revenues and assumptions for the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Acting Chairman, Mr. Charlie Stahl, standing in for the Honorable Mayor Joseph C. Wise.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Mr. Stahl asked if there was any input from the public. There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item 2: The minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. John Deakins Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting. Ms. Ronda Sawyer seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mr. Stahl moved to Item 3, for the Executive Board to consider a resolution to adopt the 2022 Johnson City Urbanized Area Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

Mr. Berry reviewed the process to update the Coordinated Plan. A full presentation was given last month and this is a link to the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRheX5NXqOO>. He showed on the screen the eight goals and recommended strategies for the region to meet those goals. Mr. Berry pointed out that the strategies are recommendations and agencies will still need to consider if they can be implemented or not. Specifically, one of the recommended strategies is to hire a mobility manager. NET Trans hired a mobility manager last fall and JCT will need to evaluate the position further before hiring a person for that position. TDOT is currently funding mobility management at 100% for this year and 90% after that.

The Honorable Chuck Vest made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to adopt the 2022 Johnson City Urbanized Area Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mr. Stahl moved to Item 4, to consider endorsement of the project revenues and assumptions for the update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Mr. Berry gave a brief introduction on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), or the long-range plan as it was formerly known, and that it is one of the most important documents that an MPO is required to have. It is required to be updated every five years in areas with attainment for air quality. This document maintains the eligibility of projects and must meet fiscal constraint requirements. He introduced Ms. Kayla Ferguson from KCI Technologies, who is the consulting firm that is updating the MTP, and noted that the funding assumptions that are being presented have been reviewed by both TDOT and FHWA.

Ms. Ferguson gave a presentation on the current status of the process to update the MTP. This presentation is available on our website at <https://jcmppo.org/pastmeetings.html>. She covered the current population and employment data in the region and the predictions of growth in certain areas. She also showed a map where there are roadways with Level of Service (LOS) deficiencies. She points out that I-26 is one road that is operating at a LOS F, which is in critical need of improvement. She then briefly covered the results of the public survey to gather input on regional transportation needs and displayed locations

where people made comments. Ms. Ferguson displayed funding tables of historic revenues and where those figures were derived. She also displayed funding tables showing projected revenue for short-term years from 2023-2030 years and then outward years from 2031-2050.

Ms. Ferguson then gave an overview of the next steps in the timeline for the update to the MTP. KCI Will begin scoring projects and prioritize them. They will also finish cost estimates for candidate projects and There will be two public meetings held on May 24.

Ms. Ferguson and Mr. Berry also commented that the state, federal and public review process of the draft plan is rather lengthy, necessitating that the document be done to allow for almost 6 months for that process to happen.

Chairman Mr. Stahl asked about the meaning of fiscal constraint for the projects. Ms. Ferguson said you have to be able to identify a reasonable expectation of revenue to fund the projects that are needed.

Ms. Candace Long asked about the frequency for updating the list of projects. Ms. Ferguson said every five years.

Mayor Vest asked about the prioritizing of projects. Ms. Ferguson explained more about the scoring process and how it uses a method to score...

Mr. Deakins asked Ms. Ferguson to revisit the LOS deficiencies map and pointed out I-26 being rated low, a Level F. Ms. Ferguson said yes, the current Travel Demand Model shows that I-26 has the most congested roadway in the region. Mr. Deakins stated that the I-26 Corridor study did not show that much congestion. Mr. Berry said that one of the issues with the TDOT study was they used data from 2010 for the I-26 Corridor Study and unfortunately, it was out of date.

Ms. Kim Kreckow asked Ms. Ferguson if the percentage of growth was taken into consideration in order to fit more projects into the fiscal constraint. Ms. Ferguson stated that it was not for the purpose of fitting more projects in the proposal. Ms. Kreckow also asked if Ms. Ferguson knew the percentage of public participation to which Ms. Ferguson stated that due to the anonymous nature of the online polls, they could not easily determine a percentage of participation.

Mayor Vest made a motion to endorse the project revenues and assumptions for the update the MTP. Ms. Logan Engle seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Chairman Mr. Stahl moved to Item 5, Other Business.

Mr. Jason Farmer of TDOT District 17 offered an update on projects in the region. The State Route 91 project in Elizabethton is starting construction. Currently the subcontractor is waiting upon material delivery to begin work on utilities.

Ms. Sawyer announced that TDOT is seeking public engagement on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI), a new federal formula program. A stakeholder engagement session will be held next Tuesday, May 3, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Kingsport at the Chamber of Commerce (Eastman Board Room), 400 Clinchfield St., Kingsport, TN 37660.

Mr. Berry announced that the MTPO staff released a notice of an amendment to the Public Participation Plan in an email last week. The Board will be considering adopting the amendment in June.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Berry noted that Board Member Johnny Deakins would be retiring at the end of May and this would be his last meeting. He cited Mr. Deakins's dedication and strong support to the MTPO. He noted Mr. Deakins was instrumental in getting the Knob Creek Project included in the IMPROVE Act. He then proceeded to present Mr. Deakins with a "Certificate of Appreciation" on behalf of the Executive Board for his years of dedication and outstanding service. All the Board Members noted their appreciation for his service and wished him well.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chairman Mr. Stahl adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.