

**JOHNSON CITY MTPO**  
**Minutes of the Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room**

**Executive Board Present**

Randy Trivette for the Honorable Mayor Dr. Todd Fowler, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
The Honorable Mayor Jeff Broyles, Town of Bluff City  
Logan Engle for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton  
Glenn Rosenoff for the Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough  
Doug Jones for the Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County  
Ronda Sawyer for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee  
Doug Jones for John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

**Executive Board Not Present**

The Honorable Mayor Kathy Bullen, Town of Unicoi  
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County

**Executive Staff Present**

Randy Trivette for Cathy Ball, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
The Honorable Mayor Jeff Broyles, Town of Bluff City  
Logan Engle for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton  
Kim Kreckow for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit  
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough  
Doug Jones for Washington County Highway Department  
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District  
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

**Executive Staff Not Present**

Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi  
Carter County Highway Department  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

**MTPO Staff Present**

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO  
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO

**Others Attending**

Trampus Grindstaff, TDOT District 17  
Jason Miles, City of Johnson City  
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City  
Dustin Thompson, City of Johnson City  
John Steadman, City of Johnson City  
Tim Dougherty, NET Trans

### Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from August 15, 2023 meeting;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2023-05 to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO that must accompany an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP);
- **Approved** – Resolution 2023-06 to amend the Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add \$1,700,000 (\$1,360,000 Federal and \$340,000 Local) in STBG-L funds and move phases to Fiscal Year 2024, along with revising the scope to add adjacent intersections;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2023-07 to adopt the Johnson City Adjusted Urban Area Boundary from the 2020 Census; and
- **Approved** – Resolution 2023-08 to support 2020-2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Randy Trivette, standing in for the Honorable Mayor Dr. Todd Fowler.

**Agenda Item 1:** Chairman Mr. Trivette welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there was any input from the public. There were no comments from the public.

**Agenda Item 2:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023 Meeting.

Ms. Ronda Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 Meeting. The Honorable Mayor Jeff Broyles seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 3:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 3, to consider approval of a resolution to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO that must accompany an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Glenn Berry explained that because the Johnson City MTPO represents a small urbanized area, we self-certify the metropolitan planning process when making amendments to the TIP.

Ms. Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO that must accompany an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor Broyles seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 4:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 4, to consider approval of a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add \$1,700,000 (\$1,360,000 Federal and \$340,000 Local) in STBG-L funds and move phases to Fiscal Year 2024, along with revising the scope to add adjacent intersections.

Mr. Berry explained the changes that were proposed for the Old Gray Station Road project in Gray. The project is being expanded to address other needs in the immediate area. The City of Johnson City is managing the project and needs additional funds. Mr. Berry also explained that TDOT is working to improve the Local Programs process, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Mr. Glenn Rosenoff made a motion for the board to amend the Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add \$1,700,000 (\$1,360,000 Federal and \$340,000 Local) in STBG-L funds and move phases to Fiscal Year 2024, along with revising the scope to add adjacent intersections. Mr. Doug Jones seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 5:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 5, to consider approval of a resolution to adopt the Johnson City Adjusted Urban Area Boundary from the 2020 Census.

Mr. Berry displayed a map showing the original boundary as drawn by the Census Bureau from the 2020 Census. Then he added a layer showing the adjustments made to that original boundary, following a methodology to take in the whole road and not just to the center. Per comments from FHWA, Mr. Berry displayed another layer that shows additional areas absorbed into the boundary, different from the map in the agenda packet. Mr. Berry advised Mayor Broyles that he took in the Industrial Park in Bluff City. Mr. Berry pointed out several roads he did not feel were appropriate to take in, due to the explicitly rural nature of the area.

Ms. Logan Engle made a motion for the board to approve to amend the Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor Broyles seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 6:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 6, to consider approval of a resolution to support 2020-2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry displayed the targets from TDOT and stated that we recommend to continue to support the state's targets. Unfortunately, the number of crashes and fatalities is predicted to continue to increase. He would like to see the number be zero, but the reality is driver behavior is hard to change. It will take changes to road design and enforcement to get try and reduce those behaviors, which is outside of what the MTPO can do. Chairman Mr. Trivette mentioned the increased number of people moving to the area, which is increasing the number of cars on the road, particularly Interstate 26. He said we must plan for this growth and if the local roads can accommodate the increase in traffic.

Mr. Glenn Rosenoff made a motion for the board to support 2020-2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT. Both Mayor Broyles and Ms. Sawyer seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 7:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 7, the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. He explained this was an informational item.

Mr. Berry displayed an infographic about the types of projects and funding that were obligated in the past year. He explained that funding in red is a good thing, where leftover funds actually go back to the funding source from where it came.

**Agenda Item 8:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 6, for an Update on Major Projects; Federal STBG funds; and AMPO Survey on Federal Obligations, another informational item.

Mr. Berry wanted to inform the board about a document that was issued by the Association of MPOs outlining the status of federal funds nationwide. He wanted to call attention to page 2, where AMPO does a great job explaining the difference between programming funds, which is what the MPO does, and obligation of funds, which is a process between the TDOT and FHWA. Just because funds are programmed into the TIP, they are not actually protected until they are obligated by TDOT with FHWA. He explained that other MPOs and states also struggle to get projects to construction and pointed out a timeline on page 11 where the average is 6 years.

Mr. Berry gave an update on the annual process to rank projects. TDOT is trying a different approach this year due to the passage of the Transportation Modernization Act and TDOT's requirement to report back to the State Legislature in December of 2023. They will retain last year's rankings, of which the Johnson City MTPO had one – the Knob Creek Road project.

Mr. Berry also noted that with only a continuing resolution for appropriations from Congress, a full year needs to be passed to provide more funding for transportation.

**Agenda Item 9:** Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 9, Other Business.

Mr. Trampus Grindstaff gave an update on the State Route 91 project in Elizabethton. He noted there were issues involving sanitary sewer at the Elk Avenue and Broad Way split or the "Y" intersection as it is referred to at times. He mentioned that the target date for the State Route 91 project in Elizabethton to be completed is the end of this year.

Mayor Broyles brought up the issue of the intersection of Allison Road/Piney Flats Road with US 11E. He has received many complaints about the disfunction of this intersection and that something needs to be done about it. Mr. Trivette explained that an agreement had been worked out by previous city leaders with Sullivan County; however, those staff members have since retired and new leadership staff have come on board. Mr. Trivette said a meeting will be organized to invite Sullivan County, Bluff City, and Johnson City to the table to discuss this intersection, most likely after the holidays.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Chairman Mr. Trivette thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.