

**JOHNSON CITY MTPO**  
**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting (with Executive Staff)**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Members met electronically via Zoom; Livestreaming was provided for public viewing.**

**Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/KmPy1XdM14w>**

**Executive Board Present**

The Honorable Mayor Joseph C. Wise, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
Daniel Estes for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton  
Ashley Shelton for the Honorable Mayor Kathy Bullen, Town of Unicoi  
The Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County  
Ronda Sawyer for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee  
The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City  
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County

**Executive Board Not Present**

The Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough  
Johnny Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

**Executive Staff Present**

M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton  
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit  
Pamela Kordenbrock, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Sean Santalla, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)  
The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City

**Executive Staff Not Present**

Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department  
Johnny Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department  
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi  
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough  
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District

**Others Attending**

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO  
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO  
Kimberly Kreckow, Johnson City MTPO  
Logan Engle, City of Elizabethton  
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County  
Candace Long, NET Trans  
Jon McCurry, NET Trans  
Matt Meservy, TDOT Long Range Planning Division  
Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT Long Range Planning Division  
Troy Ebbert, TDOT TDOT Office of Community Transportation  
Randy Busler, TDOT Region 1  
Michael Dick, TDOT Region 1  
Eric Wilson, TDOT Region 1  
Jason Farmer, TDOT District 17  
Wendy Graham, Webmaster and Host of the Zoom Meeting

**Summary of Motions:**

- **Approved** – Minutes from February 24, 2021;
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-04** – Approved 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);
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-05** – Approved resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional residual Section 5317 New Freedom funds for Johnson City Transit, with \$241,512 in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$241,512 in Fiscal Year 2023;
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-06** – Approved resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional Section 5339 capital funds in the amount of \$57,325 for NET Trans in Fiscal Year 2021; and
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-07** – Approved resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to replace Task E with a new task to update the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture and Deployment Plan in partnership with TDOT and move the funding to Fiscal Year 2021.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 11:01 a.m. by the Chairman, the Honorable Mayor Joseph Wise. He proceeded to say that we are meeting electronically pursuant to the authority granted by the Governor's Executive Order Number 78 and that an electronic meeting is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. This meeting is being recorded and will be available to the public via the city's YouTube page accessible at [www.johnsoncitytn.org/streaming](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org/streaming). Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call of attendance.

**Roll Call No. 1 for Attendance:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Present; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Present; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Present; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Present; Mayor Irene Well: Present; Mayor Patty Woodby: Present; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Present.

A quorum has been determined.

**Agenda Item 1:** Chairman Mayor Wise asked if there was any input from the public. It was stated that there were none.

**Agenda Item 2:** The minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting. Ms. Ronda Sawyer seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call No. 2 for Agenda Item 2:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Yes; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Yes; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Yes.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 3:** Chairman Mayor Wise moved to Item 3, for the Board 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. Berry explained that small Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to self-certify that they have followed all federal laws and regulations. The certification must accompany a TIP amendment.

Mr. Daniel Estes made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO. The Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call No. 3 for Agenda Item 3:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Yes; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Yes; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Yes.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 4:** Chairman Mayor Wise move to Item 4, for the Board to consider approval of a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional residual Section 5317 New Freedom funds for Johnson City Transit.

Chairman Mayor Wise asked if there were any questions about the amendment.

Mayor Grandy made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional residual Section 5317 New Freedom funds for Johnson City Transit. Ms. Sawyer seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call No. 4 for Agenda Item 4:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Yes; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Yes; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Yes.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 6:** Chairman Mayor Wise move to Item 6, for the Board to consider approval of a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to replace Task E with a new task to update the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture and Deployment Plan in partnership with TDOT and move the funding to Fiscal Year 2021.

Chairman Mayor Wise asked Mr. Berry if he wanted to speak. Mr. Berry explained that a previous task for a sub-area study of Johnson City is being done in-house by Johnson City staff, so we are proposing to partner with TDOT to update the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture and Deployment Plan. This ITS Plan is required to make certain projects eligible for funding, such as cameras on buses, fiber optics for traffic signals, etc. He displayed the new task page and said that the MTPO will be providing federal funds from the PL balance to pay for the plan and TDOT will provide the 20% match.

Mayor Wells made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to replace Task E with a new task to update the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture and Deployment Plan in partnership with TDOT and move the funding to Fiscal Year 2021. The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call No. 5 for Agenda Item 6:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Yes; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Yes; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Yes.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Berry asked Chairman Mayor Wise if we could go back and cover Agenda item Number 5.

**Agenda Item 5:** Chairman Mayor Wise stated that the Board will consider approval of a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional Section 5339 capital funds in the amount of \$57,325 for NET Trans in Fiscal Year 2021.

Mr. Berry displayed the new capital project page for NET Trans to accept Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 funds to purchase a vehicle to provide service within the Johnson City Urbanized Area, but outside of the Johnson City Transit service area.

Mayor Grandy made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to amend the Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add additional Section 5339 capital funds in the amount of \$57,325 for NET Trans in Fiscal Year 2021. Mayor Wells seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call No. 6 for Agenda Item 5:**

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Mr. Daniel Estes: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Not Present; Mayor Joe Grandy: Yes; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Yes; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Yes.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 7:** Chairman Mayor Wise stated the last item on the agenda is Other Business and the first part is an update from MTPO Staff.

Mr. Berry announced that the state made an award to conduct a study on the Boones Creek Road Corridor, which is State Route 354. He also announced that the MTPO staff will begin the process of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, or the Long Range Transportation Plan this summer. The first step is to update the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, or the Coordinated Plan for short. He also stated that the Census Bureau has released the first set of data from the 2020 Census, which was the congressional apportionment data. Some large states lost a seat in Congress while some states gained seats. More data counts will be released later this fall.

Ms. Pamela Kordenbrock introduced herself as the director of the Tennessee Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). She announced that two previous grants, the BUILD and TIGER grants, have been merged into a new program called the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. For this round of RAISE grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty. To find out more information on the RAISE grants, visit <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>.

Mr. Matt Meservy with TDOT also spoke and stated that Governor Lee should make an announcement today about whether or not he will extend the Executive Order for future government meetings.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Chairman Mayor Wise adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.