

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/pA_HGEpd13I

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor Joseph C. Wise, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Logan Engle for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton
Ashley Shelton for the Honorable Mayor Kathy Bullen, Town of Unicoi
Johnny Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association
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

Executive Staff Present

M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Chase Milner for Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Johnny Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
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
Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough

Others Attending

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Kimberly Kreckow, Johnson City MTPO
Candace Long, NET Trans
Jon McCurry, NET Trans
Jeff Murphy, TDOT Strategic Transportation Investments Division
Matt Meservy, TDOT Long Range Planning Division
Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT Long Range Planning Division
Jennifer Marshall, TDOT Office of Community Transportation
Troy Ebbert, TDOT Office of Community Transportation
Taylor Lee, TDOT Local Programs Office
Michael Dick, TDOT Region 1
Eric Wilson, TDOT Region 1
Jason Farmer, TDOT District 17
Wendy Graham, Webmaster and Host of the Zoom Meeting
Morgan Pate – Captioning Provider

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from December 8, 2020;
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-01** – Approved resolution to support 2017-2021 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT;
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-02** – Approved resolution to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT; and
- **Approved – Resolution 2021-03** – Approved resolution to support Transit Agencies' FY 2021 Safety Performance Targets.

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 71 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. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call of attendance.

Roll Call No. 1 for Attendance:

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Ms. Logan Engle: Present; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Present; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: 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 proceeded to ask Mr. Glenn Berry to speak about Item 1 – Public Input.

Mr. Berry stated for the record that there were no comments received from the public.

Agenda Item 2: The minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 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 Ms. Logan Engle: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Yes; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Yes; Mayor Joe Grandy: Abstaining; Governor Bill Lee, who is represented by Ms. Ronda Sawyer: Yes; Mayor Irene Well: Yes; Mayor Patty Woodby: Abstaining; Mayor Chuck Vest: Not Present; and Chairman Mayor Joseph Wise: Abstaining (due to not being present at the last meeting).

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mayor Wise moved to Item 3, for the Board to consider approval of a resolution to support 2017-2021 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry displayed the safety targets prepared by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He explained that Congress wanted a standardized methodology for tracking safety. Zero deaths are what we would like to see. Unfortunately, human error and driver behavior is hard to control. Mr. Berry introduced Mr. Jeff Murphy. Mr. Murphy said he was part of the Strategic Transportation Investments Division with TDOT. He spoke about the targets and that Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) fund approximately 150 safety projects across the state each year. They look for low-cost, no-design type projects that can be quickly implemented. They study crash data over a three-year period to look for safety issues before HSIP funding can be used.

Mr. Berry asked that Mr. Murphy explain more about the safety target process. Mr. Murphy stated that TDOT works very closely with the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. Many people are involved in looking at the data and influencing factors in determining safety targets.

Mayor Wise asked why the target for fatalities is increased over the baseline number. Mr. Murphy answered that the data used for the safety baseline is estimated and 2020 data will not be finalized until the end of 2021. The safety target is actually set not knowing two-years' worth of safety data.

Mr. Sean Santalla with the Federal Highway Administration offered more information by explaining that the federal regulations require a five-year rolling average. When the working group at TDOT is setting the safety targets, they are looking at three years of actual data, one year of estimated, and then setting the target for what the performance is going to look like for that next year. Mr. Santalla offered to provide more information if needed on a complicated process.

Ms. Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to support 2017-2021 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets. Ms. Logan Engle 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 Ms. Logan Engle: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Abstaining; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Yes; 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 support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry displayed the next set of performance targets for pavement and bridge condition. Mr. Berry mentioned that these targets are for roads on the National Highway System, which are not owned by any local jurisdiction and do not upkeep these roads. Rather, the state does and we support their targets. TDOT has a long list of bridges in the IMPROVE Act, and TDOT is working very closely to get those in better shape. Mr. Berry also mentioned that he feels TDOT does a good job on maintaining the roads and wanted to point out the large aggregate asphalt overlay that does a good job draining water off to the sides of the interstate. He stated TDOT is changing one of the targets for pavement in poor condition from 4% to 5%.

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT. Mr. Deakins 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 Ms. Logan Engle: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Abstaining; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Yes; 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.**

The decision was made to cover Item 4 again, as Mr. Berry noted that a third set of targets for System Performance was mistakenly left out of the discussion. Mr. Berry covered the updated Truck Travel Time Reliability and explained that he spoke with Ms. Michelle Nickerson with TDOT about how this measure is calculated. It is not solely a measure of congestion, but rather, congestion plays a part in it. It measures the consistency of travel time for freight and that you plan your trip knowing the amount of time it usually takes

you to get to your destination. When variabilities come into play, like if something happens on Interstate 26 and you are delayed, that is what is being measured.

Mr. Santalla affirmed what Mr. Berry was saying, that this measures how reliable the roadway operates, not volume over capacity per se.

Mr. Berry stated that this measure is presented as a ratio, not a percentage. The closer to 1, the better.

Everyone agreed to call the roll again to affirm the vote. Ms. Sawyer affirmed a motion for the board to approve a resolution to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT. Mr. Deakins again seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

Affirming Roll Call No. 4 for Agenda Item 4:

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Ms. Logan Engle: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Abstaining; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Yes; 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 5: Chairman Mayor Wise stated that the Board will consider approval of a resolution to support Transit Agencies' FY 2021 Safety Performance Targets.

Mr. Berry stated that there are two transit providers in our region, Johnson City Transit and NET Trans. The transit agencies have set their own safety targets. Ms. Candace Long stated that these targets are in each agencies' transit safety plans. The Federal Transit Administration develops performance measures and the criteria for how the targets are calculated and then the transit agencies input their data.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to support Transit Agencies' FY 2021 Safety Performance Targets. Mayor Wells seconded the motion. Chairman Mayor Wise asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call No. 5 for Agenda Item 5:

Mayor Curt Alexander, who is represented by Ms. Logan Engle: Yes; Mayor Kathy Bullen, who is represented by Ms. Ashley Shelton: Abstaining; Mr. John Deakins, Jr.: Yes; 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 stated the last item on the agenda is Other Business and the first part is an update from MTPO Staff.

Mr. Berry gave an updated on upcoming things for the MTPO Staff. The MTPO goes through cycles and the next two or three years will be busy. He explained we are working on the Unified Planning Work Program which outlines the work we will do for the next two years. We also have a transportation management area study underway in order to prepare for what the new Census will bring. Mr. Berry displayed three maps that show the progression of urbanized area delineation over the last three decades. The Census Bureau determines the criteria that will define the urbanized areas and has released the 2020 criteria last Friday. We are reviewing the criteria. This can affect our base geography and what determines our funding.

Mr. Berry also mentioned we will likely have a meeting in April to go over two TIP amendments. We have been informed by TDOT that we will receive COVID relief funds in the amount of \$698,197 from the Federal Highway Administration. We need to obligate these funds before December 31, 2022. We will need to decide as a group how to spend these funds.

Mr. Berry also mentioned that the MTPO is partnering with TDOT to update the Regional ITS Architecture Plan, to remain eligible for certain categories of projects, such as AVL on transit buses and coordinated traffic signals. We will need to amend this project into the UPWP.

Mr. Matt Meservy provided an update from TDOT about the Urban Transportation Planning Grant Program for cities within the MTPO boundaries. An award was made for the State Route 354 Corridor Study in Johnson City and Washington County. We are awaiting proposals were made and consultants will be chosen

Mr. Jason Farmer with TDOT District 17 gave an update on Bluff City traffic signal project. He said that the contract has been awarded and should get ready for a pre-construction meeting soon, with an end date scheduled for November 30 of this year.

Mr. Eric Wilson with TDOT stated that the State Route 91 project is beginning to wrap up and likely to get bid in June. Some issues that delayed the project were utilities that needed to be moved and the purchase of private property. Mr. Berry stated that this project is located in Elizabethton at the "Y" intersection.

Mr. Santalla introduced himself to Mayor Wise and that he is located in Nashville and provides assistance and oversight to TDOT and the MPOs with the transportation planning process. He provided an update on the confirmation of Pete Buttigieg as the Transportation Secretary and Stephanie Pollack as the Deputy Administrator. Ms. Pollack was previously with the Massachusetts DOT. He also explained more about the Coronavirus Response and Relief Act funds, with \$12 billion across the county and \$230 million to the state of Tennessee. The eligibility of projects for those funds is broadly flexible and will mirror the surface transportation block grant program. A small portion of that fund can even be used for preventive maintenance, salaries, and other potential revenue losses as a result of the pandemic. The MPOs were provided with apportionment announcements and guidance.

Mr. Santalla also mentioned the INFRA grant program, the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program, which has \$889 million in funding available. This is for projects on the National Highway System, the National Highway Freight Network or Inter-modal Freight Projects. The new administration also has new considerations for project selection, such as focusing on climate change, environmental justice, and racial equity and reducing barriers to opportunities.

Mr. Santalla also took the opportunity to thank the Board members for their time on the performance measures and complimented the MTPO on the forward-facing nature of the transportation management area study and its potential impacts. Mr. Berry said they would be involving FHWA soon on that project.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chairman Mayor Wise adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.