

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 11:00 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
The Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough
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 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
Matthew Balough for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Kim Kreckow for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Doug Jones for Washington County Highway Department
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District
Ronda Sawyer, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Gilberto DeLeon, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Executive Staff Not Present

Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

MTPO Staff Present

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

Others Attending

The Honorable Representative Tim Hicks, Tennessee House District 6
The Honorable Alderman Kelly Wolfe, Jonesborough
The Honorable Kevin Swatsell, Greene County Road Superintendent
Butch Eley, Deputy Governor and TDOT Commissioner
Preston Elliott, TDOT Deputy Commissioner of Environmental and Planning
Steve Townsend, TDOT Headquarters
Steve Borden, TDOT Region 1
Amanda Snowden, TDOT Region 1

Others Attending, continued:

Dexter Justis, TDOT Region 1

Randy Busler, TDOT Region 1

Mark Nagi, TDOT Region 1

Michael Dick, TDOT District 17

Jason Farmer, TDOT District 17

Stacy Morrison, TDOT OCT Headquarters

Michelle Christian, TDOT Region 1 OCT

Taylor Lee, TDOT Local Programs

Sean Santalla, FHWA TN Division

Zack Coleman, FHWA TN Division

Andy Best, City of Johnson City

Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City

Angie Charles, Washington County

Gary Rector, Greene County Highway Department

Candace Long, NET Trans

Jasmine Renner, NET Trans

Tyler Gillenwater, Bristol MPO

Micah Bray, Bristol MPO

Calvin Clifton, Mattern & Craig

Plus 7 other staff members of the Governor's Office, TDOT, and Washington County Highway Department

Johnson City Press

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from December 13, 2022 meeting; and
- **Approved** – Resolution 2023-01 to support 2022-2025 Safety Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Randy Trivette, standing in for the Honorable Mayor Dr. Todd Fowler.

Agenda Item 1: Mr. Trivette introduced Butch Eley, the Deputy Governor for Tennessee and the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Mr. Eley presented on the new “[Build With Us](#)” initiative that introduces the Transportation Modernization Act. This presentation is available on the MTPO website at <https://icmpo.org/minutes/2023/Build%20With%20Us.pdf>. Commissioner Eley also showed a video explaining more about Choice Lanes - <https://youtu.be/mjydhb5ogzs>. In summary, TDOT is proposing to partner with the private sector to build new lanes on congested, urban highways. This will free up state funds for more projects in rural communities. TDOT is also alternative project delivery tools to speed up the process to get projects to construction. Also, TDOT is proposing an increase in the electric vehicle registration fee.

Several members asked Deputy Governor Eley questions regarding the proposal. The Honorable Alderman Kelly Wolfe showed support for the creative use of alternatives to funding and more support for rural areas. The Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest is looking forward to the accelerated project delivery, as Jonesborough is currently waiting on the installation of an important traffic signal. Honorable Representative Tim Hicks stated that he and his colleagues are generally favorable towards the proposal and he feels it is a good plan.

Chairman Mr. Trivette thanked the TDOT staff for coming and presenting to the Executive Board.

Agenda Item 2: Chairman Mr. Trivette asked if there was any input from the public. There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Ronda Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting. The Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 4, to consider approval of a resolution to support 2022-2025 Safety Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry explained that the Johnson City MTPO staff recommends that the Executive Board continue to support the state’s targets for PM2 and PM3. All of the interstates and highways on the National Highway System are owned and maintained by TDOT. He explained the pavement and bridge condition (PM2) targets that TDOT has set for the state. A handout was provided showing the pavement conditions for the Johnson City MTPO area. Only 0.6 percent of the pavement for state routes are in poor condition. Also provided in a handout was a list of the state-owned bridges in poor condition. Within the Johnson City MTPO area, there are four bridges in poor condition.

Mr. Berry also went over the system performance (PM3) targets, which cover interstate and highway

reliability and also freight reliability. Reliability compares the average travel time (50th percentile) to the 80th percentile and then expressed as a percent of the person-miles traveled. Two of the state's targets are related to areas with air quality issues, which only apply to Memphis and Knoxville.

The Honorable Mayor Jeff Broyles made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to support 2022-2025 Safety Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Performance Targets by TDOT. Mr. Johnny Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 5, an update on U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Urban Areas. This was an informational item.

Mr. Berry presented a map showing the new 2020 Johnson City Urban Area. The Census Bureau did not combine any of the urban areas in Northeast Tennessee. The boundary was retracted a little bit, reducing the square miles by 3.91 miles; however, we gained 8,104 in population. Mr. Berry then displayed a series of maps that showed the Johnson City Urban Area during each decennial census since 1990. The area has mostly grown denser rather than expanded. Ms. Sawyer asked if the town of Watauga was still a part of the Johnson City Urban Area and Mr. Berry said no, it was no longer included within the boundary.

Mr. Berry said the next steps for the MTPO staff is to observe the boundaries and adjust them. The Census Bureau drew lines down the middle of roads, so it makes sense to adjust the boundaries and "smooth" them out to take in the whole road. This process will take place over the next several months and will need to include a review of the Functional Classification System, which makes roads eligible for federal funding depending on their classification.

Chairman Mr. Trivette asked if the boundaries will be set for the next 10 years. Mr. Berry said it should; however, because of the way the Census Bureau used households instead of population to define the boundaries, they could choose to come back and update them at a later date. If they do that, it will be announced in the Federal Register.

Ms. Logan Engle asked if projects located outside the new boundaries are still eligible for funding. Mr. Berry said that we will finish currently planned projects but no new projects would be eligible.

Agenda Item 6: Chairman Mr. Trivette moved to Item 6, Other Business.

Mr. Sean Santalla introduced himself as the new team leader for Program Development for the Tennessee Division of FHWA. He introduced Mr. Zach Coleman as the new planner that will cover our region. Mr. Gilberto DeLeon, Deputy Division Administrator, also announced that the RAISE grant is accepting applications until February 28, 2023. For more information, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>.

Mr. DeLeon also mentioned U.S. DOT has launched a new website to assist communities with grants from U.S. DOT called the "DOT Navigator," and can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>.

Mr. Stacy Morrison introduced himself as the Planning Manager for TDOT's Office of Community Transportation. He announced that they will be accepting applications soon for the Transportation Planning Grant. More information can be found at this link - <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range->

planning-home/longrange-oct/longrange-planning-grant.html. Mr. Morrison pointed out Mr. Taylor Lee of TDOT Local Programs was in the room. Mr. Lee said he was available to speak to anyone about current projects they are managing.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chairman Mr. Trivette thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.