

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor Lori Stanton, Town of Bluff City
Rich DesGroseilliers for the Honorable Mayor William Carter, City of Elizabethton
Malcolm Highstreet for the Honorable Mayor Chuck Vest, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County
Troy Ebbert for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee
John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Board Not Present

The Honorable Mayor John Hunter, City of Johnson City
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County
The Honorable Mayor Kevin McInturff, Town of Unicoi

Executive Staff Present

Jason Miles for Cathy Ball, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Matt Balough for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton
Kim Kreckow for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Doug Jones for Washington County Highway Department
Troy Ebbert, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District

Executive Staff Not Present

Michelle Roberts, Town of Bluff City
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough
Debbie Kessler, Town of Unicoi
Shannon Burchett, 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

Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City
Dustin Thompson, City of Johnson City
John Steadman, City of Johnson City
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Tim Dougherty, NET Trans
Randy Busler, TDOT
Ann Marie Anway, TDOT
Stacy Morrison, TDOT

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from August 7, 2024 meeting;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-01 to support 2021-2025 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT; and
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-02 to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. by the Acting Chairman, the Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Mayor Grandy 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 Mayor Grandy moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2024 Meeting.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 Meeting. Mr. Troy Ebbert seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 3, to consider approval of a resolution to support 2021-2025 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry showed the updated figures for the safety performance targets. Staff recommends that our MPO continue to support the state's targets. During the discussion, Mayor Grandy asked what was being done to improve safety with projects. Mr. Troy Ebbert noted the department is requesting to expand the HELP truck program to the rural interstates, of which include I-26 and I-81 in our region. In conjunction with this effort, ITS deployment of cameras along the interstates support the rural HELP truck program. Mr. Berry then added there is enforcement through a joint effort of state highway patrol and City of Johnson City that was directed at driver behavior, specifically speeding.

Mr. Ebbert made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to support 2021-2025 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 4, to consider approval of a resolution to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry explained that TDOT is updating their targets that are on a four-year cycle. This is the mid-range of the four-year cycle. He displayed the pavement and bridge targets and discussed that TDOT does a great job with keeping up with maintenance of state routes' pavement. He recommends that our MPO continues to support TDOT's targets.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to support updated Pavement and Bridge (PM2) Performance Targets and System Performance (PM3) Targets by TDOT. Mr. Ebbert seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 5, MPO Manager Updates.

Mr. Berry gave an update on four items.

First, he provided information on an upcoming Household Travel Survey. This data will be used to update the travel demand model during our next long-range plan update. Large MPOs typically do this type of survey every ten years; however, our MPO has never done one. Our MPO is partnering with 8 other MPOs across Tennessee to conduct the survey through the University of Tennessee Center for Transportation Research and the consultants of WSP-Westat. He gave a presentation showing information that will be gathered from randomly selected addresses in our area during Spring and Fall this year. This kind of information can only be gathered by people filling out the survey. A phone app makes it easy. The survey website explains the process in more detail at <https://mytravelscount.com/>.

Mr. Berry informed the Board that the State Route 75 Corridor Study is underway. CDM Smith is the consultant chosen to work on the study. A kickoff meeting was held to organize the group locally before bringing in TDOT staff. CDM Smith is currently gathering data and conducting traffic and turning movement counts. Mr. Anthony Todd has provided the data that his team has collected already. He showed the Johnson City MTPO website and the article of questions and answers we have about the study. Link: <https://icmpo.org/state-route-75-corridor-study-with-qa/>

Mr. Berry then moved on to the development of the new Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP. Funding is a challenge, as most of the current projects will need to be moved to the new TIP. He pointed out the MPO's balance of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds is \$12,530,890. Of that balance, approximately \$10 million is accounted for with existing estimates, but those estimates are 3- to 4-years-old and he expected the balance to be wiped out to fund existing projects in the TIP, due to the meteoric rise of costs. Mr. Berry displayed a chart of how much different construction items have increased in the past few years. He did ask the members to review their current projects in the TIP and let the MPO staff know if they no longer need federal funding for any project and if they are considering local funds instead. He also mentioned a recent order from U.S. DOT that was sent out last week stating that all STIP amendments in the United States will need to be reviewed by the single Office of General Counsel for U.S. DOT in Washington, D.C. This will cause delays in approvals for STIP Amendments and most likely the new TIP if the order remains in effect. He noted currently this is done at the state FHWA Division level for each state. An approval is necessary before a project can receive the additional funds in the amendment.

And finally, Mr. Berry introduced new legislation being proposed in the Tennessee General Assembly to provide additional funding for transportation at the local level. He played a video that TDOT had created. Link: <https://youtu.be/DJm4yqSp5is?si=LjnVnYlexqHNgXse> He described that this legislation is updating the current law to include all of the state and additional transportation categories. It gives local jurisdictions another tool in their toolbox to raise funds for projects. It is basically enabling legislation. This money can also be used to match federal funds. Mr. Troy Ebbert pointed out that members should follow the legislation as it moves forward because it can change as it moves through the legislative process. A link to follow the legislation was provided at the meeting: [Tennessee General Assembly Legislation](#).

Agenda Item 6: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 6, Other Business.

The Board welcomed Bluff City Mayor Lori Stanton to the Executive Board and thanked her for being an active member.

There were no other business items to discuss.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chairman Mayor Grandy thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.