

**JOHNSON CITY MTPO**  
**Minutes of the Executive Board and Executive Staff Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room**

**Executive Board Present**

The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton, Town of Bluff City  
The Honorable Mayor William Carter, City of Elizabethton  
The Honorable Mayor John Hunter, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
Doug Jones for the Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy, Washington County  
Stacy Morrison for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee  
John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

**Executive Board Not Present**

the Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough  
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County  
The Honorable Mayor Kevin McInturff, Town of Unicoi

**Executive Staff Present**

The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton, Town of Bluff City  
Matt Balough for Daniel Estes, City of Elizabethton  
Jeff Rawles for Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit  
Doug Jones for Washington County Highway Department  
Stacy Morrison, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

**Executive Staff Not Present**

Cathy Ball, City of Johnson City, Chairman  
Glenn Rosenoff, Town of Jonesborough  
Seth Miller, Town of Unicoi  
Shannon Burchett, Carter County Highway Department  
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District  
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  
Rich DesGroseilliers, City of Elizabethton  
Candace Long, NET Trans  
Ashley Jenkins, NET Trans

### Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from February 25, 2025 meeting;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-03 to adopt the Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-04 to approve the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-05 to adopt Transit Asset Management Targets; and
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-06 to adopt Transit Agencies' Safety Targets.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m. by the Chairman, the Honorable Mayor John Hunter.

**Agenda Item 1:** Chairman Mayor Hunter 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 Hunter moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2025 Meeting.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Meeting. Mr. Stacy Morrison seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 3:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 3, to consider approval of adopting the Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Berry began by first explaining the picture on the screen. It is from the ribbon cutting for reopening the Broad Street Bridge in Elizabethton, after being closed for many months. He mentioned several of the dignitaries who were present, including the new TDOT Commissioner Will Reid, Mayor William Carter, and also Tennessee State Senator Becky Duncan Massey.

Mr. Berry showed a presentation slide to talk about the major highlights from the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This document includes funding not only for the Johnson City MTPO's administrative staff, it also includes funding for planning tasks such as finishing the Transportation Improvement Program and adopt it this fall, updating the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in house, and starting the process to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, otherwise known as the long-range transportation plan. He stated the major focus would be on safety, while still meeting the federal requirements of the MTP.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve a resolution to adopt the Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 4:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 4, to consider approval of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary.

Mr. Berry showed a map that details the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary (MPA). He described the process of drawing the boundary, while minimizing the inclusion of areas of the Cherokee National Forest. There are some areas whereas, due to the topography, will never become urban. This boundary includes the Johnson City Urbanized Area and a portion of the Kingsport Urbanized Area in northern Washington County. The community of Gray is experiencing growth and city limits of Johnson City include this area. The Johnson City MTPO agreed to continue planning for this area.

The Honorable Mayor William Carter made a motion for the board to approve the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 5:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 5, Transit Agencies' Showcase.

Mr. Berry introduced the two transit agencies in the Johnson City MTPO area, Johnson City Transit and NET Trans. We focus so much on roads and highways, but we also wanted to provide an opportunity to spotlight transit, as they also following the MPO process for their funding.

Mr. Jeff Rawles gave a presentation about Johnson City Transit, detailing the start of the transit system in 1979. He covered current operations and future capital to be purchased. He also showed how much the cost of vehicles has increased in the past five years, almost doubling for some models.

Ms. Candace Long gave a presentation about NET Trans, which is housed in the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency. They employ over 100 employees and cover the seven-county Northeast Tennessee region. NET Trans has recently started a new service, called Connect, using 100% electric vehicles. The Connect service debuted in Greeneville and there will be a ribbon cutting on August 22 to begin the service in Elizabethton. Several charging stations were installed in these cities for these electric vehicles.

**Agenda Item 6:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 6, to consider approval of a resolution to adopt Transit Asset Management Targets.

Ms. Mary Butler gave a presentation on transit asset (TAM) management targets. She provided a background of when performance measures were first required by Congress in MAP-21 in 2012. TAM targets for rolling stock and equipment are based on a useful life benchmark (ULB), which is set by individual agencies according to the local operating environmental conditions. FTA requires agencies to track the condition of their vehicles and plan for replacement. The MPOs are required to adopt regional TAM targets and include them in the Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. She reviewed the baseline and proposed targets listed in the packet.

Mayor Carter made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to adopt Transit Asset Management Targets. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 7:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 7, to consider approval of a resolution to adopt Transit Agencies' Safety Targets.

Ms. Mary Butler gave a second presentation on transit safety targets. She provided a background of when safety performance measures were also required by Congress starting with MAP-21 in 2012. They were also modified by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021, due to the drastic increase in the number of assaults on transit workers. FTA requires agencies review their safety targets annually. The MPOs are required to adopt these transit safety targets and include them in the Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. She reviewed the proposed safety targets listed in the packet.

Mayor Staton made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to adopt Transit Asset Management Targets. Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item 8:** Chairman Mayor Hunter moved to Item 8, Other Business.

Mr. Berry gave an update on several items. The State Route 75 Corridor Study is moving along and there is a public meeting scheduled for August 28 at 5:30 pm at Ridgeview Elementary School. He showed an aerial view of the area of Daniel Boone High School and the morning traffic jam.

Mr. Berry gave an update on the balance of Surface Transportation Block Grant funds that are allocated to the Johnson City MTPO. Most of the \$13 million balance is tied up with current projects in the TIP. He stated that he is borrowing from former TDOT Commission Butch Eley, "What gets started, gets finished."

He mentioned at a recent data conference on population growth, there was some confusion regarding what population figures would be used to allocate funds to jurisdictions, including gas tax funds. It was stated that the state was considering using new population figures the state approved. Mr. Berry clarified this was only for state funds and not federal funds. For federal funds, local jurisdictions may have been expecting to receive funding from directly from TDOT themselves, but instead, it is programmed by the MPOs of those urban areas. In the Johnson City Urban Area, it is the Johnson City MTPO who has that responsibility.

He also said there is improvement in getting projects through Local Programs and we anticipate getting some funds obligated soon. He clarified the MPOs' roll in the Project Development Process. The MPO is involved through the planning stage of the process, such as making sure projects are included in (or at least consistent with) the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and programmed into the Transportation Improvement Program. He pointed out that the MPO process stops once the project is ready to be implemented. At this point the project is handed off to local jurisdictions to work with TDOT, specifically Local Programs and Community Development Division, to get them to construction. We assist local jurisdictions with navigating the process when possible.

Mr. Berry introduced Stacy Morrison, the Planning Manager for the TDOT Planning Division. Mr. Morrison gave a presentation on the 10-Year Plan and updates by TDOT. We will share this presentation on the same web page as the minutes on the Johnson City MTPO website. [Link to Presentation](#)

Mr. Morrison also spoke about TDOT accepting applications for the Statewide Partnership Program. The popular Transportation Planning Grants will also be released this month and accepting applications until September.

Mr. Deakins discussed the lack of including the second section of the Knob Creek Road in the 10-Year Plan and asked Mr. Morrison about it. Mr. Deakins stated he had worked on this with the state of Tennessee and various TDOT Commissioners and Chief Engineers, including Paul Degges. He went on to note this section of Knob Creek was in the current TIP, had a Congressional Earmark of \$2,000,000, and was included the State of Tennessee's IMPROVE Act. And while Knob Creek Road improvements are broken into 2 projects, it is one road. He asked Mr. Morrison about the process to get the other section into the 10-Year Plan.

Mr. Morrison explained the process is based on several factors, including safety, need, available funding, and deliverability. Mr. Berry mentioned the MTPO staff would be working with Washington County to apply for SPP and even a BUILD Grant. Mr. Berry did reiterate the section of Knob Creek they were discussing was from Mizpah Hills Drive to SR 354, locally named Boones Creek Road. Mr. Deakins

remembers when the Knob Creek Project was first talked about in his office 39 years ago. He stated he hoped this section would not take as long to be improved.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Chairman Mayor Hunter thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.