

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton, Town of Bluff City
Rich DesGroseilliers for the Honorable Mayor William Carter, City of Elizabethton
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 Greg Cox, City of Johnson City, Acting Chairman
the Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County
The Honorable Mayor Kevin McInturff, Town of Unicoi

MTPO Staff Present

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

Others Attending

The Honorable Representative Tim Hicks, Tennessee General Assembly
Jason Miles, City of Johnson City
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City
Kim Kreckow, Johnson City Transit
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City Transit
Krista Morris, Town of Bluff City
Micah Bray, Bristol MPO
Caleb Conklin, Bristol MPO
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Matt Meservy, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Ronda Sawyer, TDOT
Ashley Jenkins, NET Trans
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District
Jordan Clark, LJA Engineering

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from August 7, 2025 meeting;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-07 to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO;
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-08 to adopt the Fiscal Years 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and
- **Approved** – Resolution 2025-09 to support the 2022-2026 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:04 p.m. by the acting Chairman, the Honorable Mayor Joe Grandy.

Agenda Item 1: Acting 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: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2025 Meeting.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025 Meeting. The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 3, to consider approval of a resolution to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO that must accompany the adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Berry explained that small urban areas, with a population of under 200,000 and that are not transportation management areas (TMA), self-certify the transportation planning process before they adopt or amend the TIP. In large urban areas, or TMAs, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and others do review of the MPOs planning process for compliance with federal law and regulations.

For the Johnson City MTPO, Mr. Berry stated that the “self-certification” process is followed. In this case the MTPO staff ensures all federal laws and regulations are followed. Mr. Berry stated that the Johnson City MTPO is following this process.

Mr. Matt Meservy asked if more details could be provided to the members on what this includes. Mr. Berry said, let’s just go through them. He started with the section on Clean Air. He noted the Johnson City Urban Area and region was designated as “Attainment” by the Environmental Protection Agency and always has been. And while the area has met attainment, the MTPO staff tracks the air quality through the statewide Interagency Consultation (IAC) meetings.

Next, he explained the MTPO complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, and the Nondiscrimination law in Title 49 U.S.C. 5332 and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age in employment or business opportunity. He noted the MTPO only employees two people.

He noted that Mr. Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City, who manages many of the projects funded by the MTPO, checks wage rates and ensures bidding opportunities are nondiscriminatory, as well as the city’s procurement process for the highway side of the house and that Ms. Kim Kreckow is doing the same on the Transit side of the house, with a construction project that is underway at this facility. In coordination with the city and FTA, she ensures job opportunities are non-discriminatory and that Davis-Bacon wage rates are met.

Mr. Berry then went to the provision of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. The MTPO complies with this law and that the MTPO holds its Board meetings at the Johnson City Transit building to allow people with disabilities to have transportation to the meetings if they so desire.

He then addressed the Older Americans Act, as amended, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age. At this point, Mr. Deakins spoke and stated he was an prime example of this implementation by the MTPO since he met the definition of an Older American and was a voting member of the Johnson City MTPO Executive (Policy) Board.

At this point, Mr. Berry asked if the members needed any additional information. Mr. Meservy stated no and appreciated the explanation of the self-certification process and examples provided for the Johnson City MTPO.

Mr. Troy Ebbert made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to self-certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Johnson City MTPO that must accompany the adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. John Deakins, Jr. seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 4, to consider approval of a resolution to adopt the Fiscal Years 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Berry explained that most of the projects in the draft TIP are being carried over from the previous TIP. Displayed around the room are the TIP pages with the current status of the projects stamped on them. He gave an update that most of Johnson City's projects were recently given a notice to proceed to start engineering.

He explained there is one new project, the Boones Creek Road Roundabout. This project in Jonesborough would add a roundabout to the intersection of State Route 354 (Boones Creek Road) and Parsons Circle. The Johnson City MTPO is allocating over \$2 million of their local STBG apportionment to this project; however, Jonesborough will need to take the lead on this project and work with TDOT to gain their approval and that the roundabout meets warrants on the state route.

Mr. Berry stated that the TIP was published for public comment and one was received from Mr. Dan Reese regarding concerns with safety in the area of University Parkway and West Walnut Street. Mr. Anthony Todd said there were plans to improve safety by installing islands to assist with pedestrian crossings.

During the update Mr. Berry stated there would be a field plans review on December 16 for Knob Creek Road Project Section 1, TDOT PIN 102620.00 and this was a major milestone on the project.

Representative Tim Hicks asked if the Knob Creek Corridor was a top priority for the Johnson City MTPO. Mr. Berry added that in the past when the Department of Transportation asked the MPOs to rank their projects, Knob Creek was always number one. Then Mr. Hicks asked if there had been consideration of extending that corridor to Gray and was it in any plans. Mr. Berry noted it had been discussed at various times but nothing formally adopted. Mr. Johnny Deakins pointed out deficiencies with Shadden Road and that a road to Gray connecting to SR 75 would help improve safety and access. The discussion then went to how to find various funding opportunities. Mr. Meservy stated in addition to the Statewide Partnership Program, the state had revitalized the State Infrastructure Bank for transportation projects

that provided low interest loans for projects. This is a new program that was just recently announced but that Counties and Local Governments could take advantage of this program to get projects moving. He also noted that from the federal side that a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) had been announced for BUILD grants, but they competed on a national level.

Mr. Rich DesGroseilliers made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to adopt the Fiscal Years 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Deakins seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 5, to approve a resolution to support 2022-2026 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT.

Mr. Berry began by stating this subject is difficult for him and that he wishes we could see no one being killed or injured on our roadways. Unfortunately, it will be hard to eliminate all crashes. Every year, TDOT issues a 5-year safety target for five categories. He displayed the targets on the screen and went over the categories. He mentioned that the next update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan will include a focus on safety.

Mr. Deakins made a motion for the board to approve the resolution to support 2022-2026 Safety (PM1) Performance Targets by TDOT. Mr. Ebbert seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 6: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 6, the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

Mr. Berry displayed a flyer that summarizes the funding categories and project types that were implemented in the last year. He explained that the numbers included funding for both highway and transit projects. He showed the detailed page that lists the projects and their obligated funds. He spelled out some of the acronyms for the funding sources, such as HSIP is Highway Safety Improvement Program. He clarified the dollar amounts in red on the detailed spreadsheet were actually funds not needed and went back to the corresponding funding source to be used on other projects.

He informed the members that the Federal Highway Administration considers Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds all the same funding type. However, he pointed out it is important to note the extensions of "L" and "S," with "L" being for funds provided to the Johnson City MTPO to program and spend, while those with "S" being provide to the state of Tennessee to program and spend. He gave the example of the Indian Ridge Bridge project at SR 381 over CSX railroad as a project that used the MTPO's allocation of STBG-L to fund it.

Mr. Berry pointed out that one of the transit projects included Hawkins County in their location. This is outside of our area, but NET Trans is a regional provider and this project covers more than just Washington County. He also noted the hard work of Mr. DesGroseilliers, in getting an old project in Elizabethton back on track and going to construction using Safe Routes to School funds.

Agenda Item 7: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 7, an update on Knob Creek Road – Section 2 Project, from Mizpah Hills to Boones Creek Rd.

Mr. Berry preceded to give an update on the Knob Creek Road Section 2 project, as requested by Mayor Grandy. He showed several documents, including a map that showed the section of Knob Creek Road from Mizpah Hills Drive to State Route 354 (Boones Creek Road). He showed Public Chapter 181, which is the IMPROVE Act, that was adopted in 2017 that includes this section on page 47. He also showed a memo from FHWA that details the congressional earmark on this project. He stated some work had been started, specifically, Section 106 Coordination for Knob Creek Road, from SR-354 (Boones Creek Road) to Mizpah Hills Drive; Washington County, PIN 124790.00, and a Technical Field Review Packet on the project had been completed. He informed the Board the project had been submitted to the Statewide Partnership Program (SPP) along with supporting material. As part of that submission, he asked TDOT to update the cost estimate in August of 2025. The updated estimate for the project was \$47,400,000 for design-bid-build. Mr. Meservy stated there was not a specific date for the SPP announcements but they would be coming in 2026.

Agenda Item 8: Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 8, Other Business.

Mr. Meservy introduced himself as the Director of Planning at TDOT. He mentioned that the Johnson City MTPO is working with TDOT on a new TIP software that will be implemented in the next year. He also explained that the state has begun their update to the statewide long-range transportation plan, starting with a review of policies in 2026, then moving to a full update of the plan in 2027.

Mr. Ebbert mentioned he would like to see better communication about projects that are included in the groupings. He mentioned the improvements to the intersection of State Routes 81 and 75 that turned it into an all-way stop. Mayor Grandy asked about the process that ended in the improvements being recommended. Mr. Ebbert said he would email the study on this intersection to everyone.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Acting Chairman Mayor Grandy thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.