

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

Krista Morris for the Honorable Mayor Lori Staton, Town of Bluff City
The Honorable Mayor William Carter, City of Elizabethton
The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby, Carter County
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, Chairman
the Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Kevin McInturff, Town of Unicoi

MTPO Staff Present

Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO

Others Attending

The Honorable Eric Barnes, Washington County School Board
Emori Barnes, Washington County resident
Danny Sells, Washington County resident
Angie Charles, Washington County
Doug Jones, Washington County Highway Superintendent
Jeff Harmon, City of Johnson City
Anthony Todd, City of Johnson City
Whitney Hodges, City of Johnson City
Rich DesGroseilliers, City of Elizabethton
Kim Kreckow, Johnson City Transit
Ashley Jenkins, NET Trans
Abigail Pierce, NET Trans
Chase Milner, First Tennessee Development District
Matt Meservy, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Stacy Morrison, TDOT
Ann Marie Anway, TDOT
Kristin Qualls, TDOT
John Barrett, TDOT
Randy Busler, TDOT
Chris Kirby, CDM Smith
Melony Butler, CDM Smith

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from December 11, 2025 meeting;

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:08 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 December 11, 2025 Meeting.

Mr. John Deakins, Jr. made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Meeting. The Honorable Mayor Patty Woodby seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 3, a presentation on the State Route 75 (Suncrest Drive) Corridor Study. Melody Butler from CDM Smith gave a presentation summarizing the study.

Mr. Deakins and Mayor Grandy were both concerned with blocking EMS at the Bob Fitz intersection and requiring them to do a go around to make a left. Mr. Deakins also indicated that the property from Mosley and passed Bob Fitz has one property owner, so there is an issue with cutting access in half. Mayor Grandy also asked if solid waste was moved to a different location, would that change the need for right turn lanes in that area.

Mr. Meservy with TDOT asked if the growth potential of the area would change the model. Ms. Butler answered that the growth rate and new housing that is currently planned is included in the model at this point. Mayor Grandy said that most the growth in the area is currently commercial and retail.

The question was asked would five lanes choke down to two in the Daniel Boone area. Ms. Butler answered no, it's two lanes that would become one lane at Hugh Cox.

A comment was made that a Dollar General was built at the Shadden Road intersection but was not required to put in a turn lane. This is a tricky intersection with a new business also going in that will need close study.

Mayor Grandy commented isn't there a requirement for turn lanes when a new business goes in? Mr. Anthony Todd with Johnson City stated it is only a recommendation, not a requirement, and TDOT makes it difficult to put turn lanes in front of other businesses.

A comment was made stating that if you are going to move (State Route) 75, then you have to get the land now before it is grabbed up for housing.

A concern was made that the money will not move fast enough to alleviate these issues. The secondary roads will be overrun if the community doesn't come together now.

Mayor Grandy asked how to prioritize purchasing the land so the highway isn't dividing a subdivision and where will the money come from. Mr. Meservy stated that TDOT is fiscally constrained it will take a partnership and TDOT can't do it all. Mayor Grandy asked if he meant the statewide partnership program.

Mr. Meservy said yes but it takes movement from the community. If they can come with a 50% contribution then it might move faster.

Ms. Kristen Qualls with TDOT Region 1 stated the smaller projects would move much faster through the partnership program than the large project. Don't submit the widening of (State Route) 75 but submit the smaller projects, as they will be more likely to make the 10 Year Plan. Mr. Meservy said to make TDOT aware as soon as you know of an issue.

Mr. Deakins voiced his frustration in how slow things move. They have been trying to get improvements at Hugh Cox Road, so he doesn't want federal money, but wanted to know if there are any funding grants with TDOT for these projects. The staff with TDOT indicated that state aid is the best process; otherwise, they need grants.

Mr. Troy Ebbert indicated the State Infrastructure Fund now has \$50 million put in. Mr. Meservy indicated they were low interest loans on a first come first serve basis. Mr. Deakins stated the problem they have had is there are bridges in the area due to be replaced.

Mr. Ebbert questioned if the whole area has sewer service and does the city have the capacity to service the whole area. Is Danial Boone going to wind up a middle school and the high school be moved by the time these changes are taking place, due to the influx of families in the area. He stated they need to get MTPO and TDOT involved now.

Mr. Meservy responded to the frustration that TDOT now has an entire development team and they are changing how things are managed in order to facilitate movement. They are trying to complete projects in three years (three year plans and 10 year plans).

Ms. Qualls stated some of these can fall into safety projects and get done faster.

Mr. Danny Sells stated he realized the city of Johnson City had applied for funds to do this study from TDOT but it was not selected. He went on to say that he and the Gray Community appreciated the Johnson City MPO finding the funds to conduct the study, because it was such an important need for the Gray Community. He also noted the involvement and support of Mayor Grandy.

Mr. Berry recounted this study was a direct result of a Johnson City Commission meeting that was attended by Mr. Danny Sells and Mr. Johnny Deakins and they had expressed their concern about needs in the Gray Community, along with improving communication. He went on to state he was at a Statewide MPO meeting at the time and Mr. Todd informed him of the comments and discussion. Mr. Todd stated to Mr. Berry that Commissioner Joe Wise, along with City Manager Cathy Ball, suggested he (Glenn Berry) and the MPO to act as a facilitator to work with the Washington County Highway Department, Johnson City Public Works Department, and the Gray Community to improve communication with addressing needs in the area.

Mr. Berry noted that the MPO was fortunate on the timing of this study. He stated the MPO, through Ms. Mary Butler's work, were able to re-allocate funds to conduct the study. He stated if this had come around today, they would not have the funding due to the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and their funds will be tied up for the next two years.

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mayor Grandy moved to Item 4, Other Business.

Mr. Deakins told everyone that today was his last meeting as a member of the Board. Mr. Doug Jones, the new Washington County Highway Superintendent, will be taking his place.

Mr. Meservy mentioned that TDOT has completed Phase 1 to the update on the statewide long-range transportation plan. They are looking at their 2050 Plan and he hopes that he can give an update at the next meeting on potential project approvals.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Chairman Mayor Grandy thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.