

DRAFT

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026 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
Anthony Todd for the Honorable Mayor Greg Cox, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Ann Marie Anway for the Honorable Governor Bill Lee, State of Tennessee
Doug Jones, Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Board Not Present

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

MTPO Staff Present

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

Others Attending

The Honorable Representative Tim Hicks, Tennessee General Assembly
Pamela Boyd-Walker, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Kristin Qualls, TDOT
Angie Charles, Washington County
Jason Miles, City of Johnson City
Whitney Hodges, City of Johnson City
Pearson Mills, City of Johnson City
Rich DesGroseilliers, City of Elizabethton
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City Transit
Evan Spaulding, Johnson City Transit
Ambre Torbett, University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service
Abraham McIntyre, SORBA Tri-Cities
Melony Butler, CDM Smith
Tonya Coddle, WSP
Dan Reese, Johnson City Resident
John Byerley, Johnson City Resident
Jennifer Byerley, Johnson City Resident
David W. Jones, Johnson City Resident
Wes Pamplin, Johnson City Resident

Summary of Motions:

- **Approved** – Minutes from February 12, 2026 meeting; and
- **Endorsed** – Goals and Objectives for the Safe Mobility 2050: Metropolitan Transportation and Safety Plan.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the acting Chairman, the Honorable Mayor William Carter.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Mayor Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there was any input from the public. Mr. Dan Reese, a Johnson City resident and local multimodal advocate, said he was a private citizen and working looking at regional trails for the Tri cities area and connectivity. He went on to state there are various trails throughout the region but the lack of connective is an issue. Mr. Abraham McIntyre agreed with Mr. Reese. Mr. Wes Pamplin, a Johnson City resident, spoke to the Board about handling the growth in the area responsibly. There is a lack of sidewalks in the city. Mrs. Jennifer Byerley, a Johnson City resident, spoke about missing sidewalks along the West Walnut Street corridor between Jonesborough and Johnson City and that people frequently walk alongside the road.

Agenda Item 2: Chairman Mayor Carter moved to Item 2, to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2026 Meeting.

Mr. Doug Jones made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026 Meeting. Mr. Anthony Todd seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 3: Chairman Mayor Carter moved to Item 3, at which point Mr. Glenn Berry asked that Items 3 and 4 be swapped, to allow Ms. Pamela Boyd-Walker to give her presentation first, to accommodate another meeting she has scheduled. The Board agreed.

Ms. Boyd-Walker gave a presentation ([copy available online](#)) on the state's Policy Plan update, or the State Long Range Plan. This plan was last updated in 2016 and is updated every 10 years. This plan will extend future needs to 2055. The plan will need to address the 10 federal planning factors and other emphasis areas. The state will begin public outreach this summer to gather input and will station at events in the area.

Several questions were asked. Mr. Pamplin asked about how our part of the state and their needs differ than the other parts of the state. He further explained how West Walnut Street is an alternative route for people to use instead of West Market Street to get to Jonesborough.

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mayor Carter moved to Item 4, Consider endorsement of Goals and Objectives for the Safe Mobility 2050: Metropolitan Transportation and Safety Plan.

Mr. Glenn Berry began the presentation ([copy available online](#)) by explaining the MPO's responsibilities to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) every five years. Projects must be included to be eligible for federal funding. If a plan is not adopted in time, no federal funds can be received. He explained the relationship of the MTP to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). After programming funds in the TIP, it is up to local jurisdictions to be project managers and implement their projects. It's like raising your kids – you send them off to school on their own and celebrate when they graduate. The MPO gets to celebrate when local jurisdictions get phases started on their projects.

Mr. Berry then turned over the presentation to Ms. Melody Butler from CDM Smith.

Ms. Butler explained the MTP process is very similar to the state's Long Range Transportation Plan. She gave a brief overview of current outreach efforts to gather public and stakeholder input, including an online survey with a map to add markers of problem areas. There has been one public meeting, along with a meeting with local stakeholders.

Mr. Pamplin asked if the survey could be publicized better. Mr. Berry explained that there was a push for outreach that included the Johnson City Press, Facebook, X, and Nextdoor. Johnson City shared it on their social media. Washington County placed it on their website. Ms. Mary Butler mentioned that many people visited the survey without leaving a comment. Mr. Berry stated that we can share the survey far and wide, but it is difficult to engage the public to respond. Its possible that people are getting tired of surveys.

Ms. Melody Butler went over the goals and objectives with the Board, explaining that they need to prioritize the goals to help drive the plan. The final list was prioritized as follows:

1. Improve Safety and Security Throughout the MTPO Area Transportation System;
2. Mitigate Traffic Congestion Along Major Routes in the MTPO Area;
3. Promote Sustainable Economic Growth and Livability by Enhancing the MTPO Area Transportation System; and
4. Enhance Regional Access to and From the MTPO Area.

The Honorable Mayor Lori Staton made a motion for the board to endorse the prioritized list of goals. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

All approved. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item 4: Chairman Mayor Carter moved to Item 5: Other Business.

Mr. Berry wanted to announce to the Board that TDOT is deploying the Rural Service Patrol, or HELP Trucks, on May 28, 2026. The trucks will patrol Interstates 26 and 81 and are required to stop and check on any vehicle or person on the side of the interstate. This program is very similar to the HELP Truck Service in the large urban areas. He showed a picture by Troy Ebbert of the trucks delivered to District 17. Mr. Berry is thankful this service was implemented, after advocating for it since 2011, when he and Nes Levotch first sought to recruit the service to the Tri-Cities area. The installation of the 0.2 mile marker signs on the interstates was the first step. The state recently approved funding for the service, which was the second step.

Mr. Pamplin spoke on how this service is needed and will be helpful to people who are stranded.

Ms. Ambre Torbett stated while she has worked with MPOs for over the majority of her career, she asked how MTPs incorporate local Land Use Plans. Mr. Berry stated that while they are different, land use drives transportation plans. Furthermore, it is up to local jurisdictions to have land use control, through zoning and subdivision regulations authorized though the Planning Commissions and City Commissions. The MPO do not have that regulatory authority.

Mr. Berry further stated that it was vital for MPO and local jurisdiction to have a consistence support for projects. This was due to the fact that when it comes to funding a major project (that exceeds the financial capacity of the MPO's allocation of STBG funds), the "ask" sometimes goes to the state. When one project

does not have 100 percent of local support, is it very hard to justify that project against other projects that TDOT is considering to assist with funding, that do have 100% support of the locals.

Mr. Berry also mentioned that Ms. Torbett has a new job at the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, in the East Tennessee Division, in a new Center for Local Planning. Ms. Torbett explained that they will support counties and municipalities with planning needs, educate on new laws related to planning, zoning, annexation, and subdivision regulations by publishing guidance materials.

Mr. David Jones asked if there was a financial attachment to the plan. Mr. Berry stated that there is a federal financial requirement for these plans and that will come later (at the next Board meeting).

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