

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD
of the
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
February 17, 2010

Attendees: Mayor Rogers Anderson, Mr. Phil Armor, Mr. Jeff Baines (For Mayor Philip Craighead), Mr. Paul Ballard (for Vice-Mayor Diane Neighbors), Mayor Ernest Burgess, Ms. Angie Carrier (for Mayor John Decker), Mayor Karl Dean, Mayor Michael Dinwiddie, Mayor John Finch, Mayor Scott Foster, Mayor Jo Ann Graves, County Executive Anthony Holt, Ms. Angie Midgett (for Gov. Phil Bredesen), Mr. Dana Richardson (for Mayor Tommy Bragg), Mr. Randy Robertson (for Mayor Linda Elam), Mayor John Schroer, Mr. Paul Webb (for Mayor Betsy Crossley), Mayor Ken Wilber

Approve January 20, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Karl Dean, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Scott Foster moved to approve the January 20, 2010 meeting minutes with Mayor Rogers Anderson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

MPO Chair's Report

- Updates on Mayors Caucus & Transit Alliance
Mayor Dean said that the February 4th meeting was successful in that a plan to draft By-laws and a significant piece of legislation related to traffic cameras were discussed. He said that Transit Alliance also met that day.

Update on ARRA-funded Projects

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that as of today, 89% of the money has been obligated. Three projects are waiting to be obligated but are good to go. All projects that were originally endorsed were funded. He said that \$1.3 M was moved between projects.

More information can be found at:

http://www.nashvillempo.org/transportation_projects/mpo_grant/american_recovery.aspx

Public Hearing: Adopt Amendment to the FY 2010 UPWP

Mr. Skipper said that the Unified Planning Work Program serves to meet Federal planning requirements to publish how we use federal planning dollars and it also serves as the annual MPO budget. This amendment is adjusting for the loss of funds due to the rescission and the gain of SPR funds.

Mayor Dean opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Dean closed the public hearing.

Mayor Ernest Burgess moved to adopt Resolution 2010-003 amending the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program. Mayor Anderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Complete versions of the adopted UPWP and the proposed amendment is available at the MPO website.

The schedule for adoption is:

- 1/6 - TCC endorsement
- 1/20 - XB endorsement
- 1/22 to 2/2 - Public review and comment period
- 2/3 - First public hearing (TCC)
- **2/17 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)**

Update on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO held a press conference on February 4th to announce its call-for-projects for the 2035 Plan. The Plan will provide a vision for transportation in the region, establish regional policy, and identify specific investments for the next 25 years. He said that one of the first things that the MPO does to in the development of a regional plan is to forecast future growth and how this growth will affect the region's mobility.

Mr. Matt Meservy, MPO staff, gave an overview of the Regional Deficiencies Analysis. He said that the staff has been developing a land use model to help allocate population and employment to the TAZs which were fed into the travel demand model which includes the passenger trip model, freight trip model and soon-to-be completed mode-choice model to give travel volumes and speeds associated with these volumes. He said that currently the congestion management process identifies the travel times less than 70% as congested. These are based on volume only. He said that the region will be broken into CMP districts where more detailed picture of the congestion can be done. A holistic approach will be used to deal with congestion.

Mr. Skipper said that it is a difficult thing to predict the future. Mayor John Finch asked if the models assume changes to mass transit. Mr. Skipper said that what Mr. Meservy presented was just looking at roadway investments. He said that congestion is a major factor in how money is spent but not the only factor. Quality of life, security, environment protection, Title VI (ADA), and choices of travel mode are

also issues looked at. He said that the present system of infrastructure needs to be preserved. Investments affect the culture and can stimulate the economy. The investments must be consistent with local visions also. There is a sense that there needs to be more alternative modes of transportation and so the MPO is developing methods of adequately measuring the effectiveness of mass transit investments.

Mayor Burgess asked how the project submission/selection process works. Mr. Skipper said that anyone can submit a project, however, submissions generally come through the public works or planning departments of a jurisdiction. RTA and transit agencies also submit projects. He said that the MPO staff is working closely with the local government staff. Mayor Burgess said that it sounds like regional cooperation is needed. Mr. Skipper agreed and said that the staff starts with an analysis of 2030 LRTP road projects, but that this time it will be important to evaluate mass transit alternatives and walkable communities initiatives to identify to what extent to invest in these alternatives.

Mayor Dean asked since the approval is in October, if the projects already have to be in the pipeline. Mr. Skipper said that there is already quite a bit in the pipeline and that there are deadlines for requesting projects. He said that in May, an overview of draft scenarios of the Plan will be unveiled. In July the preferred strategy will be approved for review of FHWA and TDOT.

Mayor Jo Ann Graves said that each jurisdiction needs to work together, i.e. if the corridor wants rail then each jurisdiction needs to make sure that they are working toward the same goal when presenting project requests. Mr. Skipper said that this was the purpose of the corridor, freight, and land use studies – to get everyone on the same page. The studies have a direct input into the Regional Plan. Mayor Graves asked if the corridor studies override what they want. Mr. Skipper said that the studies are a reflection of local involvement. That is why participation is critical. Some recommendations might cost more than the funds that will be available so the plan does an analysis of what is fundable vs. wants and how to bridge the gap.

Mayor Finch said that the Plan is being developed by the staff and the schedule is fast. He asked if there is time built into the process for the local political side to be included. Mr. Skipper said there at the end of the day the Board, which is made up of the elected officials from across the region, sets the policies on how to fund projects across the region. He said that in May the scenarios of how the money will be spent will be decided on by the Board.

Preview of New MPO Brand and Website

Mr. Skipper said that staff is excited to unveil the new MPO website. He said that the new tag line is livability, prosperity, sustainability, and diversity. The new logo's star represents 1) connections between the unique communities in the region, 2) capital region, and 3) symbol of leadership and guidance.

He gave a brief overview of the entire site. It will be a very user friendly – from telling what an MPO is to being interactive for the user (i.e. tracking projects). There is a place where people can go to find out how they can become / stay involved in the process.

There will also be pictures of seminars and videos of interviews, as well as links to federal legislation.

MPO Director's Report

- Upcoming TIP Amendment Opportunities
Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, said that the next TIP amendment cycle is March/April 2010 will probably be the last opportunity to amend the present TIP before the new one is adopted in October 2010. He said that the project deadline is February 19th.
- Other Comments
Ms. Luann Brown, Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN gave a letter to Mr. Skipper requesting that the funding for the Harding Pike extension be eliminated from the new Regional Plan.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Date: _____

The Honorable Karl Dean
Chairman, MPO Executive Board

Michael Skipper, Executive Director
Secretary, MPO Executive Board