

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

January 6, 2010

Attendees: Ms. Lora Baulsir, Mr. Kirk Bednar, Mr. Rick Bernhardt, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Michael Briggs, Mr. Marc Corrigan, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Steve Foote, Mr. Butch Gelband, Mr. Grant Green, Mr. Rick Gregory, Ms. Tanisha Hall, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Donn Lovvorn, Mr. Mark Macy, Mr. Addam McCormick, Ms. Angie Midgett, Mr. John Pewitt, Ms. Erin Reinders, Mr. Dana Richardson, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Fred Rogers, Mr. Jim Svoboda, Ms. Diane Thorne, Ms. Magi Tilton, Ms. Melinda Wagner, Mr. Bob Weithofer

Approve October 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fred Rogers, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Mr. John Pewitt moved to approve the October 7, 2009 meeting minutes. Mr. Bob Weithofer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

TCC Chair's Report

- Upcoming Symposiums (1/19 School-Siting, 1/28-29th Complete Streets)
Mr. Rogers said that both of these symposiums are timely and that if anyone hasn't registered, they need to do so on the MPO website. He thanked the staff for putting these together. Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that the Complete Streets symposium is being co-hosted with The TMA Group.
- Adopt 2010 Meeting Calendar
With no discussion, the 2010 meeting calendar was adopted.
- Other Comments
 - Mr. Rogers said that he, Ms. Angie Midgett, and Mr. Skipper attended the AMPO national convention in October. He said that it was an excellent conference and suggested that the TCC chair go to it on a regular basis as it is a good opportunity to learn what other MPOs are doing. He said that the average MPO staffing is 1 staff person / 48,000 people. He said that he would email the presentation to the

TCC with the link to the AMPO website with all of the conference information.

- Mr. Rogers congratulated Mr. Skipper and Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, for passing the AICP exam.
- Mr. Rogers said that Mr. Skipper's annual evaluation was a good one.
- Mr. Skipper introduced Ms. Mary Beth Ikard as the new MPO Communications Director.

Update on ARRA-funded Projects

Mr. Skipper said that 58% of the ARRA funds have been obligated to-date. He said that the deadline is March 2, 2010. If there is a project that can't be obligated by the deadline, please make the staff aware of this as soon as possible. He said that some of the money has already been shifted across projects using the guidelines adopted by the Board at the time of the original programming of ARRA funds. Mr. Dana Richardson asked what project in Rutherford County was receiving funding being shifted off of the Fergus Road resurfacing project. Mr. Skipper said that the specific project was not named in the letter that he received from TDOT Commissioner Nicely, but that he would request that information.

More information can be found at: nashvillempo.org/economic_recovery.html

Update Rescission of Federal Transportation Funds

Mr. Skipper said that the net result of the FY 2009 rescission of federal funds was that the balance of STP funds allocated to the Nashville Urbanized Area is in the hole by \$20 M and the Murfreesboro Urbanized Area by \$3.5 M. The rescission also eliminated all of the unobligated balances of CMAQ. Working with the TCC during three special work sessions, staff has prepared a plan to bring the TIP into fiscal constraint requirements. Mr. Richardson asked for a possible analysis of the ARRA vs. Rescission. Mr. Skipper said that to some extent staff has prepared such analysis on a few previous occasions, but that now with a clear path forward, additional analysis would be timely. Mr. Weithofer asked if the analysis would include all ARRA funds (including transit funds). Mr. Skipper said yes.

Public Hearing: Endorse Proposed Amendments to FY 08-11 TIP

Mr. Rogers said that the following amendments to the FY 08-11 TIP are completing a required 21-day public review and comment period.

TIP #	LRTP #	Project Name	Sponsor
2008-45-088	8035	Bldg Acquisition & Renovation	Murfreesboro Public Transp
99-New-14	8004	Old Nashville Highway	LaVergne
2008-42-017	4026	SR-99	TDOT
2006-009	8028	Music City Star Preventative Maint	RTA
2008-85-091	Consistent	Music City Star Operations	RTA
2009-85-010	8028	Martha Station Construction	RTA
2006-411	1067	ITS- Various Locations	TDOT
6006-417	6018	I-65 Widening SR 840 to SR 96	TDOT
2010-65-001	6018	I-65 Widening SR 248 to SR 96	TDOT
2009-59-022	Consistent	West Main Street Reconstruction	Hendersonville
2009-16-028	Consistent	Sidewalk Maintenance	Metro Nashville
057	1078	Central Pike (SR-265) ROW / Utilities	Metro Nashville
<i>Various</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>FY 09 Rescission Amendments</i>	<i>Various</i>

Mr. Rogers opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, said that there had been one email response. It was from Mr. Dave Bordenkircher, 500 Paragon Mills Rd., G-6, Nashville, Tn 37211. He “opposes TIP amendments 2010-009, 2010-65-001, and LRTP 6018. He said that he doesn’t think that I-65 should be widened in this location and it should not be widened from 4 lanes to 8 lanes.” Mr. Rogers closed the public hearing.

The schedule for adoption is:

- 12/8 - TCC endorsement
- 12/16 - XB endorsement
- 12/18 to 1/11 - Public review and comment period
- **1/6 - First public hearing (TCC)**
- 1/20 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

Mr. Tom Brashear moved to endorse the draft amendments. Mr. Rick Bernhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Endorse Proposed Amendments to the FY 2010 UPWP

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO lost \$1.2 M in reserve funds that were set aside for future studies. The MPO also lost a portion of the 2010 PL funds as a result of the rescission. The revised FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) accounts for rescinded FHWA Metropolitan Planning funds and the acceptance of grant funds from TDOT's Sustainable Communities [corrected to "Transportation & Land Use" program]. Mr.

Skipper said the budget was balanced by deferring 2 sub-regional projects to FY 2011 and money from RTA for planning and shifting the cost of other projects to SPR grant funds. All of this is reflected in the proposed amendments to the FY 2010 UPWP.

Mr. Brashear asked if the funds were being taken from SPR now instead of PL. Mr. Skipper said yes but there is a decrease overall in the amount of new work being done and an increase of the amount of continuing work being done. The increase is in part showing the close-out of some work in the last fiscal year.

Mr. Richardson asked if the UPWP is being supplemented with about \$1 M STP funds. Mr. Skipper said yes that it is set aside in the TIP, but not programmed for a specific study in the UPWP at this point. Mr. Richardson said that hopefully the use of STP funds for studies is a one-time thing.

Mr. Mark Macy asked what the FY 2008 and FY 2009 UPWP budgets were. Mr. Skipper said that he did not have the specific figures at hand but that the information easily accessible on the website. Mr. Macy asked how much less funding is being provided by Congress under the continuing resolutions after the expiration of SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Skipper said funding levels are that of FY 2009 less the rescission amounts. Generally speaking, FY 2010 amounts so far have been about 2/3 of the 2009 funding levels.

Mr. Skipper said that amendments to the UPWP require a 7-day public review and comment period.

Mr. Pewitt moved to endorse the draft amendment for public review and comment. Mr. Brashear seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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)
- 1/17 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

Call for Projects for FY 2011-2014 TIP and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO staff will seek MPO Executive Board action on January 20, 2010 to officially request from local governments, the general public, and private-sector organizations projects to be considered for funding and inclusion in the FYs 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. He said on February 4th there will be a press conference announcing the call for projects to the media and general public. He stated that staff will request that all candidate projects be submitted to the MPO by the end of March 2010.

In order to begin the process, he asked the TCC to submit to staff a re-evaluation of each of their projects included in the current 2030 LRTP. He also requested that members submit any information that is available on any new high priority projects which were not included in the current LRTP / TIP. The deadline for that initial information is January 22, 2010. The staff will run these projects through the model to find any deficiencies and bring the results back to the TCC in February.

Mr. Macy said that there are no percentages assigned to the list of criteria listed. Mr. Skipper said that the sheet was not for scoring purposes but to show what factors need to be looked at during the project evaluation process. Mr. Macy asked if the same criteria will be used for every project. Mr. Skipper said yes since these are not type of project specific, but instead relate more to the characteristics of the problem that projects are trying to address. Mr. Brashear asked if the same criteria from the last evaluation will be used this time. Mr. Skipper said that staff would work with the TCC to draft the criteria which could result in changes.

Mr. Skipper said that staff will present the draft plan in May along with three different scenarios for how to invest in the transportation across the region. The TCC and Board will be asked to endorse a preferred strategy in July. Then TDOT and FHWA will review. The final adoption will be in October 2010

Mr. Weithofer asked when the existing TIP ends and how long will the current one be amended. Mr. Skipper said that the new TIP is scheduled to be in place on October 1, 2010. He also said that there will probably be one more time to amend the current TIP before October. Ms. Angie Midgett said that the TIP actually doesn't expire until 2011 as does the STIP. Mr. Skipper said that he would get clarification as to the expiration date. Mr. Rick Gregory asked if, when new information regarding the TIP / LRTP is put on the MPO website, an email be sent out to the members notifying them. Mr. Skipper said that was doable and that there is a new website being developed that will provide that opportunity.

Presentation of Final Report for Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study

Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO senior transportation planner, introduced Mr. Bob Murphy and Mr. Preston Elliott, RPM Transportation Consultants, to present an overview final report of the recently completed Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study.

Mr. Murphy gave an overview of the regional bike/ped plan which is to establish a comprehensive vision and strategy for bikeway and pedestrian accommodations that will enable the MPO, its member jurisdictions, and the State to plan, prioritize, and implement facilities and programs that enhance mobility through connectivity and accessibility, improved safety, and quality of life. He said that this plan is to 1) feed into

the MPO's overall regional transportation plan and provide the basis by which future funding priorities of the MPO are established; 2) provide a comprehensive inventory of existing and currently proposed on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the greater Nashville region; 3) increase the region's understanding of how improving walking and bicycling connectivity increases individual mobility, enhances transit options, and promotes active living; 4) serve as a framework for identifying and selecting bicycle/pedestrian projects for the region's Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program; and 5) provide guidance for engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation activities to help improve the safety of walking and bicycling.

Mr. Murphy said that during the public meetings the potential solutions are better 1) facilities, 2) connectivity, 3) awareness, support and collaboration, 4) policies and programs, 5) mapping and information, and 6) education and enforcement. The study analyzed 1) level of service, 2) level of bicycle service, 3) bicycle and pedestrian crashes, 4) health impacts, 5) non-motorized demand, 6) current policies and practices, and 7) peer practices.

Mr. Preston said that one of the efforts of the study was to develop a product evaluation system that can be used at a regional, sub-regional, or local level. The key highlights are 1) regional sidewalk accommodations and bikeway network recommendations along arterial roadways, 2) a project evaluation system which is data driven linked to the planning process and is flexible. The policies and programs need to focus around four strategic objectives: 1) provide facilities, 2) build support, 3) create policies & programs, and 4) increase awareness.

He said that the study also recommended funding levels and a funding toolbox to be used for planning in the future. He said that there are 33 different funding programs, (21 federal programs, 5 State and local sources, and 7 private sources). *Final study deliverables are available at: <http://www.nashvillempo.org/bikeped.html>*

Ms. Meehan said that RPM did an excellent job and that they were challenged to do some innovative things and they rose to the challenge.

MPO Director's Report

Mr. Skipper said that staff was looking to finalize the selection of the four focus areas and ten strategic corridors for more detailed illustration as part of the Tri-County Transportation & Land Use study very soon this week.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Date: _____

Fred Rogers, Chair
Technical Coordinating Committee

Michael Skipper, MPO Director
Secretary, Technical Coordinating Committee