

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

May 5, 2010

Attendees: Mr. Kirk Bednar, Mr. Michael Briggs, Mr. Billy Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Steve Foote, Mr. Butch Gelband, Mr. Rick Gregory, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. George James, Mr. Jim McAteer, Mr. Addam McCormick, Ms. Nellie Patton, Mr. John Pewitt, Ms. Erin Reinders, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Fred Rogers, Ms. Jeanne Stevens, Mr. Jim Svoboda, Ms. Diane Thorne, Ms. Magi Tilton, Mr. Bob Weithofer

Approve April 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fred Rogers, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:38 a.m. Mr. Jim Svoboda moved to approve the April 7, 2010 meeting minutes with Mr. John Pewitt seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

TCC Chair's Report

Mr. Rogers named Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Dana Richardson, and Mr. Svoboda to the nominating committee for the new Chair and Vice-Chair. They will present the slate at the June meeting.

Update on ARRA-funded Projects

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, recapped for the TCC that 100% of the ARRA funds had been obligated by the March 2 federal deadline. He said that, since then, a few projects have come in under the estimate leaving funding to be used on other projects. There is a short window of opportunity to use this money with September 30, 2010 as the federal deadline to have all funds obligated, but that TDOT has requested that funds be obligated well in advance of that deadline to ensure no funding is lost. He said that staff has recommended a series of priorities for redirecting funds, with the first priority given to ARRA cost overruns and the second priority being ARRA or TIP projects that need money to move forward. He said that there is little room for error or the money will go to TDOT for projects in the region.

Mr. Jim McAteer said that MTA offices and repair building were flooded. MTA also lost 40 buses (about a quarter of their fleet) and Access Ride vehicles. He said that they are borrowing buses from other transit agencies from across the state as well as other areas. MTA is requesting that the extra ARRA money be diverted in order to get help replace the rolling stock so that they can begin basic service again. Mr. Bob Weithofer asked if there is any question about the eligibility of this request. Mr. Skipper said that it was being checked on. Mr. Weithofer moved to move MTA's request to top priority in reassigning the money once eligibility is confirmed. Mr. Kevin Rigsby seconded. Mr. Billy Davis commented that if FEMA provides any funds, then these funds should be returned to the MPO for use on other projects. Mr. Weithofer said that these would be used to cover what FEMA won't cover. Mr. Jeanne Stevens asked when FEMA might give MTA a response since the money has to be obligated by September. Mr. Davis said that it shouldn't take too long. Mr. Steve Foote asked for more information. He also said that others might have needs for this money. Mr. Skipper said that at the moment all of the known overruns have been covered but that the staff can't wait until the deadline to see what else comes in. He said that once there is a viable list of projects, it will be sent to TDOT. Mr. Weithofer amended his motion to say that any overruns are the first priority, then the MTA request. After that any project with expanded scope of work. Mr. Rigsby seconded the amended motion.

Mr. Foote asked if, in regard to ARRA funding, CEI for bikeways is eligible. Mr. Skipper said yes and asked Mr. Foote to send him an email to that effect. Mr. Foote said that the first phase of a project was ARRA funded and asked if the other phases are eligible. Mr. Skipper said yes if they can be done in the time frame.

Mr. Skipper said that there are many questions regarding the use of ARRA funds for flooding issues. Ms. Nellie Patton asked if these funds were ARRA highway funds. Mr. Skipper said yes and that they would be flexed to FTA.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Skipper said that due to time this might not allow the full TCC the opportunity to endorse proposed actions prior to staff's recommendations to the Executive Board. Mr. Rogers asked to keep the TCC up to date via email before the Executive Board meeting. Mr. Skipper said he would.

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

Update on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and FYs 11-14 TIP

Mr. Skipper said that the staff is almost done with project analysis. Once that is done, the project prioritization will begin at the TCC workshop.

Mr. Skipper said that the MPO is co-hosting the Annual Regional Summit with TDOT and Cumberland Region Tomorrow on May 26th at the War Memorial Auditorium. He said that the focus of the summit will be on transportation and will include representatives

from HUD, EPA, and DOT to discuss the community leadership on nationwide initiatives. There will be a panel to address the livability initiatives. He said that Land Trust of Tennessee will speak on open space preservation. He said that Mayor Dean and himself will talk about the update of the 2035 RTP which include the Regional Context, the draft Regional Plan initiatives, and the Regional investment strategies.

On July 7th, the TCC will be asked to endorse the draft for public review. On October 6th, the TCC will be asked to endorse the draft plan for adoption.

More information at: http://www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/rtp/

Mr. Rogers asked if the staff has received all of the information needed to finalize the grading of the projects. Mr. Skipper said that the staff has received information for all of the projects requested for inclusion in the plan and are working with individual jurisdictions to get more details where necessary.

Mr. Weithofer asked if there will be any actions to be taken at the workshops. Mr. Skipper said no. Mr. Rogers asked if a list will be presented to the Executive Board on May 19th. Mr. Skipper said no.

MPO Director's Report

- CMAQ Process
The State will call for CMAQ projects for FY2011. Mr. Skipper said that the money rescinded by Congress then restored will be retained by the State for projects in the regions based on a competitive basis. He said that the starting point for developing this list with the same process. Ms. Jeanne Stevens said that the TDOT criteria should stay the same but the waiting may change. Once again, projects that can be obligated within a year will be emphasized. She also said that a good description on how the project will be managed to make sure that it is delivered on schedule is very important. The projects with local match will get priority. Mr. Davis asked if there is a project that was under development but had to be stopped would be considered. Mr. Skipper said that those projects should already be on the list. Mr. Skipper said that projects not on the list but might be considered are those submitted for the new TIP. He said that regional projects likely won't have local match. Ms. Stevens said that she felt that there will be a lot of money to award this year and that last year they were able to fund almost every project that was submitted. She encouraged that the submitted list be long.

Mr. Weithofer asked for clarification that the rescinded funds were allocated to the region would not immediately be given to this region. Ms. Stevens said that was correct. The money will be awarded on a competitive basis. Mr. Foote asked if the jurisdictions have to do the air quality analysis. Mr. Skipper said that this is done by the staff.

- Update on Regional Studies
 - NE Corridor: Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, said that this project is wrapping up. The draft analysis report on the capital costs has been received and we are waiting on the ridership and operating costs projections. He said that they are also doing TOD prototypes.
 - ITS Architecture: Mr. Max Baker, MPO staff, said that the update is wrapping up. The draft and deployment comments are due May 7th.
 - Tri-County: Mr. Skipper said that study is also nearing the end. He has requested a few revisions by the consultants to the draft before sharing with the steering committee.
 - 5th Annual Dump the Pump Day: Ms. Mary Beth Ikard, MPO staff, said that June 17th, is the 5th Annual Dump the Pump Day sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association and that there will be a free showing of the PBS documentary film, “Beyond the Motor City” at the Watkins School of Art Design and Film in Metro Center. She said that more information will be forthcoming.

- Other Comments

Mr. Skipper said that on April 20th and 21st, the MPO went through its quadrennial Certification Review by FHWA, FTA, EPA, and TDOT. He said that there were no findings or corrective actions. Ms. Stevens said that the meeting went very well and there will probably be commendations. She said that the staff did a terrific job. Mr. Rogers thanked the staff for their hard work and for Mr. Skipper’s leadership.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Date: _____

 Fred Rogers, Chair
 Technical Coordinating Committee

 Michael Skipper, MPO Director
 Secretary, Technical Coordinating Committee