

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE Of the

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

January 4, 2012

Attendees: Ms. Lora Baulsir, Mr. Kirk Bednar, Mr. Rick Bernhardt, Mr. Tom Brashear, Mr. Kevin Comstock, Mr. Billy Davis, Mr. Doug Demosi, Mr. Butch Gelband, Mr. Rick Gregory, Mr. Will Hager, Mr. Joe Horne, Mr. Jim McAteer, Mr. Addam McCormick, Ms. Angie Midgett, Mr. Dana Richardson, Mr. Kevin Rigsby, Mr. Tim Roach, Mr. Fred Rogers, Mr. Jim Svoboda, Ms. Diane Thorne, Mr. Bob Weithofer

Approve December 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tom Brashear, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Bob Weithofer moved to approve the December 7, 2011 meeting minutes with Mr. Butch Gelband seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

TCC Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

Regional Priorities for 2013-2015 TDOT Work Program

Mr. Michael Skipper, MPO director, said that the MPO's regional priorities for the FYs 2013 through 2015 state work program need to be sent to TDOT by the end of January. He said that the same criteria used in the ranking projects for the 2025 RTP was used to prioritize this list.

Mr. Fred Rogers moved to endorse the regional priorities list. Mr. Gelband seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The schedule for endorsement is:

- 11/2 – Request for candidates

- 12/1 – *Deadline for submitting candidates*
- 12/7 – *Presentation of candidates to TCC*
- 12/14 - *Presentation of candidates to XB*
- **1/4 – TCC endorsement of regional priorities**
- 1/18 – Board endorsement of regional priorities

MPO Active Transportation Program

Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, presented the recommendations for awarding \$2.5 million in MPO Urban Surface Transportation Program funding as part of the Active Transportation Program created by the *2035 Regional Transportation Plan* and funded through the *FYs 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program*. She said that nine infrastructure projects and one non-infrastructure project totaling \$3.8M was requested.

Mr. Jim Svoboda moved to endorse the list of projects as presented. Mr. Jim McAteer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The schedule for adoption is:

- 11/2 – *Call-for-Projects announced*
- 10/7 – *Deadline for submitting proposals*
- **1/4 – TCC endorsement of awards**
- 1/18 – Board endorsement of awards
- 2/1 – TCC endorsement of related TIP amendments
- 2/15 – Board endorsement of related TIP amendments
- 2/17-3/19 – Public review and comment period
- 3/7 - First public hearing (TCC)
- 3/21 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

MPO Mass Transit Program

Mr. Skipper briefly presented information about the upcoming call-for-projects associated with the MPO's Mass Transit Program authorized by the *2035 Regional Transportation Plan* and *FYs 2011-15 Transportation Improvement Program*. He said that this is the second of three competitive grant programs that were created with U-STP funds in the 2035 RTP. He said that \$1.65M has been programmed for the mass transit program.

The schedule for adoption is:

- **1/18 – Call-for-Projects announced**

- 3/2 – Deadline for submitting proposals
- 5/2 – TCC endorsement of awards and related TIP amendments
- 5/16 – Board endorsement of awards and related TIP amendments
- 5/18-6/18 – Public review and comment period
- 6/6 - First public hearing (TCC)
- 6/20 - Second public hearing / adoption (XB)

Tennessee Department of Transportation Report

There was no report.

Presentation: Tennessee Crash Data Program

Mr. Max Baker, MPO staff, briefly discussed the importance of safety analysis in transportation planning. He said that the cost of crashes is 3 times the cost of congestion, and that more than 25% of congestion on the roadways results from accidents. He provided an overview of the how safety analysis has advanced in regional planning over the years. Mr. Baker said that safety criteria are part of each project selection. Prior to TITAN the staff relied on each jurisdiction to provide this information. Better data is now received but it is only corridor specific. TDOS has aggregate analysis for major routes and geocodes crash locations for state routes for fatalities.

He then introduced Sgt. Jeremy Austin, Tennessee Highway Patrol to provide an overview of a new system that can help improve access to information about crashes.

Sgt. Austin said that the THP now has a way to get better crash data. It is called the Tennessee Integrated Traffic Analysis Network or TITAN system. This system is free to all jurisdictions. The THP will install, train, and provide any technical support for the software. A law is now in the Legislature that the TITAN system must be in every law enforcement office state-wide by 2015. This system gives access to real time crash data on every road within the state. This type of information will help elected leaders decide how to best spend transportation funds. The MAP-IT location validation system is hooked into TITAN and pinpoints a crash on the map and gives exact coordinates. A Map IT feature is that is GPS dependent which gives accurate information in real time and can be searched using queries.

Sgt. Austin said that the THP considers safety to be most important and tries to prevent accidents proactively. The THP uses a 2-headed approach to traffic safety: 1) a strong DUI enforcement which has led to a 13% decrease in fatalities in 2011, and 2) a data driven approach to crashes.

He said that TDOT and the Governor Highway Safety Office (GHSO) helped with the funding. The THP will be in the Middle Tennessee area through March 2012 to install the software. If anyone has any questions, they can contact Sgt. Austin or Christopher Osbourn with the THP.

Mr. Rick Bernhardt asked if other agencies can have access to this data. Sgt. Austin said that anyone who wants it can have it.

Mr. Weithofer asked if historical data would be part of the data base. Mr. Osbourn said that old data will be brought over as soon as possible, but no GPS data will be part of it. No data at present that is older than November is on the map. Mr. Bernhardt asked if the data can be broken out by truck, cars, motorcycles, pedestrians, or bicycles. Sgt. Austin said yes.

Mr. Rick Gregory said that there has always been a reluctance to release accident data to the public due to the liability factor. Mr. Osbourn said that this is not a public website. He said that all data (except person addresses) is public record now.

Mr. Brashear asked if the data can be accessed by the MPO for regional studies. Sgt. Austin said probably as long as a security agreement is signed. He said that the goal is to provide better data so decision makers are better informed.

Mr. Baker introduced Mr. Brian Hurst, TDOT Safety Manager, to present an overview of how TDOT approaches safety improvements.

Mr. Hurst said that since May 1, 2010 this new office is a single point of accountability and single point of contact for information. The office reviews over 200,000 crash reports for 90,000 miles of TN roads and places location identifiers for each crash into the TN Roadway Information Management System (TRIMS). It also investigates locations from internal and external stakeholders.

Mr. Hurst said that the office is developing about 100 safety projects a year and has a one year commitment to achieve the construction letting with a 3-year follow-up on the projects to see if the improvements worked. During the entire construction project, the status is tracked. The office also conducts diagnostic team reviews partnering with R/R's and locals to expedite safety improvements. He said that the goal is reduce the number of fatalities to below 900 by the end of 2012.

Mr. Brashear said that the striping on the roads seems to disappear at night when it rains. Mr. Hurst said that using thermoplastic striping will improve this. Mr. Hurst said that they are also looking into using rumble strips or audible strips along the center line.

MPO Director's Report

- a) Annual Obligations Report
Mr. Skipper said that the list was published in December and that an Executive Summary will be out soon. He said that the status update of 2011-2015 TIP projects will be presented in February or March.
- b) Update on MPO Staffing/ Hiring Process
Mr. Skipper said that the staff will be interviewing three candidates within the next week to fill the vacant position on staff.
- c) 2012 Business and Meeting Topics
Mr. Skipper said that if anyone has a suggestion for a meeting topic for presentation at future meetings, to please let him know.
- d) Upcoming Conferences
 - Ms. Leslie Meehan, MPO staff, said that as a part of Celebrate NashVitality Week there will be three Nashville Health Impact Assessment workshops in January (17th, 20th, and 25th). It is a free meeting. She also mentioned 2 books (*The Built Environment and Public Health* by Russell P. Lopez and *Designing Healthy Communities* by Richard J. Jackson) that are great resources in the planning process.
 - Ms. Meehan said that our staff will be participating in the TRB conference in Washington, DC in January on health and transportation.
 - We will also be participating in a workshop at the CDC in February about active transportation and health data and how to make it more usable to everyone.
- e) Other comments
Mr. Félix Castrodad, MPO staff, reminded the members that the deadline for new TIP projects is January 20th.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Date: _____

Tom Brashear, Chair
Technical Coordinating Committee

Michael Skipper, MPO Director
Secretary, Technical Coordinating Committee