



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2015

Contact:

Ms. Pragati Srivastava, MPO Administrator

Phone: (901) 576-7190

Email: Pragati.Srivastava@memphistn.gov

Memphis MPO Holds Public Meetings For Input on Draft Transportation Plan

The Memphis Urban Area MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) announces the upcoming completion of its first draft of the Livability 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The MPO invites the public for discussions on July 21 and 22, 2015. (See the table below for local dates, times, and locations.) This plan directs the MPO’s allocation of federal funding for the various transportation modes in its jurisdiction for the next 25 years, with updates every four years to account for changing trends.

Meeting dates, times, and locations for MPO’s July Public Meetings:			
7/21 1:00-2:00 p.m.	Collierville Board Room 500 Poplar View Parkway Collierville, TN 38017	7/22 1:00-2:00 p.m.	Baker Community Center 7942 Church St. Millington, TN 38053
7/21 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Bert Ferguson Community Center 8505 Trinity Road Cordova, TN 38018	7/22 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Orange Mound Community Center 2572 Park Ave. Memphis, TN 38114

The RTP [formerly known as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)] outlines policies as well as the long-range and short-range actions that support road, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, and transit projects. It will help make the Greater Memphis Region (which includes parts of Southwest Tennessee and Northwest Mississippi) a more livable community, one with a high quality-of-life that provides affordable and reliable transportation options to better connect people to employment, education, and other basic needs.

The MPO developed this comprehensive plan from an extensive, two-year, travel data collection process executed in partnership with the Mississippi Department of

(continued)



Transportation (MDOT) and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Through conducting several regional surveys, gathering community remarks via an interactive online tool, and evaluating current infrastructure performances and future conditions, they obtained in-depth information that formed the foundation for this plan. This paved the way for the MPO to distribute funding for transportation-related projects that increase “livability” by enabling people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce the region’s pollution.

“The development of the RTP has been a long process. A lot of regional effort and cooperation has gone into making this plan reflective of the future needs of the region. Now, the public will be able to see the initial findings from this lengthy process,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Jr. Mayor Luttrell serves as the Chairman of the Memphis MPO’s Transportation Policy Board.

Memphis MPO Administrator Pragati Srivastava said, “The development process of this transportation plan eliminated guesswork and provided substantiated research and documentation for its direction. Thus far, community involvement has been extremely helpful and allowed us to adjust the travel demand model to one that better reflects the public’s real-world travel patterns and interests. It’s our desire to see this involvement continue in order to bring the voice of the community into these vital planning processes.”

While seven of the nine tasks have been completed, the plan is still in progress: The MPO needs the community to review the initial draft findings and offer input at its planned July public meetings. The final draft is scheduled for public review in late 2015, leading to the the plan’s implementation by March 2016.

The Memphis MPO, created in 1977, is responsible for the transportation policy development, planning, and programming for the counties of Shelby and Fayette, Tennessee, and DeSoto and Marshall Counties, Mississippi. Federal Regulations require that a MPO be designated to carry out a comprehensive, continuing, and coordinated (“3-C”) transportation planning process for urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more.

###