



Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Freight Advisory Committee (FAC)

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 10:00AM

3175 Lenox Park Boulevard, Suite 201

Memphis, Tennessee 38115

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Committee Chairman Mayor Rhea “Skip” Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. In addition to Mayor Taylor, the following members were present at the meeting:

Kevin Teagarden	<i>TDOT</i>
Dan Pallme	<i>TDOT</i>
Calvin Abram	<i>TDOT, Office of Community Transportation</i>
Antoine Hawkins	<i>TDOT, Office of Community Transportation</i>
Shundrekia Stewart	<i>BNSF</i>
Tom Word	<i>MLGW</i>
Randy Richardson	<i>Port of Memphis</i>
Eddie Brawley	<i>West Memphis MPO</i>
Stephen Edwards	<i>City of Memphis</i>
Trung Trinh	<i>MDOT</i>
Jessica Dilley	<i>MDOT</i>
Marty Lipinski	<i>University of Memphis</i>
Bennie Hopkins	<i>DeSoto County</i>

Interested Individuals present:

Angelica Carey	<i>City of Memphis, Comprehensive Planning</i>
Jennifer Brady	<i>City of Memphis, Comprehensive Planning</i>
Lee Hutchins	<i>AECOM</i>
James Collins	<i>Kimley-Horn</i>
Dave Curran	<i>Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Advisors</i>

MPO Staff members present:

Pragati Srivastava	Sajid Hossain	Parker Sherwood	Mavrick Fitzgerald
Jordan Smith	Alvan-Bidal Sanchez	Jennifer Marshall	

A quorum was present.

1) **Welcome and Introduction**

The members of the committee and audience introduced themselves.

2) **Greater Memphis Regional Freight Plan (DRAFT)**

Mr. Lee Hutchins gave a presentation on the Greater Memphis Regional Freight Plan draft report. The report looks at the larger area outside the Memphis MPO boundary, encompassing Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, since this larger picture affects freight movement within the MPO boundary. The report illustrates that the Greater Memphis Region is recognized as a hub and an integral part of the North American Freight network. This was also borne out in the public outreach and surveys.

While the Freight Plan effort was only a yearlong, the changes seen in the freight industry in that one year emphasize how dynamic freight is. Mr. Hutchins noted that the industrial zones and areas in the Greater Memphis Region are clustered around the Mississippi River, I-55, I-240, and Lamar Avenue. 33 different freight zones were explored, and information on employment, square footage is shown to better understand the differences between the zones, and why they've clustered in areas and they're connected to the larger region and network. The drill down into the individual freight zones was an important part in understanding how freight was moving. Analysis also included traffic flows and interstate accessibility, and this information was connected with information on vacancy rates and workforce characteristics. The legacy of industry also impacts freight today, the report explores how existing infrastructure can be adapted to meet the current industry needs and standards. Mr. Hutchins provided a side-by-side comparison of two freight zones as an example of the information collected for each of the 33 freight zones. This analysis shows the challenges affecting how freight moves, and looking at what recommendations can be made. These zones were combined into 8 freight areas, to gain greater insight into how the system works together.

The report also touches on the multi-modal characteristic of freight in the Greater Memphis Region, rail, road, river, and air. Each mode was explored, looking at how the Greater Memphis Region is connected to other regions and how industry uses the infrastructure and connections in the Region. The introduction of autonomous vehicles, new technology, and multiple mobile sources of data will affect freight movement and the industry. This will also help in developing freight performance measures, and tracking outcomes. Mr. Hutchins noted that the perception of the Greater Memphis Region as a hub is already prevalent amongst stakeholders and the public. With the multi-modal resources available in the Region, this can be built upon and expanded. Finally, the plan will align with future plans in the Region, including the Memphis MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and factors of livability.

Q: *Mr. Randy Richardson asked what the current schedule for finalizing the plan was.*

A: *Mr. Lee Hutchins stated that the goal is a November adoption, so he's worked back from that date to allow time for the comment periods of FHWA and public review. Ms. Pragati Srivastava also noted that following the comments from the state DOTs, the comment period for FHWA and the public will run concurrently and the goal remains for a November adoption.*

3) **Other Business**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava noted that the Memphis MPO has submitted the information on Critical Urban Freight Corridors to both TDOT and MDOT. The states are finalizing the rural corridors, as information is shared with the Memphis MPO, FAC members will be updated.

Mr. Kevin Teagarden mentioned that TDOT will host the West TN FAC Meeting on August 31, 2017 at the University of Memphis. The agenda will include a workshop and freight plan updates. The invite will be sent out to members.

Mr. Dan Pallme noted that Mr. Kevin Teagarden is the new contact at TDOT for freight. Any inquiries/information previously sent to Mr. Aayush Thakur will now be sent to Mr. Teagarden.

Mr. Trung Trinh shared that MDOT is currently updating their Freight Plan to FAST Act compliance.

4) **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55AM.

NOTE: The meeting minutes are a summary of the meeting. If you would like to review the tape recording of the entire meeting you may so do by scheduling an appointment with Alvan-Bidal Sanchez at (901) 576-7156.