



Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Memphis MPO)

Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022, 10:00AM

GoToMeeting Online Meeting

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The following committee members were present:

Amanda Hicks	<i>DeSoto County</i>	Marty Lipinski	<i>University of Memphis</i>
Antoine Hawkins	<i>TDOT</i>		
Necole Baker	<i>MDOT</i>	Manny Belen	<i>City of Memphis</i>
Trung Trinh	<i>MDOT</i>	Randy Richardson	<i>EDGE/Port of Memphis</i>
Cliff Norville	<i>Shelby County</i>		
Darren Sanders	<i>Shelby County</i>	Kim Thurman	<i>FHWA-TN</i>
Jared Darby	<i>Shelby County</i>	Michael Garriga	<i>BNSF</i>
Guy Sawyer	<i>West Memphis MPO</i>	James Hay	<i>Memphis International Airport</i>
John Dinning	<i>CN</i>		
Donna England	<i>TN Trucking Association</i>		

Other interested individuals present:

Sebastian Guerrero	WSP
Mary Connelly	WSP
Drew Gaskins	WSP

Memphis MPO staff members present:

Pragati Srivastava Sajid Hossain Mavrick Fitzgerald



1) Memphis MPO Updates

a) Mid-South Region Freight Flows & Industry Analysis – Preliminary Recommendations

Mr. Sebastian Guerrero provided a presentation on Recommendations from the Mid-South Region Freight Flows & Industry Analysis and sought feedback from the Freight Advisory Committee

The Mid-South Freight Flows & Industry Analysis is a study conducted by the Memphis MPO, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, to identify trends and develop recommendations for facilitating the growth of the freight and logistics industries in the tri-state Mid-South region. Mid-South Freight Flows Study is due to be complete by the end of the year.

Recommendations were divided into two categories, i) Freight System Investments and Strategies and ii) Planning and Policy. Recommendations for Freight System Investments were further divided into Foundational recommendations to preserve current freight performance, Catalytic recommendations to improve the competitiveness of the Mid-South freight system, and Innovative recommendations to make the Mid-South a pioneer in the logistics sector. Planning and Policy recommendations were targeted to the MPO itself, and included recommendations for Freight Performance Measures, Agency Coordination and Partnerships, Data Programs, Future Studies, and Training and Education.

b) Preliminary Recommendations – Discussion

Mr. Michael Garriga and Mr. John Dinning both endorsed the study's recommendations on addressing rail crashes and identifying funding for rail grade separation. Mr. Dinning noted that raised roadway medians can be a low-cost way to prevent cars from improperly attempting to bypass a rail crossing gate while it's being lowered.

Mr. Randy Richardson asked if the region has the roadway capacity to meet the projected level of growth, and if more attention needed to be given to capacity increases as a strategy. Mr. Guerrero responded that the Freight Flows forecast is an economic model which projects future demand for freight. This is supplemented by stakeholder survey and truck movement data, which is used to identify the roadway capacity improvements specified in the recommendations.



In response to a recommendation on addressing freight workforce shortages, Mr. John Dinning concurred that hiring skilled labor had become an issue for the rail industry as much or more as in trucking.

Mr. Trung Trinh noted that MDOT's statewide freight plan will be released in the next few weeks and will identify some freight needs in the Memphis MPO area. A recently completed MDOT truck stop study also identifies some publicly owned truck rest-areas in the region which are close to capacity.

2) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.