Memphis MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Strengthening Regional Transportation

Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Engineering and Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 11:00 AM
Holiday Inn University of Memphis – Tennessee Ballroom
3700 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Ms. Pragati Srivastava called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM. The following voting members were present:

Gary Scruggs	*TDOT*	Chase Dabbs	*Southaven*
Perry Brown	*MDOT*	Paul Posey	*Lakeland*
Bennie Hopkins	*DeSoto County*	John Lancaster	*MATA*
Darren Sanders	*Shelby County*	Randall Tatum	*Memphis*
James Crook	*Shelby County*	Cheeyen Chew	*Memphis*
Steve Hill	*Arlington*	Jason Dixon	*Millington*
Erin Campbell	*Bartlett*	Ed Courton	*Oakland*
Tim Gwaltney	*Collierville*	Scott Young	*Olive Branch*
Ethan Skaggs	*Germantown*	Harvey Matheny	*Piperton*
Austin Cardosi	*Hernando*		

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Melanie Murphy	*FHWA-TN*	Ralph Moore	*W.Memphis MPO*
Sean Santalla	*FHWA-TN*		

The following Interested Individuals were present:

John Zeanah	*DPD*	Dexter Muller	*Memphis Chamber*
John Dudas	*Memphis Chamber*	Shihab Uddin	*HDR*
Antoine Hawkins	*TDOT- OCT*	Lydia Holmes	*Memphis Chamber*
Erich Moody	*TDOT-LP*	Stephen Edwards	*TREKK*
Meghan Wilson	*TDOT- LP*	Keely Brewer	Daily Memphian
Jordan Smith	*MATA*	Skylar Jones	*Garver*
Becky Bailey	*Bartlett*	John Cantabery	*Garver*
Kenny Monroe	*Kimley Horn*	Derek Holt	*Garver*
Robert Tworek	*Kimley Horn*	Zylavian Watley Hines	*Garver*
Doug Swett	*Kimley Horn*	Peter Kauffmann	*HDR*
Dylan Vatter	*WSP*	Parker Holland	*HDR*
Michael Rebick	*WSP*	Mark Grey	*HDR*

The following MPO Staff Members were present:

Sajid Hossain	Nick Warren	Jafrin Mouli	Andrea Blue
Kate Horton	Mavrick Fitzgerald	Torey Sanders	

A quorum was present.

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1) **Call to Order @ 11:07 PM**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

2) **Approval of August 17, 2023 Minutes**

Mr. Darren Sanders moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. James Crook seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

3) **Memphis MPO's Administrator's Report**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava gave an overview of the following items:

a) FY 2023 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) Update
b) 2023 Memphis Region Pedestrian and Bicycle Report

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

4) **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

Mr. Sean Santalla introduced Ms. Melanie Murphy, who gave a presentation on the 2023 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification. Ms. Murphy discussed the outcomes of the certification process and covered both commendations and recommendations. The Memphis MPO received commendations on performance-based planning and safety planning. Additionally, recommendations were included for 4 areas, which are the 3-C planning process, public participation plan, equity in the planning process, and air quality and transportation conformity. Ms. Murphy concluded her presentation by stating that the planning process for the Memphis MPO met the requirements and is certified.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

5) **Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)**

Mr. Antoine Hawkins provided updates regarding TDOT's carbon reduction strategy and the PROTECT program. Mr. Hawkins also provided updates on the Transportation Modernization Act. He added that the TDOT leadership is currently finalizing the 10-year plan that will be presented to the legislature at the end of the year. The 10-year plan will include a final list of statewide partnership projects. A total of 66 applications were reviewed out of the 102 submitted. Mr. Hawkins further added that TDOT is also creating the Transportation Modernization Board, which will oversee the overall process for the plan's implementation.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

6) **Adoption of the 2024 Memphis MPO Calendar**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the 2024 Memphis MPO Calendar.

Mr. Darren Sanders moved to approve the 2024 Memphis MPO Calendar as presented; Mr. Bennie Hopkins seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

7) **Approval of the Memphis MPO Smoothed Urbanized Area (UZA) Boundary**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the Memphis MPO Smoothed Urbanized Area (UZA) Boundary.

Mr. Darren Sanders moved to approve the Memphis MPO Smoothed Urbanized Area (UZA) boundary as presented; Mr. Jason Dixon seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Mr. Darren Sander inquired whether smoothing the boundary would change the membership of the MPO board or not. Ms. Pragati Srivastava clarified that it will not change any memberships.

Mr. Ethan Skaggs inquired whether smoothing the boundary would change the percentage of the MPO membership vote or not. Ms. Pragati Srivastava clarified that it would not impact the voting of the members.

8) **Approval of the current Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary.

Mr. Jason Dixon moved to approve the current Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary as presented; Mr. John Lancaster seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

9) **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding Project Prioritization Criteria**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding Project Prioritization Criteria.

Mr. Darren Sanders moved to approve the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding Project Prioritization Criteria as presented; Mr. Randall Tatum seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Mr. Steve Hill expressed his concerns regarding the criteria points for sustainable growth. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the CRP criteria were shared in advance with the committee no comments were received. Ms. Srivastava further added that the intent of the CRP criteria is to also ensure consistency with the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) criteria approved by the MPO board.

10) **Approval of the MOVING TOGETHER 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendments & Air Quality Conformity Demonstration Reports for Shelby and DeSoto Counties**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendments & Air Quality Conformity Demonstration Reports for Shelby and DeSoto Counties

Tennessee

i. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #137 – Lamar Avenue/SR-4
ii. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #507 – I-40 at Airline Road Interchange
iii. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #330-A, 330-B, & 330-C – Kirby/Whitten Parkway
iv. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #227-A, 227-B, & 227-C – North Second Street
v. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #331 – Walnut Grove Road
vi. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #142 – Tchulahoma Road
vii. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #522 – Crosstown Corridor Connector

Mississippi

i. RTP Amendment: MOVING TOGETHER 2050 RTP ID #195-A & 195-B – Pleasant Hill Road

Mr. Jason Dixon moved to approve the MOVING TOGETHER 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendments & Air Quality Conformity Demonstration Reports for Shelby and DeSoto Counties as presented; Mr. John Lancaster seconded the motion and the motion passed with the majority vote, with three abstentions (Shelby County (2) and Germantown) and three voting against (Arlington, Collierville, and Bartlett).

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Mr. Steve Hill asked if the committee has the option to approve the items individually or if they need to be voted on as a group. Ms. Pragati Srivastava clarified that since the items are part of one conformity report they need to be voted as a group.

Mr. Steve Hill asked if the conformity analysis could be redone. Ms. Pragati Srivastava replied that redoing the conformity analysis would add 4-6 months in delays.

Mr. Steve Hill expressed his concerns regarding the removal of the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and Walnut Grove Road projects from the RTP due to traffic and congestion in the area. Mr. Hill wanted to know the reasons for the removal of the projects and if the City of Memphis has another plan to resolve the traffic concerns. Mr. Randall Tatum responded that these projects no longer align with the City of Memphis' comprehensive planning priorities.

Mr. Darren Sanders expressed concerns that Farm Road is the only north-south road through the park, and it is not a sustainable alternative to meet the traffic needs of the area.

Mr. Steve Hill inquired if there would be anything in place to address the delays in the area. Mr. Randall Tatum responded that the City doesn't have any specific plan at this moment but they will continue to monitor if any alternative is needed.

Mr. Steve Hill wanted to know about the status of the federal funds that the City has already spent on the projects. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the City is currently working with TDOT on the repayment of the federal funds.

Mr. Tim Gwaltney asked for the termini/limits of the Walnut Grove Road project. Mr. Randall Tatum responded the project limits include from Farm Road to Germantown Road.

Mr. Ethan Skaggs asked if the air quality analysis reflects the removal of the project or if it will be conducted after the board's approval. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the air quality analysis includes the removal of the projects.

Mr. Steve Hill asked if there have been any projects canceled based on the air quality analysis. Ms. Pragati Srivastava clarified that the air quality analysis does not dictate the removal of the project. The decision of project removal lies with the lead agency.

Mr. Steve Hill asked if the air quality analysis could be completed by the next MPO meeting in February. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that by the next meeting, additional amendments will be submitted for approval, which the air quality analysis will have to reflect.

Mr. Steve Hill stated that they have been put in a corner to make a decision. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the MPO process approval process takes a long time, and ETC members are offered multiple opportunities to provide input during that process. Ms. Srivastava further added that the amendments were shared through the IAC process, which includes all ETC members, but through that review process, no comments were received from any member.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Pragati Srivastava shared that she received an email on 11.16.23 from Mr. Bobby White representing the Greater Memphis Chamber regarding their concern about removing the Kirby/Whitten Parkway from the plan and the City's decision. Ms. Srivastava shared a summary of the email.

Mr. John Dudas on behalf of the Greater Memphis Chamber stated the Chamber supports and endorses the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project, which started in 2006 and would address safety issues at this location. Mr. Dudas asked that any action on the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project and the North Second Street project be deferred to understand the reasons behind the removal of the projects. Mr. Dudas requested that these two projects be pulled out of Agenda Item #10 – RTP Amendments & Agenda Item #11 – TIP Amendments.

Mr. Antoine Hawkins stated that from TDOT's perspective, delaying approval of the amendments would not be the preferred option given that it would result in delays for all projects included in the amendment group.

Mr. Dexter Mueller, on behalf of Parkside Development/Property Owner, stated that Parkside Development is a mixed-use development originally approved in 2017, and in 2018 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was approved to allocate approximately $8M for local matching funds for the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project. After several years working through COVID and financing the developer has received a letter of intent and is prepared to move forward. Without the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project, the Parkside Development will not be able to move forward. Mr. Muller asked for consideration to have more time to review the project and delay the action of the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and Walnut Grove Middle projects.

11) **Approval of the FY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Air Quality for Shelby and DeSoto Counties**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided an overview of the FY 2023-26 TIP Amendments & Air Quality Conformity Demonstration Reports.

Tennessee

i. TIP Amendment TN-NHPP-2018-01: SR-4 Widening
ii. TIP Amendment STBG-M-2020-01: I-40 at Airline Road Interchange
iii. TIP Amendment STP-M-2006-01: New Canada Road
iv. TIP Amendment STP-M-2006-10: Kirby/Whitten Parkway (Shelby Farms Parkway)
v. TIP Amendment STP-M-2000-09: North Second Street
vi. TIP Amendment STBG-M-2017-08: Shelby Drive
vii. TIP Amendment 5309-2017-01: Memphis Innovation Corridor
viii. TIP Amendment RAISE-2023-02: Crosstown Corridor Connector
ix. TIP Amendment RAISE-2023-01: Eliminating Barriers on North Watkins (ELBOW)

Mississippi

x. TIP Amendment MS-LSTP-2008-01: Pleasant Hill Road

Mr. Randall Tatum moved to approve the FY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Air Quality for Shelby and DeSoto Counties as presented; Mr. John Lancaster seconded the motion and the motion passed with the majority vote - three abstentions (Shelby County (2) and Germantown) and three voting against (Arlington, Collierville, and Bartlett).

DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

Mr. Darren Sanders and Mr. Ethan Skaggs wanted clarification about approving the RTP and TIP amendments at the same time. Ms. Pragati Srivastava clarified that the RTP is a primary document, and all other documents have to be consistent with the RTP including the TIP. With the approval of the RTP amendments, the TIP has to be amended to reflect those changes in the RTP. All of these changes are captured in the Air Quality Conformity Report for the MPO area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Dudas made a similar comment i.e., requesting the deferral of the two projects for further comments from the stakeholders.

12) **Open Grant/Funding Opportunities**

13) **Other Business**

a) Next Scheduled ETC Meeting: February 15, 2024, 11:00 AM, Location: Holiday Inn University of Memphis – Tennessee Ballroom, 3700 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

14) **Adjourn**

Mr. Darren Sanders moved to adjourn; Mr. Austin Cardosi seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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 do so by scheduling an appointment with Kate Horton, Transportation Planner at (901) 636-7218.*