Memphis MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Strengthening Regional Transportation

Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Transportation Policy Board Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 1:30 PM

Holiday Inn University of Memphis – Tennessee Ballroom
3700 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Mayor Jim Strickland called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. In addition to Mayor Jim Strickland, the following voting members were present:

Matt Meservy	*TDOT/Rep. Governor*	Andrew Hockensmith	*Horn Lake*
Jim Flanagan	*MDOT/Rep. Governor*	Chase Dabbs	*Southaven*
Gary Scruggs	*TDOT*	Austin Cardosi	*Hernando*
Perry Brown	*MDOT*	Scott Young	*Olive Branch*
Mayor Rhea Taylor	*Fayette County*	Larry Baker	*Port Commission*
Bennie Hopkins	*DeSoto County*	Paul Luker	*Lakeland*
Cliff Norville	*Shelby County*	Jason Dixon	*Millington*
Cathy Durant	*Arlington*	Harvey Ellis	*Oakland*
Erin Campbell	*Bartlett*	Harvey Matheny	*Piperton*
Tim Bierdz	*Collierville*	John Lancaster	*MATA*
Ethan Skaggs	*Germantown*		

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Melanie Murphy	*FHWA-TN*	Guy Sawyer	*W. Memphis MPO*
Sean Santalla	*FHWA-TN*		

The following Interested Individuals were present:

Jared Darby	*DPD*	Alexis Morris	*Midsouth DD*
Robin Richardson	*DPD*	Leta Rowan	*DPD*
Nisha Powers	*Powers Hill*	Randall Tatum	Memphis
Asley Owens	*TDOT-OCT*	Zylavian Hines	*Garver*
Theira Taylor	*TDOT-OCT*	Skylar Jones	*Garver*
Lydia Holmes	*Greater Memphis Chamber*	Derek Holt	*Garver*
Antoine Hawkins	*TDOT-OCT*	Stephen Edwards	*TREKK*
Dexter Muller	*Development Innovations*	Darren Sanders	*Shelby County*
John Dudas	*Greater Memphis Chamber*	Jordan Smith	*MATA*
Kenneth Monroe	*Kimley-Horn*	Hannah Franklin	*DeSoto County*
Tim Gwaltney	*Collierville*	Ralph Moore	*W. Memphis MPO*

The following MPO Staff Members were present:

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

A quorum was present.

T 901.636.7190 **F** 901.636.9404

125 N Main Street, Suite 450
Memphis, TN 38103
memphismpo.org

1) **Call to Order @ 1:32 PM**

Mayor Jim Strickland called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

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

Mr. Cliff Norville moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mayor Rhea Taylor 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 Update

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. Matt Meservy shared with the Board that at present TDOT is awaiting FHWA comments on the Carbon Reduction Strategy and they are also in the process of soliciting consultants to help with the Resiliency Improvement Plan for the PROTECT Program created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He also gave an update on the Transportation Modernization Act and stated that 66 out of 102 applications were reviewed for the Statewide Partnership Program.

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. Austin Cardosi moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mayor Rhea Taylor 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. Cliff Norville moved to approve Memphis MPO Smoothed Urbanized Area (UZA) Boundary as presented; Mr. Gary Scruggs seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

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

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

Mr. Cliff Norville moved to approve the current Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary as presented; Mayor Rhea Taylor 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.

Mayor Rhea Taylor moved to approve the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding Project Prioritization Criteria; Mr. Cliff Norville seconded the motion and the motion carried without dissent.

NO DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

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. Gary Scruggs seconded the motion and the motion passed by a majority vote, with one abstention (Germantown), and seven voting against (Shelby County, Fayette County, Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Lakeland and Piperton).

DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Mayor Jim Strickland shared the reasons for the City's request for the projects to be removed from the RTP and TIP. Mayor Strickland stated that with the extension of the turn lanes in the Shelby Farms area, waiting time was no more than one minute. Mayor Strickland also added that the City of Memphis cannot afford these projects. Mayor Strickland further added that long-term projects such as Kirby/Whitten Parkway and North Second Street are blocking other projects and preventing them from moving forward.

Mr. Harvey Matheny asked if the NEPA document had been approved for the Kirby/Whitten Parkway or Walnut Grove projects. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that NEPA for Kirby/Whitten Parkway was approved in 2019, but no work was completed for Walnut Grove Road.

Mr. Harvey Matheny further asked if the removal of the project would negate the work completed on the project and if it would require the City to start from the beginning if revisiting the project in the future. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded in affirmation.

Mr. Harvey Matheny asked about the reasons for the removal of the projects from the RTP and TIP and asked whether the project could be removed from the TIP but remain in the RTP. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the amendment request came from the lead agency, which wanted the projects to be removed from both the RTP and TIP.

Mr. Cliff Norville inquired about the termini for the Walnut Grove Road project. Ms. Pragati Srivastava responded that the project's termini extended from Farm Road to Germantown Road.

Ms. Cathy Durant expressed disagreement with removing the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project. She stated that the I-40 improvements were not sufficient enough to address the congestion and other traffic needs of the area. Ms. Durant suggested that the project be removed from the TIP but requested that it remain in the RTP.

Ms. Erin Campbell read a letter from the City of Bartlett Mayor David Parsons expressing support for the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and Walnut Grove Road projects.

Mr. Cliff Norville stated that the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project is in the interest of Shelby County, noting that Farm Road is not a County Road, and it is considered a private road through the Park. Mr. Norville further added that Farm Road is not designed to handle the traffic passing through the area. Mr. Norville asked whether the project could be added at a later time based on a request from another organization if removed from the RTP and TIP.

Mr. Harvey Matheny stated that he was concerned about removing the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project, and asked about the possibility of another organization bringing that project to the table. Ms. Srivastava responded that the project had been closed out in both the FHWA and TDOT systems and the obligated funds had been de-obligated, and that this particular action was an administrative action to comply with the City's decision to remove the project. Ms. Srivastava added that in the future, if the City or other jurisdictions would like to re-initiate the project, they can, but that process has to be led by the City of Memphis.

Mr. Harvey Matheny recommended that the project be kept in the RTP so it remains on the radar and suggested that keeping it in the RTP would make it easier to bring the project back in the future instead of restarting NEPA.

Mr. Matt Meservy noted that due to the project's age, significant reevaluation would likely be necessary to ensure the scope of the project meets current needs. Mr. Meservy recommended removing the project and revisiting the needs of the project by conducting a study and potentially adding it to the RTP and the TIP at a later date. Mr. Meservy added that the removal of the project would compromise the other proposed amendments because they are all part of the same Air Quality Conformity Report.

Public Comments:

Mr. John Dudas commented on behalf of the Greater Memphis Chamber and requested that the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and North Second Street projects be deferred to ensure that there is transparency and further explanation for the removal of the project.

Mr. Dexter Muller, representing Development Innovations, noted that without the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project, the Parkside Development would not be able to move forward. He asked that more consideration be given to provide more time to review the projects and requested to delay any action on the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and Walnut Grove Middle projects.

Ms. Lydia Holmes, on behalf of the Greater Chamber Association, read into the record the full email from Bobby Williams that was sent earlier that day in support of the Kirby/Whitten Parkway project.

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

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. John Lancaster moved to approve the FY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Air Quality for Shelby and DeSoto Counties as presented; Mr. Scott Young seconded the motion and the motion passed by a majority vote, with one abstention (Germantown), and five voting against (Shelby County, Fayette County, Arlington, Bartlett, and Collierville).

DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS

Mr. John Dudas commented on behalf of the Greater Memphis Chamber and mentioned that at the August MPO meeting, the Chamber endorsed the MOVING TOGETHER 2050 Regional Transportation Plan that included the Kirby/Whitten Parkway and North Second Street projects. He requested that the Chamber be informed of the changes. He also requested that the action to remove the projects be deferred based on work completed on the projects.

12) **Open Grant/Funding Opportunities**

The Memphis MPO has set up a Funding Opportunities page on its website. Transportation and other related funding opportunities will be posted on the website: https://memphismpo.org/initiatives/fundingopportunities

13) **Other Business**

a) Next Scheduled TPB Meeting: February 15, 2024, 1:30 PM, Location: Holiday Inn University of Memphis – Tennessee Ballroom, 3700 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

14) **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 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.*