Active Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting  
Monday, March 30, 2015, 4:30 PM  
Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Mr. Nicholas Oyler called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. In addition to Mr. Oyler, the following committee members were present at the meeting:

Mr. Steven Edwards  City of Memphis  
Mr. Dennis Lynch  Sierra Club  
Ms. Barbara McClanahan  University of Memphis  
Mr. Dale Christie  Citizen  
Ms. Dawn Vinson  Citizen  
Mr. Gene Carkeet  Citizen  
Mr. John Lancaster  MATA  
Mr. Darren Sanders  Shelby County  
Mr. Bob Rogers  Shelby County Health Dept.  
Ms. Tara Wohlgemuth  Office of Sustainability  
Mr. Kyle Wagenschutz  City of Memphis  
Mr. Sean MacInnes  Christian Brothers University  
Mr. John Paul Shaffer  Livable Memphis

The following members of the general public were present at the meeting:

Ms. Suzanne Carlson  Mayor’s Institute for Excellence in Government

The following Memphis MPO Staff were present:

Mr. Nicholas Oyler  Transportation Planner / Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator  
Mr. Kwasi Agyakwa  Transportation Planner  
Mr. Peter Jenkins  Transportation Planner
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1) Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Oyler briefed the committee on the meeting’s agenda. Those present at the meeting briefly introduced themselves.

2) Announcements and Briefings

Mr. Oyler provided briefings on the following items:

(a) 2014 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

The MPO’s 2014 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was adopted on November 20, 2014. The MPO completed a jurisdiction report for each municipality and county within the MPO Study Area. These reports are available online, and have been well received by the jurisdictions.

(b) TDOT Multimodal Access Grant

In December 2014 the MPO submitted two projects for consideration by the Tennessee Department of Transportation for its 2014 Multimodal Access Grant program. These projects included a Complete Streets project from the City of Memphis and a sidewalk enhancement project from the City of Bartlett. TDOT plans to announce the grant recipients in May.

(c) FHWA Bicycle-Pedestrian Counter Pilot Program

The Memphis MPO has been selected as one of ten MPOs nationwide to participate in this pilot program. The MPO will receive a Federal grant to purchase bicycle/pedestrian counters for use in planning purposes.

(d) Transit Infrastructure Design Study

The MPO and MATA plan to start work on this project in the coming months. The study will establish general guidelines and best practices for transit infrastructure.

(e) Greenprint Coordinator Position

Mr. Oyler invited Ms. Tara Wohlgemuth to speak on her new position as MidSouth Greenprint Coordinator. Ms. Wohlgemuth informed the committee that in her new role she will oversee the implementation of the Greenprint and coordinate with other offices and organizations in these efforts.
City of Memphis Pedestrian and School Safety Action Plan

Mr. Oyler invited Mr. Kyle Wagenschutz to speak on this new plan from the City of Memphis. Mr. Wagenschutz described the plan as an effort to assess sidewalk infrastructure conditions and needs around Memphis, prioritize investments, and identify funding strategies. The plan should be released in July 2015.

3) Livability 2040: Regional Transportation Plan ➙ UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Oyler provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Various analyses such as the Existing and Future Conditions and the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) are nearly complete. A second round of public outreach will occur this summer. Revenue projections have determined that revenues will not match needs; therefore, a tradeoff between maintenance and new capital expenses, as well as between individual projects will be necessary. Maintenance scenarios will establish a level of funding for infrastructure maintenance. Capital expense scenarios include the Regional Roadway Connections Scenario and the Expanded Travel Options Scenario. These scenarios will be voted on by the Engineering and Technical Committee (ETC) and the Transportation Policy Board (TPB).

Mr. Dennis Lynch asked about the traffic forecasts being used in the travel demand model and the scenarios. Mr. Oyler and Mr. Agyakwa explained that at this stage the MPO is using funding scenarios, and that modeling will not occur until one of these scenarios has been selected. Once the modeling occurs, population and employment control totals obtained from the updated land use model will be applied to throughout the modeling.

4) Congestion Management Process ➙ UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Peter Jenkins provided an update on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP outlines measures to address and alleviate congestion in the MPO Study Area. Public outreach during the process included an online mapping tool, a “Mobility Workshop” public meeting, and stakeholder meetings. The MPO also performed a peer review of best practices from around the country. From this and additional input, such as national transportation-related and life style trends, the MPO updated its congestion management toolkit and performance measures. Many of the items in the toolkit address active demand management, multimodal mobility, and operations improvements, such as transit-oriented development, parking management, Complete Streets, and real time transit information. Once the travel demand model is complete and its results incorporated into the CMP, the final draft document will enter a public, State, and Federal review period. Final adoption is now likely around August 2015.

Mr. Dennis Lynch asked how the impact of individual projects on air quality is taken into account and how the MPO defined “stakeholders” in regards to this study. The impact of individual projects on air quality will be analyzed during the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. Regarding stakeholders, the general public was invited to the Mobility Workshop and to participate in the online mapping tool. Other meetings included local transportation practitioners.

Mr. John Paul Shaffer asked about the relationship between the funding scenarios from the RTP and the CMP’s recommendations. Mr. Oyler explained that the funding scenarios being adopted in April by the ETC and TPB act more as vision statements and will not set funding amounts or specific projects. Mr. John Lancaster described the funding scenarios as definitions that set the tone for the project ranking that will occur later.

5) Midtown Alternatives Analysis Study ➙ PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION
Mr. Oyler introduced this study as one being led by MATA but with coordination and assistance provided by the MPO. MATA has also contracted Livable Memphis to assist with the study. Mr. John Paul Shaffer then presented the study to the committee. The study’s purpose is to identify high-capacity transit routes in the Midtown area of Memphis, position these routes for Federal funding, and position MATA for growth. In the end, potentially 1-3 preferred alternative routes will be selected. At this stage in the study, the potential routes have been narrowed down to 16 possibilities. Selection of transit modes will occur once a short list of potential routes has been established; bus rapid transit, modern streetcar, and light rail will be considered. Two public input meetings have already been held, and more will be announced in the months ahead. The study also has a dedicated website: macmemphis.com.

The committee discussed the methods used to solicit public input so far and other ways that will be used throughout the study’s duration. Additional public meetings are tentatively scheduled for August and September. There were also questions regarding the data and types of analyses used in the study to select routes.

6) New Business

Mr. Dennis Lynch asked if delays with the travel demand model would interfere with the public’s ability to review the draft RTP. Mr. Oyler stated that public review will certainly occur.

The committee discussed issues with pedestrian access around construction sites and the general condition of pedestrian facilities in the Greater Memphis community. Mr. Oyler stated that the MPO recommends best practices and policies to member jurisdictions, but does not have the ability to implement projects or conduct infrastructure repairs.

The committee further discussed the RTP funding scenarios and revenue projections. Mr. Sean MacInnes asked the MPO to consider the maintenance needs of new infrastructure over the plan’s horizon. Mr. Steven Edwards stated that the RTP’s needs assessment does not include items like sidewalks and local roads, and he would like to see updated revenue projections that consider the role of local funding. Mr. Oyler responded that the MPO is already discussing this internally and plans to present an update to the ETC and TPB, as well as the RTP Advisory Committee.

Committee members also stated their preference to continue meeting at 4:30 PM as opposed to 4:00 PM.

7) Adjourn at 5:30 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 Nicholas Oyler, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator (901) 576-7130.