Active Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 4:30 PM
Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN, Conference Room A

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
Ms. Dawn Vinson  Citizen
Mr. John Paul Shaffer  Livable Memphis
Mr. Jose Rodriguez  MCIL
Mr. Brad Corey  MSTA
Mr. John Michels  Mid-South Greenprint
Mr. John Lancaster  MATA
Mr. Kyle Wagenschutz  City of Memphis
Mr. Darren Sanders  Shelby County
Mr. Mark Hicks  Bike Walk TN
Mr. Sean MacInnes  Christian Brothers University

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

Ms. Suzanne Carlson  Mayor’s Institute for Excellence in Government
Ms. Betsy Peterson  Shelby Farms Park Conservancy
1) Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Nicholas 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) TDOT Multimodal Access Grant
TDOT has announced the recipients of this year’s Multimodal Access Grants. The City of Memphis’ application for a Complete Streets retrofit project on Union Avenue from Marshall Avenue to Pauline Street was selected.

(b) Livability 2040: Regional Transportation Plan
A second round of public input meetings was held in July, and they were generally well attended. MPO staff expects to complete a draft plan by September. Another round of public meetings will occur later in the year.

(c) Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
A public input meeting and a stakeholder meeting were held in early July. At the time of the meeting, a public input survey was still available online. The next step will be to complete the needs analysis.

(d) Bus Stop Accessibility and Design Guidelines
A Request for Qualifications has been issued for this project, which will establish a set of new standards for bus stops in the Memphis area. A consultant may be selected as early as September.

3) Midtown Alternatives Analysis Study

Mr. John Paul Shaffer presented the status of this project. Three public input meetings have now been held. The project team has reduced the list of potential alignments to seven options. Most of these routes traverse the Midtown area on a west-east axis, with one on a north-south axis along Cleveland Street/Elvis Presley Boulevard. The seven alignments will now undergo an environmental scan and final evaluation to identify one to three final recommendations for adoption as Locally Preferred Alternatives.

Responding to a couple of questions, Mr. John Lancaster also provided an update on the status of the trolley fleet.
4) **FY 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

**a) Program Background and Funding**

Mr. Oyler gave a quick background of FY 2015 TAP funding. The MPO is anticipating that this fiscal year the Tennessee portion will have approximately $1,000,000 worth of TAP funding available, while the Mississippi portion will be about $170,000.

Faced with total funding requests greater than funding availabilities, the MPO staff recommends selecting two to three projects from Tennessee that could be fully funded, and one project from Mississippi that could be fully funded. This approach is an alternative to awarding partial funding to projects. Members of the committee agreed with the MPO’s recommendation.

Mr. Oyler also provided additional background on the project scoring process and criteria, which remains unchanged from the previous round of TAP, and instructions on how ATAC members should complete their application score sheets.

**b) Submitted Applications**

Mr. Oyler presented each of the seven TAP applications received by the MPO to the committee. Furthermore, those representatives of an application’s sponsoring jurisdiction who were present at the meeting were invited to provide additional background on the proposed projects and field questions from the committee. Mr. Oyler stated that he had invited all sponsoring jurisdictions to attend the meeting, but some did not accept the invitation.

Multiple committee members voiced concerns that both of the applications from Mississippi seemed to be requesting an insufficient amount of funds to complete the proposed scopes of work. Mr. Oyler said he would follow up with the applicants regarding this issue.

Mr. Kyle Wagenschutz asked if the Hernando Square Pedestrian Improvement project included the installation of curb ramps. Mr. Oyler stated that it wasn’t clearly mentioned in the application, but that he would follow up with the City and provide the committee with an answer.

Mr. Sean MacInnes proposed that the committee should discuss at a future meeting how to improve the TAP application so as to obtain additional information and data from applicants, such as an itemized scope of work and costs. Mr. MacInnes and Ms. Dawn Vinson also voiced an interest in seeing the complete applications as opposed to only the responses to the descriptive questions.

Mr. Wagenschutz and Mr. Stephen Edwards told the committee members that additional information on the City of Memphis projects could be found on the City’s bicycle and pedestrian website.

Mr. Lancaster stated that the Wellons Avenue Sidewalk Improvement project would provide improved access to well-used MATA transit routes in the area.
Mr. John Paul Shaffer asked about the certainty of available funding amounts. Mr. Oyler stated that the amounts may increase slightly if Federal transportation legislation is extended, but that the MPO will only use the funding figures that have been confirmed by TDOT and MDOT.

Mr. Oyler reminded all committee members to submit their score sheets by Tuesday, August 4, at 4:00 PM.

5) New Business

Mr. Oyler reminded the committee that its next meeting would be on October 28, 2015 at 4:30 PM.

6) Adjourn at 5:55 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.