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:

Ms. Dawn Vinson   Citizen
Mr. Gene Carkeet   Citizen
Mr. John Paul Shaffer  Livable Memphis
Mr. Brad Corey     Mid-South Trails Association
Mr. Sean MacInnes  Christian Brothers University
Mr. Dennis Lynch   Sierra Club
Ms. Emmily Tiampati  TDOT
Mr. Stephen Edwards City of Memphis
Ms. Vivian Ekstrom Office of Sustainability
Mr. John Lancaster MATA
Ms. Scarlett Ponder MATA
Ms. Sonja Owens    Shelby County Health Dept.

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

Mr. Bob Wenner         Wolf River Conservancy
Ms. Suzanne Carlson    Innovate Memphis
Ms. Bridget McCall     Bike Walk Memphis

The following members of the Memphis MPO were present at the meeting:

Nicholas Oyler         Nathaniel Heyward
1) Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Nicholas Oyler welcomed everyone to the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves.

2) Announcements and Briefings

i) FHWA Bicycle/Pedestrian Counter Pilot Program

Mr. Oyler gave an overview of this topic. He informed the committee that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Counter Pilot Program has kicked off and that the MPO hopes to initiate the counts in October.

ii) 2015 TDOT Multimodal Access Grant

Mr. Oyler gave the news that none of the 2015 MMAG submissions by the MPO were selected by TDOT. Furthermore, the MMAG program will no longer be active with TDOT. Mr. Oyler outlined which projects had received funding from TDOT in the past.

iii) FTA 5310 Funding Application Period

Mr. Oyler gave an overview of the FTA 5310 funding and the current application period. The program supports para-transit projects. The applications are submitted to MATA. Ms. Scarlett Ponder and Mr. John Lancaster also provided more information on the funding.

3) Transportation Alternatives Program Update

Mr. Oyler gave the presentation on this topic. He outlined all of the projects within the Memphis Metropolitan region that had been selected and provided funding through the TAP program since 2013. Mr. Oyler gave an update on each project, the current amount of money obligated to the project, and the current status of the project.

Mr. Stephen Edwards provided input from the City of Memphis regarding the status of projects within the City.

Ms. Dawn Vinson expressed concern about the MATA Bus Bike Rack project and the type of racks used on the buses.
Mr. Oyler informed the committee that non-profit organizations are now able to apply directly for TAP funds from TDOT. Mr. Sean MacInnes expressed curiosity about the process for application for non-profits, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Bob Wenner helped explain using their experience with the Shelby County/Wolf River Conservancy partnership regarding the Wolf River Greenway. Mr. Lancaster provided input on the subject as well.

4) **Bus Stop Accessibility and Design Guidelines**

Mr. Oyler gave the presentation on this topic. He outlined the timeline of the study and the goals of the guidelines. The MPO is creating the guidelines, with the help of a consultant, on behalf of MATA. The goals of the guidelines includes analyzing the efficiency of the bus stop layout and frequencies, as well as providing a strong branding and design standard that will increase ridership and mitigate inefficiencies in the current system.

Mr. Oyler outlined survey results regarding bus stop design and amenities. The committee had a brief discussion of the results of the surveys.

The committee then discussed the current status of the bus stop design and how the new guidelines would help mitigate some current issues. Mr. Lancaster and Ms. Ponder responded on behalf of MATA to the various comments.

Mr. Gene Carkeet expressed concern about the viability of the guidelines. He was more concerned about the efficiency of the system overall, and not the design of the bus stops. Mr. Carkeet felt that this effort and money could be better used to improve the system times. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Lancaster provided support for how these guidelines would help improve the system. Ms. Vinson echoed some of Mr. Carkeet’s concerns, and expressed concerns about the viability of using the MATA system in some of the more suburban areas of the region.

Regarding Ms. Vinson’s comments about the suburban areas of the region, Mr. Dennis Lynch expressed concerns over the current voting structure of the MPO and that someone who was interested in changing those rules could contact their congressman/congresswoman.

Ms. Bridget McCall expressed positivity about the guidelines and other related projects/plans working to create accessibility and connectivity in the Memphis region. The committee discussed the complete street efforts of the region in conjunction with that comment. Mr. Carkeet brought up a rating that had scored the City of Memphis’ complete streets guide very poorly. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Oyler refuted the viability of that list.

Mr. MacInnes asked Mr. Shaffer for an update on the Bus Rapid Transit System. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Lancaster explained that the project did not receive TIGER grant funds but that they were still trying to push the project forward.
5) **New Business**

Mr. Oyler reviewed the items of the meeting, including highlighting the state and MPO TAP application periods.

The next meeting is October 25th.

Mr. Carkeet brought up concerns about best practices regarding bike safety within the current bike infrastructure. Mr. Edwards responded to those comments saying that there were bike safety measures and education opportunities available.

6) **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.