MEETING MINUTES

Project: Livability 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update
Meeting: Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee (RTPAC) Meeting #1
Date: January 18, 2018
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Lenox Conference Center, 3175 Lenox Park Blvd, Suite 201, Memphis, TN 38115

Attendees Present:
Becky Bailey, City of Bartlett
Eddie Brawley, West Memphis MPO
Angelica Carey, Memphis 3.0
James Collins, Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA)
Jessica Dilley, Mississippi Department of Transportation, (MDOT)
Tim Gwaltney, City of Germantown
Antoine Hawkins, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Bennie Hopkins, DeSoto County
Kate Horton, Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Sajid Hossain, MPO
Todd Jones, KHA
John Lancaster, Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA)
Kenneth Monroe, KHA
Tom Needham, Shelby County
Sonja Owens, Shelby County
Nicholas Oyler, City of Memphis
Randy Richardson, Memphis and Shelby County Port Commission
Darren Sanders, Shelby County
Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, MPO
Pragati Srivastava, MPO
Jim Vazquez, Shelby County Resilience
Nick Warren, MPO

1. Mr. Kenny Monroe and Mr. James Collins, gave an overview of the Livability 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to the Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee (RTPAC).

2. Mr. Monroe opened the meeting by having each committee member introduce themselves and state the organization they represented. Also, turning point® voting remotes, were distributed to the committee members, which were used later to respond to questions in the presentation. Mr. Monroe explained the various ways committee members can aide in the development of the plan such as, by providing direction for the development of the plan, sharing local knowledge, disseminating information to constituents and residents, vetting multimodal recommendations, and reviewing the final document for content, prior to adoption.

3. Mr. Monroe discussed how the RTP, Travel Demand Model, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture, and Fiscal Year 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are all parts of the efforts underway by the Memphis
MPO, but the focus of this RTPAC meeting is the RTP. Key milestone dates associated with each of those components were provided. September 2019 is the deadline for adoption of both the RTP and TIP, which requires for the RTP and the TIP to be developed concurrently.

4. Mr. Monroe explained the steps for the planning process of the 2050 RTP which is comprised of engagement with officials and the community, data collection, development of recommendations, and documentation. He emphasized that the project team will leverage work done previously under the Livability 2040 RTP and coordinate efforts with on-going local initiatives and recently completed projects – Greater Memphis Regional Freight Plan, Memphis 3.0, Resilience Plan, etc.

5. Mr. James Collins continued the presentation by outlining what constituted the need for an update to the previous Livability 2040 RTP. He informed the committee that the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which was signed into law in December 2015, requires new planning areas that will need to be addressed, in addition integration of newly completed and ongoing planning efforts, updated socio demographic data, emerging trends as well as incorporation of federal performance measures.

6. Mr. Collins and Mr. Monroe presented a series of questions to the committee, and asked each committee member to respond to the questions using the turning point voting remotes. The results of the poll are attached to the minutes.

7. A member of the committee stated that the options were similar to those in the 3.0 Transit Vision Plan for MATA, and asked if that will be incorporated into the 2050 RTP. MPO Staff responded that the MATA Transit Vision Plan is a standalone plan, but they will incorporate elements from that plan as and when they become available.


9. A committee member asked how improving public health will be addressed under Goal 6 (Advance corridor and community redevelopment opportunities to improve economic development, public health, and quality of life)? The project team explained the issue of improving health could be achieved through the objectives identified as part of that goal. For example, a reduction in mobile source emissions could come from improved traffic flow. Context sensitive solutions that provide modal options for bicycle and pedestrian facilities could promote active transportation, leading to health benefits.

A follow up question was asked about performance measures for this goal and the project team explained that the performance measure is federally mandated. The question of how the elimination of vehicle emissions testing will affect the performance measure was then asked. The project team explained that the City of Memphis’ inspection and maintenance program was initially implemented as a control measure with their designation of non-attainment for carbon monoxide. The City and Shelby County are now attainment (unclassified) for carbon monoxide and there is no requirement for inspection and maintenance. Carbon monoxide and other mobile source emissions are still measured at various locations across the region to ensure our air quality remains within the national standards. At this point, the future year emissions associated with this plan will be estimated to understand air quality impact of various transportation alternatives.
10. Mr. Monroe informed the committee that the Goals and Objectives will be approved by the MPO’s Engineering and Technical Committee (ETC) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB), and asked the committee for feedback prior to submitting. Feedback for the Goals and Objectives will be due from the RTPAC by January 26, 2018. The Goals and Objectives are to be approved at the ETC on February 8, and the TPB meeting February 22, 2018.

11. Mr. Monroe explained to the committee that the project team will update the Travel Demand Model (TDM) base year of 2010 to 2016. The future projections of population, households and employment for the years 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050 were developed and approved as part of the 2040 RTP. These forecasts have been vetted again with various data sources such as U.S. Census Bureau information, the Boyd Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and MDOT’s North Mississippi Travel Demand Model and they remain valid and consistent to be used in the development of 2050 RTP. The socio demographics projections were provided to the RTPAC in the handout material.

12. Mr. Monroe explained how the project team plans to incorporate public engagement by utilizing an online survey and holding various holding public workshops to obtain feedback from the community. He walked the committee through the various pages and questions that would be presented on the survey and showed how the overall website operates. The survey can be found at – Livability2050.metroquest.com. The MPO Staff plan to email out a link to the survey to everyone on their email list once the Spanish version is finalized. They anticipate this to be released during the week of January 22, 2018.

13. Public workshops will be held from February 5 through February 7 at seven locations around the region. A handout of the public notice for the public meetings was distributed to RTPAC members. Post cards will be mailed to residents in the surrounding area inviting them to the workshop.

14. A member of the committee asked how the public notice will be delivered to the public. The MPO will be using a traditional notice, social media, and various mailing lists to distribute the public notice. In addition to this, postcards that will be mailed to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the public meeting locations.

15. The RTPAC will meet four more times with agendas and materials being sent out prior to the meetings.

16. The MPO Staff also produced videos featuring elected officials, practitioners, and members of the general public and will release those on their website in advance of the public meetings in early February.

17. Please email all feedback, questions, and comments to kenny.monroe@kimley-horn.com and/or allison.fluitt@kimley-horn.com.