REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ETC and TPB Meetings
January 28, 2016
Objectives

• Overview of the Memphis Urban Area MPO
• Brief summary of Public and Stakeholder input process
• Review of Livability 2040 needs analysis
• Summary of Investment Recommendations and Takeaways
• Next Steps...
Overview of Memphis Urban Area MPO and Livability 2040
The Memphis MPO Region

- All, or parts of, four counties across two states – MS and TN
- 18 municipalities
- 1.1 million people with 30% growth by 2040
- 500,000 jobs with 48% growth by 2040
The Memphis MPO Region

- **On the Road**: Greater Memphis region ranked as the 9th least traffic congested of major metro areas

- **Railroad Hub**: Greater Memphis region is one of only a few in the U.S. served by 5 of the nation’s 7 Class I freight railroads

- **Bus & Trolley**: With over 10 million rides a year, the Memphis Area Transit Authority is the largest public transportation provider in Tennessee (service extends in Arkansas)

- **Mighty Mississippi**: With over 12 million tons of freight passing through in 2010, the Port of Memphis ranks as the 4th largest inland port in the U.S.

- **Walking and Biking in Greater Memphis Region**: Since the adoption of the Memphis MPO’s Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2011, 345 miles of new bike and pedestrian facilities have been built or funded in the region

- **Moving America**: At the junction of several key Interstate and State highways, the Greater Memphis region plays a vital role in the national shipment of freight and goods.

- **Global Reach**: Memphis International Airport ranks as the 2nd busiest cargo airport in the world, and the busiest such facility in the U.S. and Western Hemisphere.
What does the Memphis MPO do?

Multi-Modal Transportation Network
Automobile, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Freight, Rail, Airport, Port

Planning
Memphis MPO & All its members
- 20 year future planning
- Regional outlook
- Allocation of federal funding that can be used for implementation

Implementation
Local Jurisdictions
- Local roads construction and maintenance
- Bike lanes
- Traffic Signal
- Buses
- Sidewalks

State DOT’s
- Interstate and State Highway
- Bridges on interstate and state highways
- Bike lanes
- Large traffic information projects
Livability 2040 RTP

• Regional long-range transportation plan with investments to improve the condition and performance of the transportation system in the Greater Memphis region

• Plan kicked off in August 2014 and completion by January 2016

• In addition to transportation impacts, economic development opportunities and land use considerations were a key focus of Livability 2040

• Public engagement was critical throughout
RTP Schedule

Task 1 - Coordination
Task 2 – Baseline Data and Policy Synthesis
Task 3 – Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures
Task 4 – Existing and Future Conditions
Task 5 – SWOT Analysis
Task 6 – Scenario Analysis
Task 7 – Revenue Projections
Task 8 – Project Evaluation and Prioritization
Task 9 – Financially Feasible Plan
Task 10-Final RTP Documentation

Submit final adopted plan for Conformity finding and approval by FHWA, EPA and FTA

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Summary of Outreach Process
Outreach Activities

Mayor’s Videos Release

✔ Debut in February 2014.
✔ Six videos (3 in English; 3 with Spanish subtitles).
✔ 5000+ total views.
✔ Received commendation from FHWA and FTA.

✔ Press Releases
✔ Community Fliers
✔ Radio Interviews
Outreach Activities

• Public Meetings – Three (3) Rounds
• Stakeholder Meetings
• Postcards – 6000+
• School Visit
• Transit Bus Ads
• Email Blasts – 1800+ Contacts
• Partner Newsletter – 8000+ Contacts
Outreach Activities

- Community Meeting Tag-Ons
- Survey – 560 Survey Responses
- Online map – 200+ Comments
- Local Magazine – 40,000+ Readers
- Interactive Social Media
Community Remarks Results

- Pedestrian Improvement (15)
  - Sidewalks, Crosswalks, etc.
- Bicycling Improvements (15)
  - Bike Lanes
- Transit Routes Improvements (31)
  - Existing Routes or Future Proposed Routes
- Transit Stop Improvements (70)
  - Shelter, Amenities, and Location
- Street Connectivity Issues (17)
  - Roadway Extensions or More Direct Routes
- Intersection Improvement (14)
  - Wait times for Cars, Pedestrians or Bicyclists, Signing, Signals, Turn Lanes, etc.
- Freight Movement (10)
  - Truck traffic, rail traffic, and air traffic, railroad crossings, track lanes
- Congestion Concerns (5)
  - Congestion Places, Hard to Get to Locations, etc.
- Traffic Calming and Safety Issues (9)
  - High accident locations, road diets
- Roadway Maintenance (9)
  - Pavement, Striping, Drainage, etc.
- Livability Corridors (5)
  - Access Management, Complete Streets, Neighboring Land Use
Public Outreach
Public Outreach Summary

Top 3 issues with transportation in the Memphis MPO area:

- Frequent congestion: 82 (First), 51 (Second), 55 (Third)
- Unpredictable travel times: 33 (First), 81 (Second), 71 (Third)
- Condition and quality of transportation infrastructure: 103 (First), 102 (Second), 85 (Third)
- Difficulty of using transportation options besides driving: 148 (First), 95 (Second), 55 (Third)
- Impact to the environment: 14 (First), 28 (Second), 50 (Third)
- Unsafe travel conditions: 38 (First), 46 (Second), 55 (Third)
- Negative community impacts: 21 (First), 39 (Second), 53 (Third)
- Other: 8 (First), 5 (Second), 10 (Third)

First (Most Important) | Second (Second Most Important) | Third (Third Most Important)
Public Outreach Summary

• Consistent feedback in relation to investment goals
  • Improve the condition, quality, and efficiency of the transportation network and surrounding communities
  • Oriented towards user experience of system
• Input on strategies to address these needs varied, with range of regional mobility or local livability investments discussed
Overarching Themes from Outreach + Needs Analysis

• **Preservation is important** to the community: system performs well now, but will deteriorate below acceptable levels without additional funding

• Match **multimodal access** to changing distribution of population and employment

• Target opportunities for **multimodal expansion**: focus less on how much the system is expanded and more on how the system is connected and enhanced

• **Logistics still key**: focus on removing barriers to freight movement and related development
Transportation Network Needs Analysis
## Economic SWOT Analysis

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<td>- Global logistics and multi-modal assets</td>
<td>- Educational attainment below the national average</td>
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<td>- One of the top research hospitals in the nation</td>
<td>- Persistently high poverty levels and prevalence of low wage and temporary jobs</td>
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<td>- Industries serving healthcare have significant presence</td>
<td>- Three-state region – out-migration from city to suburbs can shift population to surrounding states which shifts state and local tax revenues</td>
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<td>- High level of specialization in transportation and healthcare within the region’s workforce</td>
<td>- Employment is decentralized - increases commuting times and the need for transportation access, while limiting the effectiveness of public transportation</td>
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<td>- Renewed manufacturing base</td>
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<td>- Hospitality, arts, entertainment and recreation are among the fastest growing industry sectors</td>
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<td>- World-class research assets which can be built upon to diversify the economy</td>
<td>- Decentralized growth can increase cost of providing public services</td>
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<td>- Existing global logistics assets can be leveraged to increase foreign exports from commodities to high-value medical devices</td>
<td>- Economy is highly dependent on Transportation and Logistics sector</td>
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<td>- Large proportion university students and youth that can be matched with jobs in the region to bolster workforce</td>
<td>- Fewer cities with direct service to the Memphis region resulting in higher airfares and longer travel time; potential impact on tourism, a large sector of the regional economy</td>
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Roadway Performance - Safety

• 113 deaths and 8,767 injuries annually

• High crash corridors (non-interstate)
  • US 72 / Poplar Avenue
  • MS 302 (Goodman Road)
  • Winchester Road
  • US 78 / Lamar Avenue
  • TN 177 / Germantown Pkwy
  • Airways Blvd
  • Hacks Cross Road

• Safety Emphasis areas
  • Intersection crashes
  • Vulnerable road users
  • Younger, older drivers
  • Seatbelt use, impaired driving
Roadway Performance - Freight

- Memphis region remains one of the major freight hubs for the nation across all modes.
- Freight traffic is forecast to grow by 50%.
- Port of Memphis, including Pigeon Industrial Park, and related intermodal connectivity represent important freight-related economic development opportunity.
- Most critical freight corridor is Lamar Avenue south of I-240.
Multimodal Mobility - Bicycle

- Bicycle facilities and usage concentrated in downtown, midtown, and Shelby Farms area
- 93% bike infrastructure with B-LOS A or B
- Level of comfort varies greatly based on design and context
Multimodal Mobility - Pedestrian

- Pedestrian facilities and usage concentrated in downtown, midtown, with general radial pattern towards outlying communities
- Approximately 80% of roadways could support pedestrian travel
- Of these facilities, almost 99% were on local roads with slower speeds
- Vast majority of trips taken for recreational purposes
Multimodal Access and Connectivity

• Good multimodal coverage in central portion of region
• Several less dense areas on periphery of region with limited multimodal access in disadvantaged areas
• Targeted opportunities for infrastructure improvements
Summary of Investment Recommendations
First and Foremost: System Maintenance

• **46%** of funds are set aside to fully fund **system maintenance** – *consistent with public input*
  - 90% pavement good/fair condition
  - 90% bridge non-structurally deficient

• **8%** to fully fund existing ongoing projects in TIP, e.g., Holmes Rd, Elvis Presley Blvd, Church and Navy Road improvements, Walnut Grove Improvement, SR-57, Transit plan recommendations, etc.
First and Foremost: System Maintenance

16% Other set asides:

- Safety-specific treatments
- Intersection Improvements
- Operations
- Bike/Pedestrian Improvements
- Complete Streets
- Transit Operations
Other Transit and Capital Projects
Example Freight Projects

- Lamar Ave
- Paul Lowery Extension from port area
Example Transit Projects

- IRS Park & Ride Lot to Summer/US64
- Midtown to Germantown connection
- Downtown Airport connection
- Service extension to Goodman on Airways
Other Example Projects

- Interchange Improvement: I-240 and Airways
- Road Widening: US-51 and Hacks Cross
First and Foremost: System Maintenance
Multimodal Capital Investments

• Mix of road and transit capacity projects:
  • Roadway Reconfiguration
  • Access Management
  • New or Improved Bus Service
  • Widened or New Bridge/Roadway
  • Modified or New Interchange
  • Major Geometric Improvements

• Bike, Pedestrian, Transit, or Safety elements incorporated into many roadway projects
Summary and Key Takeaways

• Increased funding for maintenance, operations
• Roadway capacity has more strategic focus on congestion, freight, and connectivity
• Focused on livability via targeted investments in
  • Transit Improvements
  • Bicycle Improvements, Pedestrian Improvements, and Complete Streets
• Compliant with new Federal regulations on performance-based planning
Agency and Public Review

• Agencies reviewed:
  • TDOT, MDOT, FHWA, FTA, EPA
  • ETC, TPB, Consultation agencies

• Public reviewed
  • Document online and at libraries
  • Mail, Email, Phone
Next Steps...

• Adoption of final document
• Submission of final document for approval by FHWA, EPA and FTA – **February 2016**
• Anticipated approval letter from FHWA, EPA and FTA – **March 2016**