SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Committee Chairman Mayor AC Wharton called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. In addition to Mayor Wharton, the following voting members were present at the meeting:

Don Colvin (Vice Chair)  FedEx
Pragati Srivastava  Memphis MPO
Justin Hall  Marshall County IDA
James Hay  MSCAA
Corbin Davis  FHWA – TN Division
Shundrekkia Stewart  BNSF Railroad
Randy Richardson  Port of Memphis
Dexter Muller  Memphis Chamber
Eddie Brawley  West Memphis MPO
Dan Pallme  University of Memphis
Tom Word  MLGW
Trung Trinh  MDOT
Esther Sykes-Wood  Fayette County
Tanisha Hall  TDOT
Marty Lipinski  University of Memphis
Sandra Otto  FHWA – AR Division
Reid Dulberger  EDGE Memphis and Shelby County

Interested Individuals present:

Zane Duncan  RJ Corman  Bob Helton  RJ Corman
Maura Sullivan  Memphis  Chad Bowman  Memphis
Carlos McCloud  TDOT

The following MPO Staff members were present:

Pragati Srivastava  Andrew Ray  Linda K. Lawrence  Sajid Hossain

A quorum was present.
1) Approval of August 6, 2013 Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Don Colvin and seconded by James Hay. The motion carried without dissent.

2) Memphis MPO Administrator’s Report
   a. Regional Transportation Plan Update - Livability 2040
      Ms. Pragati Srivastava reported to the committee that the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will focus on the concept of livability. The MPO staff has begun the process of advertising the LRTP update by releasing three videos that explain the importance of livability and feature interviews with local elected officials that serve on the Transportation Policy Board.
   b. MPO Studies Update - Travel Survey - Freight
      Ms. Pragati Srivastava updated the committee on the Travel Survey project that is underway. Freight data collection has begun in conjunction with this through coordination with the state DOT’s to align efforts and to maximize the number of sources for freight data that will be used.
   c. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects
      The MPO has submitted CMAQ project proposals to TDOT and this included a local truck company that proposes to use CMAQ funds to cover the incremental costs of updating their fleet to CNG vehicles. As a reminder, these funds are available to businesses that coordinate to have a local jurisdiction as the application sponsor.
   d. EPA Smartway Program
      Ms. Pragati Srivastava informed the committee that the program is available to the private sector as a way to partner with EPA to implement program initiatives that jointly reduce emissions and reduce operating costs. A number of companies in the region are already EPA Smartway Program participants. MPO staff is available to answer questions regarding the program and assist businesses in joining the program.

   COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:
   Mr. Dexter Muller commented that Memphis has an opportunity to reduce its carbon footprint by further studying the shipping modes utilized in the region. He asked if MPO planning funds could possibly fund a study to gather data on emissions associated with regional shipping modes in order to utilize emissions reductions as a tool for economic development.

3) Memphis MPO Freight Stakeholder Survey
A presentation was given by Mr. Dan Pallme of the University of Memphis Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute. The Freight Surveys will be distributed electronically to industry stakeholders to provide a statistically significant picture of freight travel within the MPO region. The first survey will focus on operational functionality and the second survey will focus on the impact freight has on livability. The survey will be administered and analyzed in the spring and summer with results available in the fall.
4) Port Expansion Update
A presentation was given by Mr. Randy Richardson, the Executive Director at the Port of Memphis to update committee members on the planned expansion of the port. The port is currently home to 173 industrial employers that comprise a total of almost 4,000 employees. Shipments at the port are increasing again after a slowdown associated with the national economic recession that warrant current plans to increase access to the port area with a possible secondary road and rail connection. Short term plans include up to 750 additional acres of developable area for expansion.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:
Ms. Sandra Otto asked about transportation accessibility concerns following the port expansion. Mr. Randy Richardson explained a plan to leverage current transit routes that bring workers to the Presidents Island area and possibly provide a local shuttle that extends the reach of transit to the businesses on Presidents Island and eventually to Frank Pidgeon Industrial Park.

5) Regional Rail Authority
Mr. Reid Dulberger, President & CEO of the Memphis and Shelby County Economic Development Growth Engine informed the committee that when EDGE was formed it included the state authorization to establish a regional rail authority. A rail authority would grant access to state funds through the Short Line Railroad Track and Bridge Rehabilitation Program. It would also provide a good forum to discuss the interests of the rail industry in the region and leverage available assets. The process of establishing the regional rail authority could be completed in as little as three months.

6) Aerotropolis Update
A presentation was given by Mr. Chad Bowman, Project Manager of the Aerotropolis Master Plan, to give committee members an overview of the plan and outline the next steps. The plan is governed by the livability principles established by the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and leverages the asset of the Memphis Airport to establish a vision for the area including industrial, commercial, and residential development. The plan seeks to link the airport area to the rest of the region through multimodal transportation corridors that will increase the access and vitality of the area.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:
Mayor AC Wharton asked for an update to the Lamar Avenue project being managed by TDOT. Ms. Pragati Srivastava reported that the initial phases of the project are underway. TDOT has secured funding for the right-of-way costs associated with the southern portion of the project. TDOT will be looking to local jurisdictions in the future for help with implementing future phases of the project and coordinating with the local businesses during the right-of-way phase.

7) Truck Route Master Plan
A presentation was given by Mr. Andrew Ray of the Memphis MPO to update the committee on a draft Truck Route Master Plan. The Plan includes three tiers of freight routes (Interstate, Regional, and Local) that will guide the enhancements sought on the routes by balancing the needs of freight and other transportation modes based on the local context. The Plan carries significance as it will be
incorporated into long and short range planning programs of the MPO and will impact funding on those routes. Committee members will be sent maps and supporting documents to review the Plan and provide comments.

8) Other Business

   a. Ms. Tanisha Hall of TDOT gave an update to the committee regarding the current efforts of the Long Range Planning division to update the state’s 25-year long range transportation plan which influence the 10-year strategic investment program, and 3-year investment plan. Included in the effort is the development of a State Freight Plan and an update to the state Travel Demand Model. TDOT staff is available to attend organization events to present an overview of the transportation plan and to solicit input.

   b. Next FAC Meeting: To be determined based on committee member’s schedules.

9) Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.