Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Freight Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 12, 2016 10:00 AM
3175 Lenox Park Boulevard, Suite 201
Memphis, Tennessee 38115

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
Committee Chairman Mayor Rhea “Skip” Taylor, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. In addition to Mayor Taylor, the following voting members were present at the meeting:

Stephen Edwards  City of Memphis
Michael Garriga   BNSF
Shundrekia Stewart  BNSF
Randy Richardson  Port of Memphis
Eddie Brawley   West Memphis MPO
Trung Trinh   MDOT
Jessica Dilley   MDOT
Marty Lipinski  University of Memphis
Scarlet Ponder  MATA
Bennie Hopkins  DeSoto County
Kelly Rayne  Memphis Chamber
Aayush Thakur  TDOT
Tanisha Hall  TDOT
Shirley Walker  Marshall County
James Hay  Airport
Darren Sanders  Shelby County
Anne Freeman  TDOT

Interested Individuals present:
Max Baker    AECOM    Lee Hutchins  AECOM
Emmily Tiampati  TDOT    Carlos McCloud  TDOT
Sabya Mishra   U of Memphis
Bob Helton   RJ Corman RR Group
Deirdre Malone  Carter Malone Group

The following MPO Staff members were present:
Pragati Srivastava  Nat Heyward  Roger Ekstrom  Sajid Hossain
A quorum was present.

1) Election of Vice-Chair
   The Chairman of the Committee, Mayor Taylor, introduced the action item of electing a Vice-Chair. A motion to elect Michael Garriga as the Vice-Chair of the Freight Advisory Committee was made by Mr. Randy Richardson and seconded by Ms. Tanisha Hall. The motion carried without dissent.

2) Memphis MPO Administrator’s Report
   a. Regional Transportation Plan Adopted- Livability 2040
      Ms. Pragati Srivastava let the committee know that Livability 2040 had been fully approved by FHWA in March of 2016. Ms. Srivastava thanked the committee for their help on the freight portion of the plan.
   b. Ms. Srivastava also gave an update on the National Highway Freight Network. Ms. Srivastava described the network designations in the MPO region.
   c. Ms. Srivastava then gave an update on the FASTLANE grant. Ms. Srivastava described the grant’s relation to the FAST act and gave a short background on the details of the grant.
   d. Ms. Srivastava let the committee know that the EPA has re-designated the 3 county area of Shelby, DeSoto, and Crittenden as attainment for ozone.

3) Memphis MPO Regional Freight Plan
   A presentation was given by Mr. Lee Hutchins of AECOM, acting as consultant for the Memphis MPO, which outlined the beginning of the process for the creation of the MPO’s Regional Freight Plan. He highlighted the overall goals of the plan, the team helping to develop the plan, and how the Freight Advisory Committee could contribute. Mr. Hutchins went into depth about the steps that will be taken to develop the plan, and different subjects that the plan will analyze.

Mr. Sabya Mishra informed Mr. Hutchins about a couple of projects/studies going on in the region that would be useful information for the development of the plan. Mr. Carlos McCloud also commented on these projects. Mr. Hutchins responded to their comments and addressed how the plan would take outside impacts into account.

Mr. Garriga brought up concerns about the National Highway Freight Network and the potential of I-22/US-78/Lamar Avenue being added to the network because of its importance to the freight movement in the region. Mr. Garriga wanted to know what the plan could do to help add this corridor to the network and make it more competitive for FASTLANE grant funding which was recently denied. Ms. Tanisha Hall responded by saying that TDOT was conducting an analysis to see where there are gaps in the National Highway Freight Network, and that they could increase their highway designations by 20%. Ms. Hall said that TDOT will work closely with the MPO and private partners throughout that process. Mr. Garriga and Ms. Hall briefly discussed how they could coordinate on this issue. Mr. Trung Trinh voiced his displeasure for Mississippi’s lack of designations in the Nation Highway Freight Network. Mr. Hutchins added to the comments by explaining that the Regional Freight Plan would have focus on creating a guideline for improving Lamar Avenue because of its importance to the freight system in the region.
Mr. McCloud brought up the issue of data collection and how that has contributed to the distinctions in the National Highway Freight Network. Mr. Aayush Thakur reminded the committee that TDOT would be taking comments and feedback regarding potential additions to the National Highway Freight Network. Mr. Thakur wanted feedback by the 18th of July and gave his contact info to the committee members.

Mr. Lipinski requested that the freight plan should look at the impact on freight movement by the opening of the Panama Canal. Mr. Hutchins responded that the impact of the Panama Canal will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Thakur was curious about how the development of the plan would engage private stakeholders such as railroad and trucking companies. Mr. Hutchins explained that the development of the plan would involve engaging private stakeholders in order to gain their unique feedback.

Mr. Stephen Edwards wanted to know how the plan would analyze land use impacts and recommendations; he was also curious how the freight plan might integrate with the future comprehensive plan for the City of Memphis. Mr. Hutchins explained that the development of the plan would involve understanding the outside impacts, such as the development of the comprehensive plan for the City of Memphis. Mr. Hutchins also explained that while the plan will look at land use impacts and give recommendations in a general sense, the plan would not analyze land use on a block-by-block scale. Mr. Edwards also added that the impact of movement of oversize vehicles should also be taken into consideration.

Mr. Marty Lipinski emphasized the need to engage with the private stakeholders in this issue, because they are the entities that most directly affect where specific land uses, such as freight industrial sites, would occur. Ms. Srivastava and Mr. Hutchins responded that this was definitely a goal of the stakeholder engagement for the plan.

Mr. McCloud emphasized the importance of looking at freight sites outside the MPO region in the surrounding counties that would affect the freight system in Memphis.

Mayor Taylor was curious about how the regional plan would tie into the statewide freight plan. Ms. Hall stated that TDOT works closely with all regions of the state to develop their freight plan, and that many of the goals of both plans would be very similar.

4) **Other Business**
   a. **TDOT update**

Ms. Hall gave a quick update about TDOT plans regarding freight planning. Ms. Hall reiterated the findings of the National Highway Freight Network and the unfortunate failings of the Lamar Avenue application to secure FASTLANE funding. She indicated that TDOT would be reapplying for funding next year. Ms. Hall highlighted that performance measures
would be coming soon, working with the MPO to develop those. Ms. Hall highlighted the state’s CMAQ program while lamenting the fact that there were no freight projects that applied for funding through the CMAQ program. She emphasized that people could reach out to her regarding any questions about the program. Ms. Hall mentioned several studies going on right now for TDOT regarding freight planning.

There was a short discussion about smart city grants and how different municipalities can apply for those grants.

Ms. Hall officially introduced Mr. Aayush Thakur as the new freight planning coordinator for TDOT.

Additional information on TDOT CMAQ grant can be found on the following link: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/topic/cmaq

b. MDOT update

Mr. Trinh briefly highlighted activities regarding Mississippi DOT. This included mentioning MDOT FASTLANE application that was submitted, but unfortunately didn’t receive the award. He also mentioned, updating the State Freight Plan per the FAST Act and their efforts to improve the National Highway Freight Network for MS.

c. Next Meeting

Ms. Srivastava touched on some potential meetings dates for the future. The next meeting was confirmed for August 3rd at the same location and same time.

NOTE: The new FAC meeting date is August 23rd at 10 AM Location TBD

5) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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 by scheduling an appointment with Sajid Hossain, Transportation Planner (901) 576-7183