Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Freight Advisory Committee (FAC)
Thursday, December 1, 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 10:07 AM. In addition to Mayor Taylor, the following voting members were present at the meeting:

- Tom Word   MLGW
- Stephen Edwards  City of Memphis
- Shundrekia Stewart  BNSF
- Randy Richardson  Port of Memphis
- Eddie Brawley  West Memphis MPO
- Marty Lipinski  University of Memphis
- Bennie Hopkins  DeSoto County
- Ernest Strickland  Greater Memphis Chamber
- Tanisha J Hall  TDOT
- Larry McGoogin  TDOT
- Tom Needham  Shelby County
- Darren Sanders  Shelby County
- Shirley A Walker  Marshall County

Interested Individuals present:

- Lee Hutchins   AECOM
- Max Baker    AECOM
- Carlos McCloud  TDOT
- Jack Shelton  Greater Memphis Chamber
- Sean Aldridge  Dunavant Development
- Melanie Batke  City of Memphis, Comprehensive Planning
- Antoine Hawkins  City of Memphis, Comprehensive Planning

The following MPO Staff members were present:

- Pragati Srivastava
- Sajid Hossain
- Zylavian Watley

A quorum was present.
1) **Welcome and Introduction**

   The members of the committee and audience introduced themselves.

2) **Memphis MPO Regional Freight Plan Update**

   Ms. Pragati Srivastava provided a brief update on the current progress of the Regional Freight Plan. Major Industrial Zones across the Memphis MPO Area have already been identified. The peer cities and regions have also been identified to identify regional connections and to see best practices.

   Mr. Lee Hutchins gave a presentation on the Regional Freight Plan update.

   Mr. Hutchins presented information on the Industrial Zones across the Memphis MPO Area and characteristics of the couple of those zones to explain how current industrial areas in the region affect the overall freight system. He gave an update on the windshield survey that is been undertaken for all the Industrial Zones and provided a summary of items it will cover such as types of land use, major employers and major freight routes. Other information for each of the industrial zones will include such as Rentable Building Area (RBA), property type, number of employees by sector, income range and workforce characteristics. Mr. Hutchins also presented information on the Peer Cities and Megaregion in terms of industrial employment and manufacturing exports from 2007 to 2014 to compare the Greater Memphis Area. Connections between Memphis and those Peer Cities and Megaregion were shown in terms of total freight both in tonnage and dollars. This will help the plan to identify the industries vital for the Greater Memphis Area.

   Mr. Hutchins presented information on truck connections and traffic using American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) Data. Information was presented showing total numbers of trips which are generated from different industrial zones identified earlier in the process. This demonstrated how the traffic flows from different industrial zones and locations of major truck traffic generators. Mr. Hutchins presented another tool used to evaluate traffic called, Select Link Model Evaluation. Both I-40 and I-55 Bridge were used in the model to see how the freight traffic moves in and out of the region. These types of analysis will help to understand the various freight traffic issues related to congestions and safety in and out of the different industrial zones as well as in the region. Next Mr. Hutchins touched on safety aspects which includes accidents and how it impacts freight traffic including a map showing areas or corridors which have higher number of accidents then rest of the areas.

   Mr. Hutchins touched on the importance of rail networks and how it connects to the rest of the country. The study is currently reviewing various at-grade crossings in the region and the number of accidents in those at-grade crossings. They are planning to tie this with different industrial zones and see how it impacts the freight traffic.
Finally, he presented the next steps, which include the assessment of transportation access, railway & roadway networks, inland waterways & transshipment, agriculture and transport sectors, I-269, public sector strategies and regional characteristics from the industrial zone clusters.

Mr. Randy Richardson inquired about the distinctions between warehouses and distribution centers. Mr. Hutchins explained that the database used for this information, probably shows the two uses differently and agreed to explore further on that issue during industrial zones analysis.

Mr. Stephen Edwards asked how the peer cities were chosen. Mr. Hutchins responded that the cities were chosen based on similar population size, modes of transportation and challenges. Mr. Edwards enquired about New Orleans as a peer city. Mr. Randy Richardson added that New Orleans is a deep water port, but Memphis is a not, hence the numbers would be very different for the two areas.

3) **Other Business**
   There was no other business to discuss.

4) **Adjourn**
   Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 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 so do by scheduling an appointment with Sajid Hossain, Transportation Planner (901) 576-7183*