SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Committee Chairman Mayor Rhea “Skip” Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. In addition to Mayor Taylor, the following members were present at the meeting:

Amy Kosanovic          TDOT
Tom Word               MLGW
Randy Richardson       Port of Memphis
Manny Belen            City of Memphis
Martin Lipinski        University of Memphis
Jim Vazquez            Shelby County
James Hay              MSCAA
Darren Sanders         Shelby County
Scarlet Ponder         MATA
Jennifer Marshall      TDOT

Interested Individuals present:

Dallas Brooks          Mississippi State University
Li Zhang               Mississippi State University
Jared Darby           Shelby County

MPO Staff members present:

Pragati Srivastava     Sajid Hossain       Jasmine Champion   Mavrick Fitzgerald
Jordan Smith           Cole Perry

A quorum was present.
1. Welcome and Introduction
   The members of the committee and the audience introduced themselves.

   Mayor Taylor introduced Ms. Jasmine Champion as the new Transportation Planner and Mr. Cole Perry as the new Intern with the Memphis MPO.

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

3. Port of Memphis Master Plan
   Mr. Randy Richardson gave a presentation on the Port of Memphis Master Plan. He discussed how the plan looks at the economic impact of the Memphis port, improving intermodal connections to railways and highways, including an extension of Shelby Drive to provide an additional point of access from the south. Mr. Richardson provided a list of challenges the port faces, including land underutilization, poor soil conditions, resurfacing need on Airport Rd, and sinking on the Cypress Creek Bridge Transition. The Port of Memphis is currently planning to improve short line rail operations on President Island, and working on buying back industrial park space to lease for future projects. The Port of Memphis also has a list of target industries to attract to the Memphis area. Mr. Richardson named agriculture, logistic, agriculture processing and food products, empty container control, and waste paper and plastic recycling as target industries.

   Website
   http://portofmemphis.com/port-master-plan-released/

   Port Master Plan
   https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ip4aq0xa48ni5b/AAD8zcP6gMt24vB0dOJdE79a/2019%20Port%20of%20Memphis%20Master%20Plan?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1

4. TDOT I-55 Corridor Study & Tennessee Freight Update
   Ms. Amy Kosanovic gave updates on the state of freight in Tennessee. Ms. Kosanovic informed the group that intermodal freight was up by 7% as of August 2018 and the trend continues to increase by 2%-3% on average a year. By 2040, truck tonnage is expected to increase by 35% while air tonnage increases by 263%. Current trends and events in freight include driver shortage, the introduction of more women and veterans to the freight industry, and compliance with the federal Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate to track and enforce hours of service regulations which include improve driver safety.

   Ms. Kosanovic explained the importance of freight to the Tennessee economy, as 1 out of 13 jobs in Tennessee relate to transportation and warehousing, in addition to jobs in manufacturing, trade, and tourism that rely on the same transportation network. Research conducted by the American Transportation Research Institute highlighted 4 bottlenecks in Tennessee which impact freight movement and the safety of Tennessee drivers. Moving forward, the state must develop creative
approaches to address these bottlenecks and accommodate future growth in population and employment. Another issue highlighted by Ms. Kosanovic was truck parking. It takes an average of 30 to 45 minutes a day for a truck driver to find parking for rest, and many drivers park in unsafe locations. To address these issues, the state was awarded funds to map and inventory public and private parking spaces to create resources for drivers and determine areas of truck parking need. TDOT is also exploring the use of Bluetooth technology to communicate route time options to truckers via signage and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Ms. Kosanovic also gave a presentation on the I-55 corridor study. The study will evaluate existing and future conditions, identify potential improvements and enhancement strategies, promote safe efficiency movement of people, business, and services and encourage public involvement. The study area is 13 miles running from Arkansas to Mississippi state line. TDOT’s focus areas are Shelby County and Memphis. The corridor study outcome looks for deficiencies, capacity and congestion issues, operations and maintenance, and safety. Ms. Kosanovic encourages participation by visiting the state’s I-55 Corridor Study webpage to share problem areas via an interactive map and complete an online travel survey.

**Project Website**
https://www.tn.gov/tdot/government/g/planning-studies/i-55-75-26-multimodal-corridor-study.html

**Project Survey Link**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QZHRQJ7

5. **Mid-South Regional Resilience Plan**
Mr. Jared Darby gave a presentation on the Mid-South Resilience Plan. The draft plan is now open for comment on the Resilient Shelby website. The plan focus is on river flooding, damaging wind, flash flooding, winter weather, earthquakes, and tornados. The Resilience Plan planning area coincides with the Memphis MPO’s planning area and includes 23 cities, 4 counties and 2 states. Use of the Memphis MPO’s planning area allowed for a regional scope and relationship building for disaster mitigation planning across jurisdictional boundaries while leveraging the Memphis MPO’s data and GIS resources. Some recommendations from the plan included earthquake and fire resilient buildings, emergency shelters, roof designing, green building, smart growth development, smart power grids, land planning, and infrastructure planning, Critical Infrastructure planning looked at how can freight movement and transportation continue during a disaster and addressing reroute of freight, intermodal, and other traffic operations using a smart grid approach.

**Website**
https://resilientshelby.com/

**Q: Why was Crittenden County not included?**
**A:** Jurisdictions were grouped by common themes and available data. The Memphis MPO region had both common themes and available data.
6. **Mississippi State Study on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Delivery**

Mr. Dallas Brooks provided a presentation on Mississippi State University study (MSU) on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Delivery. The FAA awarded funding to MSU for a National Drone Delivery Network Model research. The model will look at demand for home deliveries and determine possible routes for delivery via UAS. The study will assess environmental and safety implications such as noise levels and risks of injury and lithium battery waste associated with drone crashes. Potential routes will be identified to minimize these concerns and avoid interfering with aircraft and highway operations. The research model plans to consider a combination of scenarios involving air traffic and flows, logistics, and distribution to target neighborhoods. Mr. Brooks stated he would like for the research to answer whether drone delivery can be done safely, is drone delivery possible considering many variables, and whether it is economically viable. Mr. Brooks also informed that the Lab will reach out to some of the members to request data for the study and offered to assist any members if information or guidance is needed on UAS issues.

**Website**
https://www.raspet.msstate.edu/

7. **Other Business—State and Local Updates**

Ms. Pragati Srivastava noted that the Memphis MPO is updating the Congestion Management Process and requested participation in an online survey. Attendees participated via phone to provide feedback to a series of questions presented by the MPO Staff.

8. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 12:32

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 Mavrick Fitzgerald at (901) 636-7189