Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Planning and Land Use Advisory Committee (PLAC)
Thursday, June 20, 2019 1:30PM
1900 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Committee Chairman Mr. Bennie Hopkins called the meeting to order. In addition to Mr. Hopkins, the following members were present at the meeting:

Willie Davidson, Jr. City of Horn Lake
Scott Walkup Shelby County Department of Housing
Scarlet Ponder MATA
Amy Kosanovic TDOT
Jennifer Marshall TDOT
Kwabena Aboagye TDOT
Melanie Batke City of Memphis (Memphis 3.0)
Angelica Carey City of Memphis (Memphis 3.0)

Interested Individuals present:

Dallas Brooks Mississippi State University
Li Zhang Mississippi State University
Jared Darby Shelby County Office of Resilience

MPO Staff members present:

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

A quorum was present.
1) **Welcome and Introduction**
Mr. Hopkins called the meeting to order and had attendees introduce themselves.

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

2) **Election**
Ms. Pragati Srivastava recommended continuing with Mr. Hopkins as the chair and with John Lancaster as the vice chair; this was approved by the committee members.

3) **Mississippi State Study on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Delivery**
Mr. Brooks described the work of the Raspet Flight Research Laboratory, the focus of the UAS for delivery study, and general issues of the future of freight and logistics network design and safety. The FAA awarded funding to Mississippi State University (MSU) for a National Drone Delivery Network Model research. The model will predict what neighborhoods have residents who are more likely to order expedited home deliveries and with what frequency. The model must consider environmental and quality of life impacts, such as potential lithium battery waste. He discussed drone crash scenarios, noise levels as the drones fly over homes, privacy, and security at large events. Another consideration is transportation operations; drones should not interfere with aircraft 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 the question of whether drone delivery can be done safely, its potential considering many variables, and its economically viability. He described how freight might be efficiently allocated amongst new (such as UAS) and old modes of delivery and how cities might deal with the congestion caused by the increase in e-commerce and freight travel. He explained how Memphis is an ideal place to conduct this study with its large cargo airport, transportation infrastructure, and logistics industry. He noted that the Lab would be reaching out to some of the members to request data for the study and offered to assist any members if they need information or guidance on UAS issues.

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

4) **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’s focus is on river flooding, damaging wind, flash flooding, winter weather, earthquakes, and tornadoes. The Resilience Plan includes 23 cities, 4 counties and 2 states. Opening the scope of the study area to cover beyond Shelby County allowed relationship building and a regional approach to disaster mitigation planning. Some of the recommendations from the plan include: earthquake resilient buildings, fireproof abilities, emergency shelters, roof design, green building, smart growth development, smart grids, land planning, and infrastructure planning. Critical Infrastructure planning looked at how freight movement and transportation can continue to operate during and after a disaster and addressed how to reroute freight, intermodal, and other traffic operations using a smart grid approach.
Q: Mr. Kwabena Aboagye asked if they looked at using transit in post-disaster situations.
A: Mr. Darby said that the plan is more of a 30,000 foot view and that the question is more addressed in the Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Q: Ms. Angelica Carey asked for more information on the GIS data used in the plan.
A: Mr. Darby said that the plan boundary matches the Memphis MPO boundary for two reasons: to get a regional perspective since nature does not follow jurisdictional lines, and also because the MPO was a good source of many GIS datasets. He also stated that they hope that the data and maps will be helpful for jurisdictions to be able to decide if development in a certain area poses risk, the level of risk, what problems it may cause, and where are the best and worst areas to steer development from and environmental and resilience standpoint.

5) TDOT I-55 Corridor Study
Ms. Amy Kosanovic gave updates on TDOT’s 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. Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) 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 encouraged participation by visiting the state’s I-55 Corridor Study webpage to use the interactive map to share problem areas and take a survey via survey monkey.

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

6) Memphis 3.0 Plan
Ms. Melanie Batke gave an update on the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan. She described the robust public involvement process including 15,000 people engaged, 500 meetings and events, numerous surveys, and 45 community engagement partners. It has been adopted by the MATA board, the CRA board, and the Land Use Control Board. The plan has a focus on anchors or centers of community activity. The plan envisions these anchors with greater density (except for “sustain” anchors) and targets them for mixed use development and infrastructure, civic, and economic investment. There are three types of anchors: nurture, sustain, and accelerate. The plan also incorporates a new streets plan and the Transit Vision plan for MATA. They are now working on integrating 3.0 land use types and the streets plan with the City Engineering department’s pre-
existing Complete Streets Delivery Manual. It has not yet been adopted by Memphis City Council but the Mayor has issued an executive order that it must be used to make land use recommendations.

**Website**
https://www.memphis3point0.com/

*Mr. Kwabena Aboagye Commented that a big challenge in the state has been that large TDOT projects have not been coordinated enough with local land use planning, resulting in more expensive project delivery due to increased ROW costs.*

*Mr. Aboagye also added to use the TDOT design manual as a reference in the development of the City Streets map*

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

8) **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

**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 so by scheduling an appointment with Jordan Smith at (901) 636.7130.**