

**MEETING OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND THE POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE
OWENSBORO-DAVIESS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

September 24, 2019

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Policy Committee of the Owensboro-Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) met in a joint meeting on September 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in Room 406, City Hall, Owensboro, Kentucky. Quorums for both committees were present with the members, as listed:

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Nick Hall, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) District 2
Tim Lyons, Owensboro Municipal Utilities (OMU)
Dean Behnke, Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA)
Jiten Shah, Green River Area Development District (GRADD) (Rep. by Gina Boaz)
Scott Atherton, Kenergy
Barry House, KYTC Division of Planning
Brittaney Johnson, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation (GO-EDC)
Candance Brake, Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Mark Brasher, Daviess County Engineer
Nate Pagan, Owensboro City Manager, Chairman
Lt. Scott Wedding, Daviess County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Mike Page, Owensboro Police Department (OPD)
Kevin Collignon, Owensboro City Engineer
Charlie Castlen, Daviess County Commissioner

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian Howard, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC)
Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority
Pamela Canary, Owensboro Transit System (OTS)
Rob Barnett, Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport
Eric Perez, KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery
Bernadette Dupont, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Watson, City of Owensboro Mayor, Chairman
Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive, Vice-Chairman
Deneatra Henderson, KYTC District 2, (Rep. by Nick Hall)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Gracie Roberts, Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Tom Lovett, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Policy Chairman Tom Watson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 30, 2019, joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mayor Tom Watson and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2019, Technical Advisory/Policy Committee meeting.

A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PL Discretionary Funds

Tom Lovett informed the committees that the MPOs as a group had about \$3 million for road studies and planning that was subject to rescission. The MPO group ask for road study projects that could be requested within a 72-hour window to help reduce the pot of money and prevent it being lost to rescission.

Mr. Lovett said that the SHIFT list created by the MPO contained such a project but it wasn't one of the ones selected for a boost, so it seemed unlikely to be funded in the State Highway Plan. So Mr. Lovett went ahead and submitted it for a PL Discretionary Fund grant. He said he spoke with Nick Hall with KYTC District 2 about estimating a cost and after some discussion, settled on \$250,000. He said he went ahead and applied.

He said the description of the project in the SHIFT plan was a study of access management and potential upgrades on Frederica Street from 25th Street south to the US 60 overpass. He said he extended that area further south to the Martin Luther King Loop in the application description. He said that there was no local match needed and the MPO would have two years to spend the money. He said he'd let the committees know when he heard whether the application had been funded.

Barry House of the KYTC interjected, saying he had an update and that the grant had been funded. He said the study would probably begin sometime in January. He said the corridor planning team would hire a consultant and oversee the project but that there would be a local advisory committee and there would be presentations to the MPO on the project.

Mayor Tom Watson asked how work would be paid for if the study came back and said there were specific needs. He was told those projects could be entered into the state's Continuing Highway Analysis Framework (CHAF) database and submitted to SHIFT for funding through the State Highway Plan. Mr. House said the projects would potentially be eligible for federal funds, such as safety funds or Transportation Alternative funds, which might be used for sidewalks.

B. MTP Survey

Mr. Lovett then showed a revised transportation survey he had prepared in accordance with requests and critiques received at the July 30 MPO meeting. He also presented them with a Spanish version of the survey. He said the survey went out in mid-August. He said the MPO reached out to several large employers in the community, such as the school districts, and asked them to distribute the survey to their employees. Mr. Lovett also noted that the Chamber included a link to the survey in its newsletter. He said those efforts were extremely successful.

He said Evansville did a similar survey last year when they rewrote their Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and they received 660 responses from all of Vanderburgh, Warrick and Henderson counties. He said the Owensboro survey currently stood at more than 1,400 responses. Mr. Lovett said the Spanish version of the survey would go out later in the week.

He then presented some initial feedback. He said there is a lot of animosity between bicyclists and motorists. He said motorists complained about bicyclists ignoring road safety laws (such as riding against traffic and ignoring red lights and stop signs). The bicyclist complained about motorists not giving them space to ride and harassing them. Mr. House said that if the MPO wanted to address bicycle project, an educational outreach might be the way to begin. Mr. Lovett agreed, saying he'd had the same thought.

He said biggest issue on the transit portion was people wanting to additional service, specifically longer hours and more days of service. Many people mention second- and third-shift workers who didn't have access to and from work if the buses weren't running.

A secondary transit issue was people saying there was a need for more bus shelters or at least a bench at every bus stop.

He said respondents said the community needed to focus on repairing existing roads before building new ones. He said there were more than 1,200 responses and he was sorting through them right now and hoped to bring a list of roads that were identified for improvement at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Lovett said responses to the pedestrian question primarily drew a list of areas in the city that needed sidewalks or sidewalk repairs. He said many of those were the same as the ones identified in the Bike/Ped survey.

Mayor Watson said that on the issue of benched at bus stops, the city had looked at the stops and on many of them, there just wasn't a place to put a bench because the stop was located on the edge of a culvert or in another difficult location. He said the situation was horrible and wished there was more the city could do.

Mr. House said he'd been involved with MPO surveys for many years and 1,400 responses is fantastic.

C. P&E Report

Mr. Lovett next presented committee members with the annual Performance & Expenditure report. The report is an end-of-year report that accounts for how the MPO spent its grant money. Mr. Lovett said that when he wrote his first P&E report last year, there had been a lot of guesswork about how many hours needed to be allocated to each work element. He said that when a new UPWP was submitted in February, the numbers allocated to each element were a little more accurate and the P&E report reflected that. He said where the number of hours had been underestimated, the underestimation was less than previously and when the numbers were overestimated, they too were closer.

He said he was required by the Unified Planning Work Program to present the report to the MPO.

Mr. House said the last year had been pretty eventful for the MPO, since it had to produce two major documents – the Participation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as well as the SHIFT.

D. TIP Modifications

Mr. Lovett next brought three administrative modifications before the MPO. These are projects that have been added to the TIP. He said the first was a project to add a high-friction surface to a portion of Veach Road; the second was to purchase capital items for the

Owensboro Transit System; and the third as to add a Recreational Trails project for the Joe Ford Nature Center.

VI. UPDATES

A. Highway District Office Update

Nick Hall said he really didn't have any update for the board.

- Candance Brake asked about where the right-of-way acquisition stood on the KY 54 project. Both Mayor Watson and Ms. Brake asked for an update at a future meeting on where the acquisition stood. Mr. Hall said he'd see what he could find out.
- Judge Al Mattingly asked about the KY 81 bridge repair. He said he'd been told the work was expected to be completed by November 30. Mr. Hall said he wasn't sure himself, but that sounded correct.

B. MPO Update

Tom Lovett gave the following updates:

- The MPO performed a traffic count for the city of Owensboro in front of Apollo High School.
- He said during the last MPO meeting, Mayor Watson and Judge Mattingly asked about creating a new CHAF project to extend I-165 from its current terminus at the end of the former Natcher Parkway to the US 231 bridge in Maceo. He said that project has been created.
- He said he was asked to look into why the speed limit on US 60 between the 231 bridge and the former bypass was set at 55 mph. He said KYTC said it was because there are at-grade crossing on the road.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.