

**Bristol Urban Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
February 3, 2022**

Board Members Present:

Tim Beavers – City of Bristol, Tennessee
Ambre Torbett – Sullivan County, Tennessee (Chair)
Michael Surrett – Town of Abingdon, Virginia
Jason Boswell – Washington County, Virginia
Ronda Sawyer – Tennessee Department of Transportation
Blake Ailor – Virginia Department of Transportation

Board Members Absent:

Bristol, Virginia

Others Present:

Melanie Fleenor (Bristol, VA)	Kevin Worley (Abingdon, VA)
Jon McCurry (NET Trans)	Jay Detrick (Bristol, VA)
Tracy Kissel (NET Trans/FTHRA)	Mason Gragg (Mt. Rogers PDC)
Eric Kerney (SCHD)	Rex Montgomery (Bristol MPO)
David Metzger	Randy Dodson (Mattern & Craig)
Rex Montgomery	Cory Osborne (VDOT)
Michael Dick (TDOT)	David Metzger (Bristol MPO)
Troy Ebert (TDOT)	Chase Milner (FTDD)
Mayana Rice (Abingdon, VA)	

Item 1 – Call to Order

MPO Chair Ambre Torbett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday February 3, 2022, in the Ewell L. Easley Annex Building, Bristol, Tennessee.

Item 2 – Roll Call

MPO Secretary Steven Mott conducted roll call. A quorum of members was present.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Ronda Sawyer moved to adopt the minutes of the August 5, 2021 MPO as submitted; seconded by Blake Ailor; motion carried unanimously.

Item 4 – Comments from the Public

There were no comments offered from the public.

Item 5 – Safety Performance Measures

Presenter: Steven Mott

Federal regulations require the State DOT and MPOs to define and maintain targets for Safety Performance Measures. The safety performance targets must be reported annually as part of each state's Highway Safety Improvement Program. Numerical targets are defined for: 1) number of fatalities, 2) number of serious injuries, 3) fatality rate, 4) serious injury rate, and 5) number of

non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Both the TDOT and VDOT have submitted 2021 safety performance targets to the Federal Highway Administration.

The MPO can either adopt the State's performance targets or establish their own targets. Due to the technical documentation and administrative requirements for the MPO to develop and maintain performance targets independent from the State DOT, the staff recommendation is to support the State DOT targets. Separate performance targets are adopted for each State DOT pertinent to each State's portion of the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Beavers moved to adopt Resolution 22-01 [supporting the TDOT safety performance targets]; seconded by Mr. Surrett. Roll call vote: Ms. Sawyer "YES"; Mr. Ailor "YES"; Mr. Beavers "YES"; Mr. Boswell "YES"; Mr. Surrett "YES"; Chairman Torbett "YES". Motion carried unanimously.

Ronda Sawyer moved to adopt Resolution 22-02 [supporting the VDOT safety performance targets]; seconded by Mr. Boswell. Roll call vote: Ms. Sawyer "YES"; Mr. Ailor "YES"; Mr. Beavers "YES"; Mr. Boswell "YES"; Mr. Surrett "YES"; Chairman Torbett "YES". Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 – VDOT Project Pipeline

Presenter: Chad Tucker, Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning & Investment, via Google Meets

Mr. Tucker gave an overview of VDOT's new program: Project Pipeline. Project Pipeline is a performance-based planning program to identify cost-effective solutions to multimodal transportation needs in Virginia. Through this planning process, projects and solutions may be considered for funding through programs, including SMART SCALE, revenue sharing, interstate funding and others.

Project Pipeline aims to implement a statewide look at needs and formalize the connection with planning, funding and programming transportation solutions for Virginia.

The objective of the program is to focus on the Commonwealth Transportation Board-adopted VTrans priority locations and corridors. The program, led by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, is built around a performance-based planning process. The goal is to develop projects and investment strategies that can be considered for funding.

Project Pipeline methodology is based on VDOT's STARS program which data-based recommendations have had an 80% success rate in getting funded through SMART SCALE.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Ailor highlighted that Project Pipeline surveys are available for the Bristol MPO and the Kingsport MTPO. Mr. Mott stated that he would share information regarding the surveys when emailing out a draft of the minutes for the current meeting.

Item 8 - Other Matters

Mr. Mott presented to the Executive board TDOT's listing of Obligated Projects within the Bristol MPO. Mr. Mott highlighted that all of the denominations in red are not in fact negative balances, but are dollar amounts that will be allotted to future projects. Mr. Mott stated that the document will be available on the MPO's website for review.

Mr. Mott advised to the Executive board that due to David Metzger's retirement, the Bristol MPO is without a technical staff representative on the RPO within the FTDD. Chairwoman Torbett brought forth a motion to appoint MPO Executive Board Secretary Steven Mott to the position; Mr. Surrent seconded the motion. With none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ailor moved to discuss a few items. He discussed availability of Virginia Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grants, through the Federal Highway Administration. He highlighted that these grants have been used within the area on projects for the Appalachian Trail and the Creeper Trail. It was highlighted that no local match dollar amount is currently required in order to receive this grant. Furthermore, he gave an update on Piedmont Bridge, stating that VDOT is to pre-scope the entire project, and mentioned possible funding amounts available.

Mr. Ebert advised the board from the audience that TDOT is reviewing grant applications that came from within the MPO region. He stated that TDOT should announce the grants that will be awarded soon.

Item 9 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.



Ambre Torbett
Executive Board Chairman

Date: May 12, 2022



Secretary