

### **Agenda Item 3**

## **Approval of minutes of February 9, 2023**

### **Bristol Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization February 9, 2023 - Minutes**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Cherith Young – City of Bristol, Tennessee  
Mayana Rice – Town of Abingdon, Virginia  
Supervisor Phillip McCall – Washington County, Virginia (Vice Chair)  
Blake Ailor – Virginia Department of Transportation  
Neal Osborne – Bristol, Virginia

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Ambre Torbett – Sullivan County, Tennessee (Chair)

#### **Others Present:**

Stacy Morrison (TDOT)	Sean Santalla (FHWA-TN)
Zack Coleman (FHWA-TN)	Gilberto DeLeon (FHWA-TN)
Christopher Goodwin (SCHD)	Ed Everett (Vulcan Materials)
Chase Milner (FTRPO)	Melanie Fleenor (City of Bristol, VA)
Nick Vaness (Mattern & Craig)	Eric Kerney (SCHD)
Cherith Young (City of Bristol, TN)	Samantha Farmer (VDOT)
Mason Gragg (MRPDC)	Micah Bray (Bristol, TN)
Michael Surrett (Town of Abingdon)	Candace Long (NET TRANS)
Troy Ebbert (TDOT)	Brian Hurst (TDOT)
David Richardson (Mtn. Lynx)	Brian Ramsey (City of Bristol, TN)
Randy Busler (TDOT Region 1)	Michael Dick (TDOT Region 1)
Dexter Justis (TDOT Region 1)	Mark Nagi (TDOT Region 1)
Jason Farmer (TDOT District 1)	Taylor Lee (TDOT Local Programs)
Calvin Clifton (Mattern and Craig)	Amanda Snowden (TDOT)
Will Snyder (TDOT)	Steve Borden (TDOT)
Steve Townsend (TDOT)	Logan Dunn (City of Bristol, TN)
Butch Eley (Deputy Governor and TDOT Commissioner)	
Preston Elliot (Deputy Commissioner of Environmental and Planning)	

#### **Call to Order**

MPO Vice Chair Phillip McCall called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

#### **Agenda Item 1 – Roll Call**

Tyler Gillenwater conducted roll call. A quorum of members was present.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Presentation from Commissioner and Deputy Governor of TN, Butch Eley**

Tyler Gillenwater introduced Butch Eley, the Deputy Governor for Tennessee and the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Mr. Eley presented on the new “Build With Us” initiative that introduces the Transportation Modernization Act. Commissioner Eley also showed a video explaining more about Choice Lanes - In summary, TDOT is proposing to partner with the private sector to build new lanes on congested, urban highways. This will free up state funds for more projects in rural communities. TDOT is also alternative project delivery tools to speed up the process to get projects to construction. Also, TDOT is proposing an increase in the electric vehicle registration fee.

Vice Chair Phillip McCall thanked the TDOT staff for coming and presenting to the Executive Board.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Unscheduled comments from the Public**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall asked if there was any input from the public. There were no comments from the public.

### **Agenda Item 4 – New Officer Elections**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall informed everyone that current Chair Ambre Torbett would be happy to continue serving as MPO Executive Board Chair if nominated and elected to do so. Vice Chair Phillip McCall asked for nominations for MPO Executive Board Chair. Cherith Young nominated Ambre Torbett to remain as the MPO Chair. Cherith Young nominated Phillip McCall to remain as MPO Vice Chair.

Both nominations were elected to their respectful positions.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2022:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 5, Approval of minutes from the December 16, 2022 meeting.

Mayana Rice made a motion for the board to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2022 meeting. Cherith Young seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Amendment #1 to the FY2022-2023 UPWP:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 6, Amendment #1 to the FY2022-2023 UPWP.

MPO Coordinator, Tyler Gillenwater, discussed the proposed changes to the FY2022-2023 UPWP. The proposed changes include things that the MPO staff currently do but are not explicitly stated in the UPWP. Staff plans to replace borrowed and outdated city furniture with newer furniture. Mayana asked that the MPO staff add in information regarding attending meetings on the Virginia side of the MPO.

Ronda Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve Amendment #1 to the FY2022-2023 UPWP. Blake Ailor seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Adoption of PM2 and PM3 Targets for TDOT:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 7, Adoption of PM2 and PM3 Targets for TDOT.

MPO Coordinator, Tyler Gillenwater, informed the board that federal regulations require MPOs to define and maintain targets for performance measures. In December the MPO Executive Board adopted TDOT

PM1 targets and VDOT PM1,2,3 targets. TDOT PM2 targets are in reference to pavement and bridge performance measures and PM3 targets are in reference to travel-time reliability and emissions. However, emissions targets do not apply to the Bristol MPO.

Ronda Sawyer made a motion for the board to approve adopt PM2 and PM3 Targets for TDOT. Cherith Young seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 8 –Adoption of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2025 TAM Targets:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 8, Adopting the Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2025 TAM Targets.

MPO Coordinator, Tyler Gillenwater, informed the board that federal regulations require public transportation providers to develop Transit Asset Management targets which provide a systematic process for procuring, maintaining, and replacing capital assets. Transit agencies are required to define performance targets in reference to the State of Good Repair for transit assets. MPOs must include these targets in the TIP. Tyler informed the board that Mtn Lynx, NET Trans, and Bristol Virginia Transit all participate in their state TAM plans. Bristol Tennessee adopts their own targets.

Blake Ailor made a motion for the board to adopt the FY2022-2025 TAM Targets. Neal Osborne seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 9 – 2020 Census Urban Areas Update:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 9, 2020 Census Urban Area Updates.

Micah Bray informed the Executive board of new information regarding the 2020 Census Urban Area updates. The Census Bureau now defines urban areas by housing density instead of population density. The Bristol TN-VA Urban Area increased in population from 2010 to 2020 by 1.64%. The Bristol TN-VA Urban Area increased in area from 2010 to 2020 by 7.38%. The Census Bureau did not combine any of the urban areas in Northeast Tennessee. A map was presented to the Board that shows the 2020 Urban Area. There will be more information to come regarding updating the urban areas at a later date.

**Agenda Item 10 – State/Local Partners Updates:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 10, State/Local Partners Updates.

Mr. Sean Santalla introduced himself as the new team leader for Program Development for the Tennessee Division of FHWA. He introduced Mr. Zachary Coleman as the new planner that will cover the Bristol MPO region. Mr. Gilberto DeLeon, Deputy Division Administrator, also announced that the RAISE grant is accepting applications until February 28, 2023. For more information, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>.

Mr. DeLeon also mentioned U.S. DOT has launched a new website to assist communities with grants from U.S. DOT called the “DOT Navigator,” and can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>.

Candace Long introduced a new staff member that NET Trans has hired. Candace mentioned that the new Census information would impact their service areas and that NET Trans will be going through the information to see what changes will need to be made.

David Richardson informed everyone that Mtn. Lynx didn't currently have any updates to share.

Melanie Fleenor with Bristol Virginia informed everyone about the draft Transit Development Plan. Bristol, VA is also looking to complete a feasibility study for the potential to extend their hours of operation and would use 5303 funding to help complete the study.

Tyler Gillenwater added Bristol Tennessee Transit was looking to purchase a new ADA van for Senior Transportation.

Blake Ailor informed everyone of the SMART Scale draft recommended funding scenario that includes projects through the Bristol MPO. Blake provided a rundown of the projects that were being recommended and that the recommended funding scenario would be approved in the next couple months. Blake also provided an update on behalf of DRPT. DRPT wants to make all transit providers aware of two discretionary grant opportunities currently available to eligible applicants - FTA bus and bus facilities and low or no emissions. DRPT is available to assist applicants and will host a grant workshop on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Mr. Stacy Morrison introduced himself as the Planning Manager for TDOT's Office of Community Transportation. He announced that they will be accepting applications soon for the Transportation Planning Grant. Mr. Morrison pointed out Mr. Taylor Lee of TDOT Local Programs was in attendance and was available to speak to anyone about current projects they are managing.

**Agenda Item 11 – Other Matters:**

Vice Chair Phillip McCall moved to Item 11, Other Matters.

There were no other matters to discuss.

**Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Phillip McCall adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.