



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**N.A.R.T.P.C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Jonesboro Public Library, 315 W. Oak Avenue, Jonesboro, Arkansas
March 27, 2019, 4:00 p.m.**

Members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, or as otherwise specified by the Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee. It is requested that presentations be limited to three minutes, and that members of the audience identify themselves and state their point as briefly as possible when addressing the Committee.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Metropolitan Planning Organization office (Tel # (870) 933-4623) 48 hours in advance of the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

- 1. Committee Chair to Call the Meeting to Order**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from 1.23.19 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. Active Transportation Plan
 - Bikeability/Walkability GIS Mapping Project
 - b. CAC Promotional Video Project
- 5. New Business**
 - a. New Member Introductions
 - b. 2019 Elections (Chair/Vice-Chair)
 - c. MPO 101 Presentations/Webinar Viewings
 - d. STIC/STEP Study
 - Pedestrian Counts (N. Church Street)
 - e. Upcoming Public Engagement
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- 6. Project Updates**
- 7. Public Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

Contact Lists (Emails, Faxes, and Postal Mail Addresses): Please update your information and give us the addresses of those you would like to be on the MPO mailing list.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes

Date January 23, 2019

Location 3rd Floor Conference Room
Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Time 4:00 p.m.

Opening Rick Cheshier called the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. on January 23, 2019 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Center.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Billy Holland
Harold Carter
Rick Cheshier
Angy Abaunza
Ana Saucedo

Staff

Cecelie Cochran

Others

Steve Ewart

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves. Ana Saucedo of Arkansas State University was introduced as the newest member of the CAC.

Minutes

Billy Holland made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 28, 2018; Angy Abaunza seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

Administrative Changes

Cecelie informed the committee that Erica Tait has resigned from the position of MPO Director for the N.A.R.T.P.C. as she and her family relocated to Indiana at the end of last month. Cecelie explained that, as a result, the position of MPO Director was posted to the public last month, and the Jonesboro Human Resources Department concluded collection of resumes/applications for the position on yesterday, January 22, 2019. Cecelie announced that the Policy Committee will be holding an emergency meeting on next Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. to review/select potential candidates for the position. She stated that the emergency meeting will take place in the first floor conference room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center (300 S. Church Street), and all members of the public are welcome to attend. Cecelie notified members that the Policy Committee may spend majority of the meeting in closed, executive session so that members can review/discuss candidate applications, which may contain private/confidential information.

STIC/STEP Study

Cecelie reminded committee members that the MPO (in partnership with Metroplan) was awarded federal funding from the FHWA to conduct a Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) study at previously selected locations in Jonesboro (N. Church St. and Johnson Ave.) that displayed heavy pedestrian crossing activity. She announced that all agreements and Scopes of Work for the study have been finalized with ARDOT and the consultant (Garver Engineering), and that, at the request of FHWA, the Jonesboro Engineering Department is now in the process of developing design plans for the temporary crossing installation at Johnson Avenue and State Street. Cecelie informed members that the Notice to Proceed has already been issued to Garver Engineering, and as a result, she will be asking the Policy Committee for approval at next week's emergency meeting to release MPO funding to ARDOT so that the study can begin. Cecelie added that once funding for the study has been issued, she will collaborate with Garver Engineering regarding scheduling a public kick-off meeting. She reiterated that she will be seeking member participation in volunteering to conduct pedestrian counts at both study location sites since MPO staff is limited. She stated that the dates/times will be random, and, most likely, assigned according to time of year and area/community activities. Harold Carter inquired if there will be a temporary crossing installed at N. Church Street (Hwy 141). Cecelie clarified that there will only be one temporary pedestrian crossing installed at Johnson Avenue and State Street for the purposes of the STEP study. Rick Cheshier inquired about the study location for N. Church Street. Cecelie stated that the location site is the corridor between Parker Park Community Center and Lewellan Park (Allen Avenue). Angy Abaunza asked if there had already been a pedestrian crossing installed near Parker Park Community Center due to previous discussion by the Jonesboro City Council. Cecelie responded by stating that she is not aware of any recent pedestrian crossings being installed at that location, but would follow up on the matter.

Steve Ewart inquired if educational materials or information will be released to the public regarding the study. Cecelie responded by stating that informational flyers and brochures have already been created with prior input from the CAC and the ATC, and will be distributed to the public once the study begins. In addition, she stated that she has reached out to Sandra Taylor (EAST Facilitator) of Nettleton High School, at the request of the CAC, for assistance with producing a short video advocating for bicycle/pedestrian safety, and is awaiting her response. Cecelie added that she will also be contacting local news outlets for help with promoting the study as well. Angy Abaunza and Rick Cheshier suggested that she also contact local radio stations such as KLEK, KAIT and Jack and Jill to help with advertisement. Cecelie asked members to forward her the contact information for the radio personalities if possible.

Old Business

Transit Development Study

Cecelie reminded the committee that, last year, the MPO and JET partnered together with Alliance Transportation Group to conduct a Transit Development Study, which produced a plan detailing a 10-year forecast of potential transit service improvement and expansion within the region. She thanked everyone for their participation in the public input process for the study, and informed the committee that the consultants have finalized the Transit Development Plan, which is available on the JET website. Cecelie informed members that the consultants did present the plan to Jonesboro City Council in December 2018, and that much of the public feedback received from the public input process was incorporated into the plan recommendations. Steve Ewart explained that this is the first transit development study that has been conducted for JET, and that professional input was needed to interpret the ridership data that has been collected over the years in order to better meet community needs. Cecelie stated that the plan was very detailed in analyzing current route times, stop locations, ridership and cost estimates in order to determine the most effective recommendations to increase efficiency and possible expansion.

New Business

2019 Committee Meeting Dates/Calendar

Cecelie provided the committee with draft copies of the 2019 MPO Committee Meeting Calendar, which contains the dates, times and locations of all upcoming meetings for the N.A.R.T.P.C. committees. She asked members to review the CAC meeting schedule, and notify her as soon as possible of any substantial conflicts.

Elections (Chair/Vice-Chair)

Cecelie provided the committee with copies of a list of official members of the CAC, and notified members that it is time for the annual election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee. Billy Holland made the motion to table 2019 elections for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the CAC until the next meeting on March 27, 2019 due to limited attendance on this date; the motion was seconded by Angy Abaunza. The motion was approved unanimously.

2019 Title VI Demographic Survey

Cecelie distributed copies of the 2019 Title VI Demographic Survey. She explained to the committee that the surveys are strictly voluntary, and that Title VI information is collected from MPO committee members annually. Cecelie added that the information will be aggregated to maintain members' privacy prior to submission to ARDOT.

CAC Promotional Video Project

Cecelie again reminded members that, at the suggestion of the committee at the previous CAC meeting, she has reached out to Sandra Taylor (EAST Facilitator) of Nettleton High School regarding student assistance with development of a community safety video, and is currently awaiting a response. She explained that the video will be centered on promoting public awareness of pedestrians, cyclists and transit users in the region as well as encouraging citizens to share the road as a matter of community safety. Cecelie stated that it is important for the public to know that walking and cycling is not just recreational, and, for some citizens, it is a primary mode of travel to work, school, shop etc. Cecelie asked members to be aware that she will be contacting them soon regarding participation to either be featured in the video or to provide contact information for certain stakeholders for possible feature.

Project Updates

There were no further project updates at this time.

Public Comments

Steve Ewart announced to the committee that Smart Growth America is offering a free webinar on tomorrow (January 24, 2019) entitled "Dangerous By Design." He expressed that the webinar will involve discussion concerning the connection between public safety and city design planning/landscape as well as how it contributes to pedestrian deaths. Steve Ewart encouraged members to view the webinar, and stated that it is important that citizens understand how public safety is impacted by urban growth and planning. Steve Ewart provided Cecelie with information for the "Dangerous By Design" webinar. Cecelie stated that she would forward the link to the webinar to members at the conclusion of the meeting.

Adjournment

Billy Holland made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Angy Abaunza. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.