



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

May 15, 2019

RE: Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting of May 22nd, 2019

Dear Committee Members:

The agenda for the upcoming meeting of the N.A.R.T.P.C. Citizen Advisory Committee is attached. The meeting will be held at **4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019 in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center (300 S. Church Street).**

The main purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss updates/next steps regarding MPO plans and projects.

As always, all stakeholders to the regional transportation planning process are welcome to attend this meeting. Those in attendance are encouraged to speak on any matter related to transportation planning whether it is on the current agenda or not. Please call the MPO staff office at (870) 933-4623 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Cecelie Cochran, M.P.A.
MPO Director



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**N.A.R.T.P.C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Jonesboro Municipal Center, 300 S. Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas
May 22, 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 Citizen 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 3.27.19 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. New MPO Staff Introduction – Alan Pillow (MPO Planner)
 - b. MPO Newsletter (Volume II, Issue II)
 - c. Active Transportation Committee
 - Status of Membership
- 5. New Business**
 - a. New Member Introduction – Andy Davis
 - b. MPO 101 Presentations/Webinar Viewings
 - Upcoming FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide Workshop
 - c. STIC/STEP Study
 - Status Update
 - d. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
 - Development Status
 - Upcoming Public Engagement Opportunities
- 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 March 27, 2019

Location Civic League Room
Jonesboro Public Library
315 W. Oak Avenue
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Time 4:00 p.m.

Opening Rick Cheshier called the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. on March 27, 2019 in the Civic League Room of the Jonesboro Public Library.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Rick Cheshier
Frank Pulcinski
Yoshara Barber
Shunquetta Cunningham
Harold Carter
Steve Ewart
Dakota Rodgers

Staff

Cecelie Cochran

Others

Pat Farmer
Debbie DeRossite
Dr. Brookshield Laurent

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Frank Pulcinski made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 23, 2018; Yoshara Barber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

Active Transportation Plan

- Bikeability/Walkability GIS Mapping Project

Cecelie reminded the committee that the MPO did collect public responses regarding the condition and experience of the current active infrastructure within the region using Bikeability & Walkability Checklist surveys. Cecelie further explained that the MPO then collaborated with EAST students from Annie Camp Junior High School to map the data received from the surveys using Geographic Information System (GIS). Cecelie notified members that the EAST students have completed the GIS mapping project, and will be presenting the map at the upcoming Joint Committee meeting scheduled April 18, 2019. Cecelie stated that the MPO will be awarding the students with certificates for their work at the conclusion of their presentation, and encouraged members to attend the upcoming

joint meeting if they are available. Cecelie informed members that she will send a reminder of the upcoming Joint Committee meeting to members closer to the date.

CAC Promotional Video Project

Cecelie notified the committee that, at the suggestion of the CAC, she has partnered with Sandra Taylor (EAST Facilitator) of Nettleton High School to produce a short video advocating for bicycle/pedestrian safety in light of the upcoming Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) study. Cecelie stated that the students began filming on yesterday (March 26, 2019) and concluded filming on today. Cecelie explained that various members of both the Policy and Technical Advisory Committees, including the elected officials, gave interviews to the EAST students, and will be featured in the film. Cecelie informed the committee that the EAST students are now working to edit the videos, and will be providing a first draft within the next few weeks.

In addition, Cecelie notified the committee that the informational flyers and brochures previously created by the MPO have been printed, and will be distributed to the public along with the promotional video once the MPO has been approved to begin installation of the temporary crossing at Johnson Avenue and State Street. Cecelie informed members that she will be seeking volunteers to assist with the distribution of the flyers and brochures in the neighboring areas of the study locations. Cecelie further explained that the consultants will be hosting a public input meeting regarding the STEP study in either June or July 2019.

New Business

New Member Introductions

Yoshara Barber, Steve Ewart and Dakota Rodgers introduced themselves as the newest members of the CAC.

2019 Elections (Chair/Vice-Chair)

Cecelie reminded members that, due to limited attendance at the previous meeting held January 23, 2019, the committee unanimously agreed to table the 2019 Chair/Vice-Chair elections until this date. Cecelie provided the committee with copies of a list of official members of the CAC, and explained that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CAC are responsible for calling the meetings to order and keeping the committee on track with the presented agenda. Steve Ewart made the motion to re-elect Rick Cheshier as Chair of the CAC for 2019; the motion was seconded by Shunquetta Cunningham. The motion was approved unanimously. Steve Ewart made the motion to elect Shunquetta Cunningham as Vice-Chair of the CAC for 2019; the motion was seconded by Frank Pulcinski. The motion was approved unanimously.

MPO 101 Presentations/Webinar Viewings

Cecelie announced that she has been working to increase public knowledge and engagement in the transportation planning process. She stated that within the past few weeks, she has scheduled several public presentations with different community groups and hosted one public MPO 101 presentation at Parker Park Community Center on March 12, 2019 to explain the purpose of the MPO and how the public can become involved. She thanked members of the CAC who attended, and asked for suggestions that may help increase diversity and promotion with future MPO 101 presentations. Pat Farmer suggested contacting local vendors to donate food for the presentations. Steve Ewart suggested that Cecelie partner with local groups who may be hosting business expos within the community to take advantage of the crowd presence. Brookshield Laurent stated that she would provide contact information for the Student Activity Board and Greek Life at Arkansas State University for possible collaboration for community engagement.

Cecelie further informed the committee that she showcased two, open webinar viewings (March 16 and 26, 2019) to assist with public education and engagement in the planning process. She stated that the webinars were strictly voluntary for educational purposes, and the topics were relative to current transportation issues within the MPO area to help spark discussion sessions with the attendants. She asked members for feedback regarding the usefulness of

the webinars/discussion sessions. Harold Carter stated that the webinars were insightful. Frank Pulcinski added that the first webinar concerning pedestrian deaths provided good information regarding community involvement, and is more likely to steer interest. Brookshield Laurent recommended that the webinars be screened in advance so that questions can be prepared prior to the showing in order to direct discussions and next steps. Cecelie informed the committee that, with limited time and staff, she is unable to conduct the reviews as requested. Steve Ewart pointed out that members of the CAC can volunteer to research/screen the webinars and community goals themselves, and then send the information to Cecelie so that she can schedule a viewing date and venue. Cecelie stated that members will need to settle on one community goal that they wish to focus on prior to selecting potential webinar tools.

STIC/STEP Study

- Pedestrian Counts (N. Church Street)

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, midblock pedestrian crossing activity. She reiterated that, since the weather is warmer and Spring Break is over, the MPO would like to begin conducting pedestrian counts specifically at N. Church Street since the temporary installation on Johnson Avenue is not yet available. Cecelie provided members with potential dates to conduct the counts as well as information regarding the designated station (location) and shifts (time period) for the counts. Cecelie informed the committee that their assistance is desperately needed since MPO staff is limited and the data is necessary for the consultants. The majority of the CAC agreed to conduct the pedestrian counts for N. Church Street on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, and shifts (morning, noon and afternoon) were assigned to volunteer participants to capture pedestrian activity during peak hours. Cecelie informed the committee that she will send members email reminders containing the official schedule for the counts as soon as possible.

Upcoming Public Engagement

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Cecelie informed the committee that the MPO will be working to update the MPO long-range plan (MTP) within the upcoming months. She stated that she will be presenting members of the CAC with potential engagement strategies for the document to review at the next scheduled meeting. Cecelie notified members that once the CAC approves of the strategies, she will begin scheduling public input meetings throughout the local jurisdictions.

Project Updates

Cecelie encouraged members to attend the public input meeting tonight at 5:30 pm at the Jonesboro City Council Chambers (300 S. Church Street) regarding grant funding for the first phase of the connector trail outlined in the Jonesboro Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Adjournment

Steve Ewart made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Frank Pulcinski. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.