



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

November 21, 2018

RE: Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting of November 28th, 2018

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, November 28th, 2018 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center (300 S. Church Street).**

The main purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss next steps for public participation regarding MPO plans/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,

Erica Tait
MPO Director



NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION

N.A.R.T.P.C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Municipal Center, 300 S. Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas
November 28, 2018, 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 9.19.18 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. Transit Development Study
- 5. New Business**
 - a. STIC/STEP Study
 - i. Public Participation
 - b. Special projects for CAC
- 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 September 19, 2018

Location Conference Room
NEA United Way
407 Union St.
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Time 4:00 p.m.

Opening Rick Cheshier called the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on September 19, 2018 in the Conference Room of the NEA United Way.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Billy Holland
Harold Carter
Rick Cheshier
Angy Abaunza

Staff

Cecelie Cochran

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Billy Holland made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 18, 2018; Angy Abaunza seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

Active Transportation Plan

a. Bikeability/Walkability Checklists

Cecelie notified the committee that collection of the Bikeability and Walkability Inventory Checklists concluded on August 31, 2018, and that the total number of public responses received is 95, which was just 5 responses short of the intended goal of 100. Cecelie thanked members for their feedback and help with the completion and sharing of the checklists with their respective communities.

b. Inventory Mapping

Cecelie explained that the next step is to finalize mapping of the location and response data received from the Bikeability and Walkability Inventory Checklists, which will be used to create an inventory of the current active infrastructure in the region. She stated that the MPO has previously been working with EAST students from Annie Camp Junior High School to map the response data prior to this past summer break using GIS. However, Cecelie clarified that due to changes in EAST facilitators and student graduation, there is a possibility that the previous data regarding the project may be lost and that the new students may not be able to continue with completion. She informed the committee that she has reached out to Nettleton School District regarding possible partnership with the

EAST program at Nettleton High School should Annie Camp no longer be able to continue with the project. Cecelie stated that she will provide members with an update regarding the mapping project at the next meeting.

MPO Plan Monitoring

Cecelie informed the committee that MPO staff is still in the process of finalizing ratings of the goals & objectives of current MPO plans such as the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Regional Active Transportation Plan (MTP). Cecelie reminded members that the individual objectives of each plan goal are being scored according to current status/completion, and that the combined scores of all objectives will be tallied together in order to produce an overall rating for each particular goal. She stated that once the ratings have been finalized, the MPO will display the findings on the MPO website to allow the public to monitor and/or track progress/implementation of existing MPO plans.

Upcoming Public Input Opportunities

a. COJ Bike/Ped Plan

Cecelie announced that consultants hired by the City and the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department are working to finalize a draft of the master bicycle/pedestrian plan (jONEsboro) by the end of the month. She stated that, once complete, the draft plan will be available for public input. She encouraged members to read the draft bicycle/pedestrian plan once it is available, and offer their feedback regarding the content and vision. Harold Carter added that the Jonesboro City Council announced that the draft plan should be available for public comment on September 28, 2018.

New Business

New Member Suggestions

Cecelie announced that Phyllis Burkett and Bethany Noto have both resigned from the Citizens Advisory Committee for personal reasons. She encouraged members to provide MPO staff with contacts or recommendations of potentially interested members as soon as possible.

MPO Newsletter (3rd Edition)

Cecelie notified the committee that the third edition of the MPO digital newsletter was released at the end of August 2018. She urged members to read and share the newsletter with their respective communities. Members of the committee expressed that the newsletter went directly to their junk folder, and requested that an electronic link to the newsletter be sent to them via staff email in order to prevent misfiling.

Public Input/Involvement (MPO Plan/Project Development)

a. *STIC/STEP Study & Next Steps* I. Promotional Campaign Materials

Cecelie announced that the MPO, ARDOT and the FHWA are still working to commence implementation of the Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) innovation at previously selected locations in Jonesboro (N. Church St. and Johnson Ave.). Cecelie informed members that the MPO, FHWA and the Jonesboro Engineering Department are working to finalize design/cost estimates for the temporary pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Johnson Avenue and State Street as well as the overall Scope of Work for STEP Study. In the meantime, Cecelie presented the committee with drafts of an informational flyer and brochures, which will be used as promotional/educational aids for the upcoming study. She explained that the materials contained information about the STEP Study and the temporary crossing along with recommendations for motorists/pedestrian safety. Cecelie asked members for their feedback concerning the design and content of the promotional materials. Committee members agreed that the content of the flyer and brochures is helpful, and that the designs are nice. Members recommended that MPO staff contact JET for possible placement of the promotional materials on JET buses and at the JET

transfer center. Billy Holland also suggested that the MPO research relevant videos regarding bicycle/pedestrian safety to help boost public awareness.

II. Next Steps

Cecelie informed the committee that MPO staff will be working to contact local businesses and organizations for help with the distribution and promotion of the flyer and brochures in preparation for the STEP Study. Harold Carter inquired about the start date for the STEP Study and the temporary crossing. Cecelie responded by stating that no official date for the study has been set at this time, but that it is likely to begin before the end of the year.

b. *Transit Development Study*

I. Public Input Survey Findings

Cecelie reminded the committee that the MPO and JET have partnered together with Alliance Transportation Group to conduct a Transit Development Study of the region. She informed the committee that Alliance Transportation Group has completed collection of public input surveys regarding current travel behavior and existing transit services/needs in the area. Cecelie explained that the surveys were conducted both in-person and online from July to August 2018, and generated 243 responses from local citizens. Cecelie provided members with copies of the final findings from the public survey to review. Committee members stated that they were surprised by some of the findings from the survey, and that the information was helpful with understanding potential needs within the city.

II. Next Steps

Cecelie stated that Alliance Transportation Group is now working to develop recommendations and scenarios for improvement of JET services based on the public feedback received as well as current capabilities. Cecelie said that MPO staff will continue to provide members with updates regarding the status of transit study in the coming weeks.

2018 Annual Performance & Expenditure Report

Cecelie announced to members that the 2018 Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER) is available for review on the MPO website. She informed the committee that the APER is developed at the end of each fiscal year, and documents plans/projects accomplished by the MPO during the designated fiscal year along with a brief financial summary.

Safety Action Plan

Cecelie notified the committee that MPO staff has completed development of a draft Safety Action Plan for the region. She stated that the plan was developed at the request of the Technical Advisory Committee to help assess current crash conditions within the MPO region as a means of support of the 2018 Safety performance measures/targets set by ARDOT to reduce the number of roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Cecelie stated that, although the Safety Action Plan does not require a vote for adoption, the data/content of the draft plan must be reviewed by the Technical Advisory and Policy Committees for accuracy before it can be made public. Once approved, Cecelie stated that the plan will be available on the MPO website.

Project Updates

There were no further project updates at this time.

Public Comments

Billy Holland announced that there may be plans for the possible construction of a peanut processing plant in the city of Jonesboro, which could potentially bring a significant number of jobs to the city if approved.

Adjournment

Billy Holland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.