



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
July 24, 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 5.22.19 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. MPO Newsletter (Volume II, Issue III)/MPO Website Update
 - b. Active Transportation Committee
 - c. MPO 101 Presentations/Webinar Viewings/Hosting
 - FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide Workshop
 - STIC/STEP Study Public Meeting
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
 - Priority Exercises
- 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 May 22, 2019

Location 3rd Floor Conference Room
Jonesboro 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 May 22, 2019 in the 3rd floor conference room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Rick Cheshier
Frank Pulcinski
Shunquetta Cunningham
Harold Carter
Andy Davis

Staff

Cecelie Cochran
Alan Pillow

Others

Judy Casteel

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Frank Pulcinski made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 27, 2019; Harold Carter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

New MPO Staff Introduction

Cecelie introduced Alan Pillow as the new MPO Planner.

MPO Newsletter (Volume II, Issue II)

Alan informed the committee that an electronic link to the newest edition of the MPO digital newsletter has been emailed to members. He stated that the MPO staff welcomes any/all feedback concerning the content and design of the newsletter. Alan also asked the committee to share the link, and to submit to MPO staff any ideas for potential features in the next edition. Andy Davis asked if the link to the MPO digital newsletter as well as the links to the MPO social media pages were available on the MPO website. Cecelie stated that all links pertaining to the MPO are available on the MPO webpage, and asked Alan to resend an email containing all relevant links to the MPO's digital newsletter and social media pages to the committee.

Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

- ***Status of Membership***

Cecelie reminded the committee that, according to the Bylaws, the MPO is required to maintain three committees: Transportation Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Citizen Advisory Committee. She informed members that the MPO is allowed to create additional ad hoc committees when necessary, and stated that, in 2016, the MPO created the Active Transportation Committee to assist in the development of the Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which provides a community vision for regional advancement of multi-modal infrastructure. Cecelie informed the committee that, since the completion of the ATP, attendance for the ATC meetings has decreased significantly especially with the recent resignation of the committee Chairman Bill Smith. Cecelie inquired as to whether or not the committee would be willing to merge the few remaining members of the ATC into the CAC. Members of the CAC agreed with the proposed idea.

New Business

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership

- ***Introduction of New Member – Andy Davis***

Cecelie introduced Andy Davis as the newest member of the CAC.

- ***New addition to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)***

Cecelie notified the committee that Bill Smith, who also serves as Bicycle Representative for the TAC, has resigned from that position as well. She informed the CAC that Cathe Carnes has been selected as his replacement as the new Bicycle Representative for the Technical Advisory Committee.

MPO 101 Presentations/Webinar Viewings

- ***Upcoming FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide Workshop***

Cecelie notified the committee that she has continued to host MPO 101 presentations to various groups throughout the community. She also informed the committee that she was given permission at the previous joint committee meeting held April 18, 2019 to submit a request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to host a local workshop regarding usage and application of the new Bikeway Selection Guide. The guide is a tool used by transportation practitioners to help incorporate bicycle accommodations/infrastructure during the planning process of new improvement projects. Cecelie stated that the FHWA has approved her request for the Bikeway Selection Guide workshop, and explained that it will be held Tuesday, June 25, 2019. She said that she is working with the FHWA and Arkansas State University to confirm the details for the one-day workshop, and that she will inform members of the official details for the workshop once they have been finalized with FHWA. She also advised members that seating for the workshop is limited as it is an educational opportunity for staff. However, she stated that she will reserve at least one or two seats for a member(s) of the CAC to attend as well. She stated that the members attending the workshop will be determined at a later date.

STIC/STEP Study

- ***Status Update***

Cecelie reminded the committee that, in 2017, the MPO was awarded federal funding to conduct a STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) study of two midblock crossing locations in Jonesboro that had been identified as having high traffic volume and significant amounts of pedestrian activity. She stated that the STEP study is well underway for the North Church Street (Highway 141) location, specifically the corridor between Parker Park

Community Center and Lewellan Park (Alpine Street to W. Allen Avenue). Cecelie notified the committee that both the traffic and pedestrian counts for N. Church Street have been collected and submitted to the study consultants (Garver USA). She presented members with several photos for discussion that were taken by MPO staff while completing the pedestrian counts for the study corridor on North Church Street. Cecelie informed the committee that the intersection of Johnson Avenue and State Street is the second location that will be studied. She notified members that a temporary crossing will be placed at the intersection, and that the MPO staff are awaiting approval from ARDOT to order the required materials.

Adoption of the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program

Cecelie informed the committee that the FY 2020 UPWP, which outlines the upcoming tasks MPO staff intends to complete as well as the estimated budget for the designated fiscal year, was approved and adopted on May 21, 2019. She notified the committee that the public comment period for the draft FY 2020 UPWP began on April 29, 2019 and ended May 13, 2019 with no public comments for changes/additions.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- ***2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)***

Cecelie informed the committee that the MPO is in the process of updating the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is a long-term plan that is updated every five years, and contains the overall community vision for the region as well as a list of intended improvement projects and projected funding availability for the region. Cecelie notified the committee that, at the previous joint meeting in April 2019, the TPC agreed that the TAC should review the current MTP projects to decide which projects need to either be removed or carried over/updated. She informed members that the TAC met on May 14, 2019 to begin the process of updating the MTP project list. She stated that all projects identified as “complete,” “under construction,” or in the “design phase” were allowed to be removed from the list as carryover for the new MTP update since they are or will be completed by the completion of the new plan. Cecelie stated that the next step for the TAC committee is to prioritize and update the cost and description for the remaining projects that have been identified for potential carryover.

- ***Upcoming Public Engagement Opportunities***

Cecelie asserted that it is important, for the development of the 2045 MTP, that the MPO staff engage with the public to discover any issues or potential projects that they have identified. She presented members of the committee with a draft of a Community Values Survey, which was duplicated from the previous 2040 MTP. Cecelie stated that she will be comparing citizens’ responses with previous findings from the 2040 MTP. Cecelie notified members that the survey will be distributed electronically, and requested that members of the committee provide feedback on the survey before it is released to the public. Shunquetta inquired if the MPO staff would be opposed to incorporating paper copies of the survey in the collection process as well. Cecelie explained that the use of paper surveys could potentially skew the data being sought as it increases the potential for duplication. She further explained that, due to limited staff, staff would not be able to manually collect and log on a regular basis. She stated that the MPO staff will be developing QR cards to help simplify the process of promoting and accessing the survey.

Cecelie further informed the committee that she has tested a priority exercise with students in Dr. Catherine Reese’s masters Public Budgeting & Finance class at Arkansas State University. She stated that she presented four poster boards individually labeled as the following: Safety Improvement Projects, Public Education, Local Policy Development, and Connectivity Projects. She then gave each student three stickers (one red, one yellow, and one green), and asked members to place the stickers on the presented posters based on their perceived level of priority for the region. In terms of level of priority, the green sticker represented high, the yellow sticker represented medium, and the red sticker represented a low priority. Cecelie informed members that, from that exercise with those students, Safety Improvement Projects received the highest priority with Connectivity Projects following as a close second. She stated that, due to the success of this exercise, she would be duplicating the exercise going forward with public engagement for the 2045 MTP. Cecelie also notified the committee that she would also like the MPO staff to conduct random pop-ups throughout the area with a dry-erase board in order to capture citizens’ own

personal vision for the future of the region. She stated that photos will be taken of those random encounters so that MPO staff can document the feedback in the upcoming plan.

Project Updates

There were no project updates at this time.

Public Comments

Cecelie informed the committee that the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department is having a public input meeting at Earl Bell Community Center on this date (May 22, 2019) from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. regarding a grant application for \$250,000 to potentially fund improvements to the center. She encouraged members to attend at the conclusion of this meeting.

Adjournment

Frank Pulcinski made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Shunquetta Cunningham. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.