

**Bristol Urban Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 6, 2021**

The May 6, 2021, Bristol MPO Executive Board meeting was held at the Wyatt Auditorium of the Slater Center (325 McDowell Street) in Bristol, Tennessee. It was not transmitted electronically.

Board Members Present:

Bill Sorah – City of Bristol, Tennessee
Jason Boswell – Town of Abingdon, Virginia
Ambre Torbett – Sullivan County, Tennessee (Chair)
Supervisor Phillip McCall – Washington County, Virginia
Ronda Sawyer – Tennessee Department of Transportation
Blake Ailor – Virginia Department of Transportation

Board Members Absent:

Bristol, Virginia

Others Present:

Melanie Fleenor (Bristol, VA)	Tim Beavers (Bristol, TN)
Rocky Warren (Mt. Rogers PDC)	Mason Gragg (Abingdon)
Jon McCurry (NET Trans)	Calvin Clifton (Mattern & Craig)
Candace Long (NET Trans)	Alicia Clifton (Abingdon)
Michael Surrett (Abingdon)	David Metzger (Bristol MPO)

Item 1 – Call to Order

MPO Chair Ambre Torbett called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday May 6, 2021.

Item 2 – Roll Call

Chair Ambre Torbett conducted roll call. A Quorum of members was present.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Supervisor McCall moved to adopt the minutes of the February 4, 2021, MPO meeting as submitted; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ailor. The motion was carried by a 6-0 vote.

Item 4 – Comments from the Public

There were no comments offered from the public.

Item 5 – Resolution 21-07: Virginia FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter: David Metzger

Mr. Metzger provided an overview of the UPWP as presented in the meeting packet, and explained the need for adopting the Virginia portion prior to July 1 to accommodate the fact

that the Virginia, Tennessee, and federal fiscal years do not all start at the same time. He went on to broadly explain the funding sources from FHWA, FTA, State of Tennessee, Commonwealth of Virginia, and local sources. Mr. Metzger then explained that a major work task for the upcoming year would be dealing with the results of the 2020 Census, which are anticipated to be released by the summer of 2022, and how they would impact the urban boundary designation, designation of roadway functional classes, and myriad other items. Mr. Metzger recommended adoption of Resolution 21-07 to the Board. There were no questions from the Executive Board regarding the UPWP.

Ms. Sawyer moved to approve Resolution 21-07 as presented; the motion was seconded by Supervisor McCall. The motion was carried by a 6-0 vote.

Item 6 - Other Matters

- a. *MPO Updates-Long Range Transportation Plan 2045.* Mr. Metzger advised the Board that MPO staff is on track to complete a first draft of the long-range transportation plan document by May 30, 2021, and a final document approval by the Board by September 2021, as required to meet state and federal requirements and still allow sufficient time for public comment periods. He further advised that the Bristol Travel Demand Model has been completed by the MPO's consultant and submitted to TDOT and VDOT; commented on by same; and that the consultant's and MPO's responses to their comments had just been sent back to TDOT. Mr. Ailor advised that as part of the development process for the long-range plan, both the Bristol and Kingsport MPOs would be able to use the VDOT MetroQuest software for gathering public comment on-line.
- b. *Federal Updates (FTA/FHWA).* No one was present at the meeting from either FTA or FHWA. Mr. Metzger advised the Board of a program (as requested by Sean Santalla of FHWA earlier that day by e-mail) called RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity), as a successor to the TIGER grant program. Areas with a population less than 200,000 were eligible to apply for infrastructure grants of up to \$25 million, with the grant applications due on July 12, 2021. He advised the board that he could provide a website with more information if they desired.
- c. *State Updates (TDOT/VDOT).* Ms. Sawyer (TDOT) advised that the UPWP was under review. Mr. Ailor (VDOT) advised the Board of a VDOT initiative called Project Pipeline, in which study locations for critical year alternatives would be developed for future submissions as Smart Scale projects. He further advised that locally, three intersections in Bristol, Virginia, were under review as a single project, as well at the area immediately east of Exit 19 in Washington County outside of Abingdon.

Item 7 – Adjournment

Mr. Sorah moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ailor and carried by a 6-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.