

**Bristol Urban Area  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
August 5, 2021**

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Sorah – City of Bristol, Tennessee  
Michael Surrett – 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)
Mason Gragg (Mt. Rogers PDC)	Rex Montgomery (Bristol MPO)
Jon McCurry (NET Trans)	Randy Dodson (Mattern & Craig)
Candace Long (NET Trans)	Tyler Vencill (Town of Abingdon)
Cory Osborne (VDOT)	David Metzger (Bristol MPO)
Troy Ebbert (TDOT)	Chase Milner (FTDD)
Chris Goodwin (Sullivan County)	Craig Ramey (Sullivan County)
Eric Kerney (Sullivan County)	

**Item 1 – Call to Order**

MPO Chair Ambre Torbett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday August 5, 2021, in the Ewell L. Easley Annex Building, Bristol, Tennessee

**Item 2 – Roll Call**

MPO Secretary Rex Montgomery conducted roll call. A Quorum of members was present.

**Item 3 – Approval of Minutes**

Ronda Sawyer moved to adopt the minutes of the May 6, 2021 MPO as submitted; seconded by Bill Sorah; motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4 – Comments from the Public**

There were no comments offered from the public.

**Item 5 – Resolution 21-08 Tennessee FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presenter: Rex Montgomery

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the MPO transportation planning activities for the fiscal year and programs the annual allocation of transportation planning grant funds to accomplish those activities. At the May 6, 2021 MPO meeting the Executive Board adopted Resolution 21-07,

approving the Virginia funding allocations for the FY 2022 UPWP (the Virginia UPWP funding is based on the July 1 State Fiscal Year).

Resolution 21-08 incorporates the Tennessee planning activities and grant funding associated with the FY 2022-23 UPWP (the Tennessee UPWP funding is based on the October 1 Federal Fiscal Year). The UPWP represents a 2-year work program; however, funding for FY 2023 is estimated.

Ronda Sawyer moved to approve Resolution 21-08, adopting the Tennessee FY 2022-23 Unified Planning Work Program as presented; seconded by Blake Ailor; motion carried unanimously.

**Item 6 – Resolution 21-09 Amendment # 5 FY 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Presenter: Rex Montgomery

The First Tennessee Human Resource Agency (FTHRA) owns and operates NET Trans, the rural public transportation provider for Northeast Tennessee. FTHRA has been awarded redistributed FY-2018 Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 funding, which provides funding to replace, rehabilitate, or purchase buses and related capital equipment.

FTHRA intends to utilize the funding for NET Trans to purchase one revenue vehicle for public transportation service within the Bristol Urbanized Area. Funding includes \$47,443 FTA (80%), \$5,930 TDOT (10%) and \$5,930 local (10%) for a total project budget of \$59,303. Amendment #5 programs FTA Section 5339 funds in the TIP for the NET Trans vehicle procurement.

Bill Sorah moved to adopt Resolution 21-09, approving Amendment #5 to the FY 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program; seconded by Ronda Sawyer; motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7 – Draft Long-Range Transportation Plan 2045**

Presenter: Rex Montgomery  
David Metzger

Rex Montgomery informed the Executive Board that the long-range transportation plan is a core planning requirement for the MPO and has to be updated every 5 years. The draft update to the Regional Transportation Plan Year 2045 has completed the state and federal review process with no required changes identified. The draft plan is now ready to be published for the required 30-day public comment period. The major components of the plan were presented to the MPO Board including the pedestrian and bicycle, public transportation, and safety elements. David Metzger provided an overview of the Tennessee and Virginia highway projects included in the plan. In addition, the results of the Transportation Survey that was conducted was reviewed.

After general discussion and questions on various elements of the draft plan, Rex Montgomery requested a “called” meeting to be scheduled after the 30-day comment period formally adopt the Regional Transportation. A meeting was scheduled for 10 AM on Thursday, September 23 for final adoption of the transportation plan.

### **Item 8 - Other Matters**

Blake Ailor (VDOT) advised the Board of a VDOT initiative called Project Pipeline, and discussed the project locations within the MPO. Project Pipeline is being developed to assist with future project submissions for Smart Scale. He further advised that pre-scoping document for the Piedmont Avenue bridge in Bristol, Virginia and been completed and consultant selection will be underway soon.

Troy Ebbert (TDOT) informed the MPO the paving schedule for next year had been sent to local jurisdictions for review. Any questions or comments on the schedule show be sent to the Region 1 community planner.

### **Item 9 – Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.