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**MEETING OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND THE POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE
OWENSBORO-DAVIESS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

November 26, 2019

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Policy Committee of the Owensboro-Daviess County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) met in a joint meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in Room 406, City Hall, Owensboro, Kentucky. Quorums for both committees were present with the members, as listed:

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Nick Hall, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) District 2
 Tim Lyons, Owensboro Municipal Utilities (OMU)
 Sean O'Bryan, Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA)
 Jiten Shah, Green River Area Development District (GRADD) (Rep. by Gina Boaz)
 Scott Atherton, Kenergy
 Barry House, KYTC Division of Planning
 Brittaney Johnson, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation (GO-EDC)
 (Rep. by Elizabeth Griffith)
 Brian Howard, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC)
 Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority
 Candance Brake, Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
 Mark Brasher, Daviess County Engineer
 Eric Perez, KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery (Rep. by Carrie Elliston)
 Nate Pagan, Owensboro City Manager, Chairman
 Sgt. Mike Page, Owensboro Police Department (OPD)
 Kevin Collignon, Owensboro City Engineer

David Johnston, Chairman ■ Brad Schneider, Vice Chairman ■ Al Mattingly, Jr., Secretary ■ Steve Henry, Treasurer ■ Jiten Shah, Executive Director

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TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlie Castlen, Daviess County Commissioner
Pamela Canary, Owensboro Transit System (OTS)
Lt. Scott Wedding, Daviess County Sheriff's Office
Rob Barnett, Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport
Bernadette Dupont, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Watson, City of Owensboro Mayor, Chairman
Deneatra Henderson, KYTC District 2, (Rep. by Nick Hall)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive, Vice-Chairman

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Catherine Burgin, KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery
Steve Johnson, Owensboro Health
Tom Lovett, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Policy Chairman Tom Watson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 24, 2019, joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. Barry House, of KYTC Division of Planning, asked for a correction clarifying that while there are no federal funds specifically for sidewalks, Transportation Assistance funds can be used on sidewalk projects.

A motion was made by Tom Watson and seconded by Nate Pagan to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019, Technical Advisory/Policy Committee meeting, as corrected. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Survey

Tom Lovett explained the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MTP is rewritten every five years and it addresses long-term planning (20 years). He started by breaking down results of the transportation survey run by the MPO. There were more than 1,400 responses, with over 1,200 respondents leaving at least one comment.

Mr. Lovett said, first, respondents were asked to prioritize four categories of transportation: roads, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit. Improvements to roads was the overwhelming top choice, receiving more than 1,100 first-place votes. Improvements to pedestrian facilities (sidewalks) was the second choice.

The next four questions asked people to prioritize inside each of those transportation categories. When it came to roads, maintaining current roads was the top choice, with intersection improvements and improvements to existing roads tying for second and third. Construction of new roads was last, with more than 1,000 fourth-place votes.

Mr. Lovett then presented some initial feedback. He said there is a lot of animosity between bicyclists and motorists. Motorists complained about bicyclists ignoring road safety laws (such as riding against traffic and ignoring red lights and stop signs). The bicyclists complained about motorists not giving them space to ride.

He mentioned the biggest request under the pedestrian question was to repair existing sidewalks throughout both the city and county.

The number one priority in the transit portion was people wanting additional service; specifically, longer hours and more days of service. A secondary transit issue was people saying there was a need for more bus shelters or at least a bench at every bus stop. He provided that feedback to OTS manager Pamela Canary.

Mr. Lovett said there were a lot of comments about too many projects going on at the same time and a lot of criticism about the synchronization of stoplights. Mayor Watson asked about the possibility of adjusting the lights on Kentucky 54 to accommodate heavier holiday shopping traffic. Mr. House said there are traffic signal systems that can adapt to heavier traffic loads, but said he didn't believe that was possible in Owensboro.

Mr. Lovett mentioned Kentucky 54 was a focus of most of the comments and said he wondered whether part of the problem was that people don't realize a project is taking place on the road.

Mr. Lovett stated he's pulling the comments together into a manageable form so they could be considered for inclusion in the state SHIFT prioritization plan and asked how the MPO would like him to proceed. He suggested bringing the MPO a list 20 or 25 projects for them to consider adding to the CHAF database. Members endorsed the idea and Mr. Lovett said he'd take care of it.

B. MTP

Tom Lovett told the committee he was setting up a schedule for production of the MTP. He anticipates bringing the first chapter to the January meeting. He stated he would be interviewing members about existing infrastructure.

VI. UPDATES

A. Highway District Office Update

Deneatra Hall provided the following updates:

- The Panther Creek bridge on KY 81 reopened “this morning.”
- Rumble strips at the northern end of I-165 have been removed.
- KYTC is in the middle of right-of-way acquisition for the first seven-lane widening section. About half of the parcels have been purchased. The governor would be presenting the new highway plan to the Legislature in January and progress on the KY 54 project was reliant on securing funding. The seven-lane section alone was an \$18 million project. She has requested funding for utility work and future right-of-way purchases.
- I-165 is complete.
- The permit for the Owensboro bridge relighting is complete.

B. MPO Update

Tom Lovett gave the following updates:

- Thomas Nelson, the FHWA division administrator for Kentucky, is no longer with the FHWA in Kentucky. The new division administrator is Todd Jeter. Mr. Jeter would like to come to Owensboro and meet with the MPO; he suggested either the January or March meeting.
- Mr. Lovett conducted a traffic count for the City of Owensboro at Patriot Run and Heartland Crossing (in front of Meijer).

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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