



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

September 28, 2021

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 at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom. Quorums for both committees were present with the members, as listed:

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Nate Pagan, Owensboro City Manager, Chairman
Tim Lyons, Owensboro Municipal Utilities
Barry House, KYTC Division of Planning (via Zoom)
Brittaney Johnson, Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation (represented by Elizabeth Griffith)
Brian Howard, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission
Sean O'Bryan, Regional Water Resource Agency
Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport Authority
Mark Brasher, Daviess County Engineer
Joanna Shake, Green River Area Development District
Scott Atherton, Kenergy
Candance Brake, Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce
Kevin Collignon, Owensboro City Engineer
Charlie Castlen, Daviess County Commissioner
Sgt. Mike Page, Owensboro Police Department
Sgt. Tyler Free, Daviess County Sheriff's Office
Bernadette Dupont, Federal Highway Administration

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Hall, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 2

Brad Schneider, Chairman ■ Al Mattingly, Jr., Vice Chairman ■ Steve Henry, Secretary ■ Adam O'Nan, Treasurer ■ Joanna Shake, Executive Director

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Eric Perez, KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery (represented by Carrie Elliston)
Pamela Canary, Owensboro Transit System
Tristan Durbin, Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Watson, City of Owensboro Mayor, Vice-Chairman
Deneatra Henderson, KYTC District 2

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive, Chairman
Todd Jeter, KY Division Administrator, FHWA
Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator, FTA

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Kiersten Jagers, KYTC District 2
Lindsay Walker, HMB Professional Engineers
Jarrod Johnson, HMB Professional Engineers
Brad Johnson, HMB Professional Engineers
Josh Kelly, Owensboro Times
Blake Edge, GRADD
Tom Lovett, GRADD
Janie Marksberry, via Facebook
Nancy Gillians, via Facebook
C.J. Ringwall, via Facebook
Steven Saalwaechter, via Facebook
Mark Catron, via Facebook

I. CALL TO ORDER

TAC Chair Nate Pagan called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 31, 2021, joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Mayor Tom Watson to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021, Technical Advisory/Policy Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Performance & Expenditure Report

Tom Lovett of GRADD presented the annual Performance & Expenditure (P&E) report to MPO members. He explained the report was drafted each September, after the close of the fiscal year. The report provides a comparison of funds spent in each of the nine work categories listed in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Lovett explained in each April, the MPO approves a UPWP, which details all the work to be done by the MPO in the upcoming year and how the grant money allocated to the MPO will be spent. The P&E report recaps those numbers and shows how much actually was spent and what work actually was done.

Mr. Pagan of the City of Owensboro asked what happened to unused funds. Barry House of the KYTC clarified those funds went back into the statewide fund and are available for distribution in future years. He further explained it is common for those funds to build up over time and then they can be used to fund projects such as studies, such as Outer Loop study.

B. Outer Loop Presentation

Lindsay Walker of HMB Professional Engineers presented a final draft of the Outer Loop Feasibility Study to MPO members. She stated the report was out for public comment and would be formally completed once all the comments had been gathered and incorporated into the report. She began by explaining the reasons for doing the study.

She explained who was on the study team, what data was compiled, how it was collated and the process used to ensure the public had the opportunity to offer their thoughts and input.

Ms. Walker told the committee members the study's final recommendation was an Outer Loop around Owensboro was unfeasible at this time. She said the decision was based on both the data gathered and local opinion.

She explained once that initial finding was complete, the team decided to gather some additional information on some specific segments. The decision was to look at three segments: AE, AF and G. Segment G would connect U.S. 231 and I-165. AE also would connect those roads, but a location closer to Owensboro. Segment AF would connect I-165 and KY 54. The team looked at data such as travel time benefits, safety and a cost analysis. She told the members that based on the data, these segments might merit future consideration.

Mr. Pagan asked what the timeline was for release of the final report. Ms. Walker replied the goal was to do it "as soon as possible" and to have it ready by the end of October.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Since the meeting was being streamed live on GRADD's Facebook page, staff were monitoring comments on the page so they could be brought to the MPO. Mr. Lovett shared several questions and comments:

One commenter asked the second stakeholder meeting be made public. The meeting was held virtually and recorded, and Mr. Lovett stated he could post the link to that recording.

A commenter asked who conducted the environmental study. Mr. Lovett replied there was not a separate environmental study. Ms. Walker said HMB has an environmental division that did some work, but they also used a consultant named Corn Island, based in Louisville for archaeological information.

One commenter asked when will the report be finalized. Mr. Lovett reiterated Ms. Walker's comments that the goal was to have it complete by the end of October.

A commenter asked what environmental issues were identified. Ms. Walker stated prime farmland was a big issue, as were wetlands and streams.

Someone asked for a list of stakeholders. Mr. Lovett said he would post that after the meeting.

A commenter asked for a definition of environmental justice. Ms. Walker explained it is looking at populations in an area to see if there are underserved communities such as people of minority origin. Mr. Lovett added the communities looked at for this study were people of minority origin, people who do not speak English well, people with disabilities, people living in poverty and elderly residents.

A commenter asked do you contend that having the date of June 5 as the first announcement of the survey and June 15 as the date to complete the survey is enough notice and time for the public to respond. Mr. Lovett clarified the first notice was June 7 and the comments were accepted through July 2.

Mr. Lovett stated those were all the comments and questions he saw on the Facebook page, but he shared his email and phone number again and said if any members of the public wanted additional information or had questions, they could contact him at GRADD and he would be happy to answer them.

VII. UPDATES

A. Highway District Office Update

Deneatra Henderson provided the following updates:

- The Fairview Drive public meeting was held, and more than 50 people attended. It was held in-person. She shared there are known congestion and safety issues on Fairview Drive, and the project is trying to alleviate those problems.
- The KY 54 widening project is still in progress

B. MPO Update

Mr. Lovett provided the following updates:

- There has been an Administrative Modification to the Transportation Improvement Program to add a project on KY 81. This project will improve safety. It is the Daviess County portion of a project that extends into McLean County.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Bernadette Dupont shared new Safety Targets have been released, and they will need to be acted upon in an upcoming meeting. Mr. Lovett said he had them on his agenda for the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

/tl