

**West Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization
West Memphis City Hall
205 South Redding, West Memphis, AR 72301**

**Joint Policy and Technical Committees Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 10:00 AM
Minutes**

MPO Policy Committee Members Present...

The Honorable Frank Fogleman, Mayor, City of Marion
The Honorable Woody Wheelless, Judge, Crittenden County
Tracy Brick, City of Marion
Cannon Callicott, Proxy for Rex Vines, ARDOT
Amanda Hicks, City of West Memphis
Paul Simms, Proxy for Jessie Jones, ARDOT
Paul Luker, City of West Memphis
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis
Ramona Taylor, City of West Memphis

MPO Technical Committee Members Present...

The Honorable Woody Wheelless, Judge, Crittenden County
Eddie Brawley, MPO Study Director
Tracy Brick, City of Marion
Ed Cain, City of Marion
Amanda Hicks, City of West Memphis
Cannon Callicott, ARDOT
Paul Luker, City of West Memphis
Paul Simms, ARDOT
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis

Other Individuals Present...

Shahka Afrika, Crittenden County NAACP
Richard Booth, Southland Gaming and Racing
Amy Heflin, FHWA
Judy Jackson, MPO
Philip Rodgers, Crisp Contractors
Sommer Smith, City of West Memphis
Rhonda Standridge, City of West Memphis
Bobby Williams, MPO
John Wintermantel, Southland Gaming and Racing

A quorum was present for both committees.

In the absence of Mayor Johnson, Mayor Fogleman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and encouraged everyone to sign in and to fill out the Title VI data form. He also introduced Ms. Tracy Brick. Ms. Brick is the new economic development director for Marion replacing Mike Demster who has retired. Introductions were then made.

Minutes

Mayor Fogleman presented the minutes of the November 14, 2017 Joint Policy Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Reports

FY 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Hino Bridge—Amanda Hicks reported that based on the bids received for the project, a recommendation was made to increase the STBGP funds from \$542,000.00 to \$660,000.00, an increase in Federal funds of \$118,000.00 with the necessary increase in local funds, as well. A motion was made to approve the increase, it was seconded and approved.

Delta Regional River Park Trail—Mr. Luker stated that 5.5 miles of the trail has been completed but with additional funding the trail has been extended by 2/3 mile. This extension, along with the work phase being done with the TAP funds dedicated to this project, is nearing completion. However, the trail is open now and in use. Ms. Taylor also reported that the West Memphis Advertising and Promotion Commission has built 3 bike repair stations along the path.

Interstate Project—Mr. Callicott stated work is continuing and is now scheduled for completion by May 2018.

Marion Overpass—Mr. Cain reported the environmental categorical exclusion report has been approved by ARDOT and the 30% plans are nearing completion as concrete and steel construction options are being discussed. There is still hope to bid the project in August.

Southloop Extension- Ms. Hicks reported that the contract on this project has been approved by ARDOT. As soon as the minor comments are addressed, the project should move forward.

Highway 191 Preservation—Mr. Callicott reported that this project is currently on schedule for 2019.

Highway 70 Preservation—Mr. Callicott reported that this project is currently scheduled to be let for bidding in April 2018.

Highway 38 Preservation— Mr. Callicott reported that this project is currently on schedule for 2018.

Highway 77 Preservation—Mr. Callicott reported that this project is nearing completion.

Lehr Street Bridge—Ms. Hicks reported that the project, which is being designed by ArDot, is still in the environmental review and design phase.

Highway 64 Widening in Marion—Mr. Fogleman reported that the City of Marion is still waiting a response from ARDOT on the project design. The project is still scheduled for 2019.

Southloop Extension Construction—Ms. Hicks reported that this is still scheduled for 2019 and may be bid in 2019 but construction may be in 2020 or later.

Missouri Street/Service Road Interchange—Mr. Brawley reported that ARDOT is currently studying construction options for this project. Construction is scheduled for 2020.

Interstate Safety Issues

Mr. Brawley reported that he had talked to ARDOT and the University of Arkansas and that a student from the university has received a grant to study this problem in West Memphis. Mr. Simms stated that ARDOT is still waiting to hear from the national study request that has been submitted to the National Cooperative Research Program.

Air Quality

Mr. Brawley related that Crittenden County remains in attainment as a maintenance area. He also reported that targets must soon be set for CMAQ in cooperation with TDOT, MDOT, ARDOT, the Memphis MPO and the West Memphis MPO. One of these targets is for [increasing] the percentage of non-SOV (Single Occupancy Vehicles) and there is an agreement, although not official, among all parties on 15.8%. The goal, of course, is to see this percentage increase. Mr. Brawley stated that at some point the Policy Committee will have to act on this. There was additional discussion on other

necessary targets, responsibilities and the ramifications of not meeting the targets once set.

I-55 Mississippi River Bridge Closing Update

Mr. Brawley reported that there is still no official word on this project, however, the unofficial word is that the project will be bid later this year.

Transit

Mr. Luker reported that due to ridership and funding issues the transit system will end on March 31, 2018.

New Business

Title VI Report

Mr. Brawley presented the Title VI Report and recommended it for approval. A motion was made to approve the report, seconded and approved. (This report is prepared every three years).

Election of Officers

The current officers are:

Chairman—Mayor Johnson

Vice Chairman—Mayor Fogleman

Secretary/Treasurer—Phillip Sorrell

There was a motion to retain the current slate of officers. The motion was seconded and approved.

2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Simms stated the MPO provided a list of projects to ARDOT in 2016 for the 2018-2021 STIP. Since the dates have changed, he asked if there were any additional projects that should be added for 2022. Mr. Brawley reviewed the original list and mentioned the possible addition of the proposed overpass at L. H. Polk and the one-way service roads for 2022. A discussion of this project followed. A motion was made and seconded to add this project to the list for 2022.

Traffic Calming Options

Mr. Brawley reported that he would meet with the West Memphis and Marion fire chiefs to discuss traffic circles/roundabouts and speed tables as possible traffic calming options and test locations.

Broadway Bike Lane Options

Mr. Brawley reported that the MPO staff has been studying this and presented various options including alternate routes through West Memphis. (Maps are available upon

request.) A discussion followed. Mr. Simms said that he would investigate the use of sharrow signage for Broadway. Ms. Taylor asked for additional studies on the alternate routes. Mr. Brawley suggested that the West Memphis Main Street committee should contact ARDOT and request the sharrow bike signage be added to Broadway.

Announcements/Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 8, 2018

An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.