

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

**Joint Policy and Technical Committees Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:00 AM**

West Memphis Civic Center—East Room  
212 West Polk Avenue, West Memphis, Arkansas

**Minutes**

**MPO Policy Committee Members Present...**

The Honorable William Johnson, Mayor, City of West Memphis  
The Honorable Frank Fogleman, Mayor, City of Marion  
Rex Vines, AHTD  
Mike Demster, City of Marion  
Paul Simms, AHTD (Proxy for Jessie Jones)  
Somers Smith (Proxy for Paul Luker, City of West Memphis)  
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis  
Rhonda Standridge, City of West Memphis  
Ramona Taylor, City of West Memphis

**MPO Technical Committee Members Present...**

The Honorable, William Johnson, Mayor, City of West Memphis  
Eddie Brawley, MPO Study Director  
Mike Demster, City of Marion  
Ed Cain, City of Marion  
Rex Vines, AHTD  
Rhonda Standridge, City of West Memphis  
Somers Smith (Proxy for Paul Luker, City of West Memphis)  
Paul Simms, AHTD  
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis

**Other Individuals Present**

Joe Akers, City of West Memphis  
Bobby Williams, MPO

A quorum was present for both committees.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, encouraged everyone to sign in and to fill out the Title VI data form. Introductions were then made.

## Minutes

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

## **Reports**

### Committee Meetings

Mr. Brawley gave a brief report of the May 2, 2017 Citizens Advisory committee meeting. The committee met as scheduled and discussed all items on today's agenda.

### FY 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Hino Bridge**—Mr. Sorrell stated that he received final comments from AHTD and is incorporating those comments into the final plans. The right-of-way issues have not been resolved but the project should still be bid later this summer with construction beginning this fall.

**Delta Regional River Park Trail**—Mr. Brawley stated that due to the river flooding, the project area is under water at the current time. He also informed the committee that an application has been submitted for additional funds to add improvements to the trail.

**Interstate Project**—Mr. Vines reported that work is continuing on the I-40 project and that tentative completion remains scheduled for mid-August.

**Marion Overpass**—Mr. Fogelman and Mr. Cain reported that Marion is hoping to soon have a schedule in place determining when the plans will be finished and construction can begin.

**Highway 70 Preservation**—Overlay project From Lehi to Highway 77. Mr. Brawley related that the desire is, for safety concerns, that the highway be marked for 5 lanes at least from College Blvd. to Rich Road.

**Highway 38**—Scheduled for 2018.

**Lehr Street Bridge**—Scheduled for 2019.

**Transportation Alternatives (TA) Projects**—The City of West Memphis is awaiting the Corps of Engineers to approve the project.

**Highway 64 Widening in Marion**—The City of Marion is currently considering the design cross section. It is shown as a five-lane facility on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan but Marion is looking at a 3 lane total street concept including bike paths and sidewalks.

**Southloop Extension**—Ms. Standridge stated that the City of West Memphis has decided on a short list of firms and have sent them the scope of work. Proposals are due May 25<sup>th</sup> after which a design engineering firm will be chosen. An environmental assessment is required for this project and may take up to an extra year.

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

### **2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Mr. Brawley reported that the Imagine 2040 MTP had been approved by EPA and that the MPO is awaiting final approval by FHWA/FTA.

### **Air Quality**

Mr. Brawley related that there are currently no air quality concerns. He reminded the committees that Crittenden County is now in attainment and re-designated as a maintenance area. Further, he said that the average ozone readings for the past 3 years show that the area is in compliance with the new ozone standard of 70 ppb and will, hopefully, remain in compliance this year.

### **I-55 Bridge Closing Update**

Mr. Brawley reported there was nothing new on the project. The project has been set aside.

### **Transit**

Ms. Smith reported that public meetings are scheduled in West Memphis for May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with the intent to encourage the residents and increase ridership. Funding is in place through December of this year.

### **New Business**

Mr. Brawley presented the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program and briefly explained the new format, work tasks and budgets. A motion was made to approve the UPWP. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Brawley explained the previously approved 2017 UPWP budget increase and in conjunction with a request from AHTD presented the committee a revised budget sheet indicating how those funds were used.

A study has been requested to address the problem of pedestrians crossing the interstate in West Memphis. This is in response to the motel owners from West Memphis voicing their concerns about pedestrians crossing the interstate near their locations and the Southland Gaming and Racing facility.

### **Announcements**

#### **Adjournment**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.  
The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 8, 2017

An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.