

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

Joint Policy and Technical Committees Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 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
Cannon Callicott (Proxy for Rex Vines, ARDOT)
Mike Demster, City of Marion
Paul Simms, (Proxy for Jessie Jones, ARDOT)
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
Cannon Callicott, ARDOT
Rhonda Standridge, City of West Memphis
Paul Luker, City of West Memphis
Paul Simms, ARDOT
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis

Other Individuals Present...

Amanda Hicks, City of West Memphis
Sommer Smith, City of West Memphis
Bobby Williams, MPO
Judy Jackson, MPO
Philip Rodgers, Crisp Contractors
Leo Chitman
Sajid Hossain, Memphis MPO
John Rech, Crittenden Publishing

A quorum was present for both committees.

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

Minutes

Mayor Fogleman presented the minutes of the May 9, 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 August 1, 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 the final plans have been approved by ARDOT. Although right of way issues remain, he is working with ARDOT and Parsons and these issues should be resolved in the near future.

Delta Regional River Park Trail—Mr. Luker stated that work is being done on this project with a tentative completion date of 30 days.

Interstate Project—Mr. Callicott stated work is continuing. However, with additional work added to the project, the completion date is now scheduled for after the first of year.

Marion Overpass—Mr. Cain reported that the environmental documents are nearing completion. The design plans should be completed in August of 2018 with a Notice to Proceed tentatively scheduled for November 2018.

Highway 70 Preservation—This project has currently been placed on hold per ARDOT.

Highway 38—This project has currently been placed on hold per ARDOT.

Lehr Street Bridge—Scheduled for 2019. Mr. Simms stated that this is not currently included in the STIP and a letter, requesting the addition of the project, may be required. He added that he would notify the MPO if that was the case.

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

Highway 64 Widening in Marion—Mayor Fogleman commented it is too early to know the exact plans. Ed Cain said the ARDOT construction field surveys are completed and bike lanes are proposed. Mr. Simms stated that bike lanes must be on an approved bike plan in order to obtain funding.

Southloop Extension- Mr. Sorrell asked for a change in TIP which would add \$400,000 of STBGP funds to PE/Environmental phase of this project. This request was based the notification that a full environmental assessment would be required for this project as well as the need for additional design work based on the proposed alignment. These funds will be moved from the utilities and right-of-way phase of this project which is also scheduled for FY 2017. Additionally, because the remaining funds for the utilities and right of way phase of this project cannot be obligated this year, part of the remaining funds will be used to fund the current TAP project (actually a change order to the Delta River Park Bike Trails project). For the balance of the funds, Mr. Simms suggested writing a letter to ARDOT requesting the MPO be allowed to carry-over the funds to FY 2018 so as not to lose them. Mr. Luker made a motion to transfer the funds and write the letter as suggested and if letter is not approved, then allocate remaining funds to the Transit Authority. Motion seconded and passed. **(Since the meeting, ARDOT has informed the MPO that they will be allowed to carry over approximately \$1,000,000.00 of STBGP GT 200K funds each year.)**

Missouri Street/Service Road Interchange—Mr. Brawley reported that ARDOT 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 has been approved by FHWA/FTA.

Air Quality

Mr. Brawley related that Crittenden County remains in attainment 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 so this year through the end of the ozone season.

I-55 Bridge Closing Update

Mr. Brawley reported the TDOT study of the closing issue has been put on hold until the updated Memphis MPO Travel Demand Model is available.

Transit

Mr. Luker reported that current funding issues have been resolved. This was accomplished with the additional CMAQ funds that the MPO dedicated to the transit system as well as a reduction in the hours of operation and route changes by MATA. Ridership is holding at approximately 8,000.

New Business

No New Business.

Other Business

Mr. Brawley stated he had written a letter concerning the problem of pedestrians crossing the interstate in West Memphis near the Southland Gaming and Racing facility, Mr. Simms noted ARDOT is conducting a review of literature on the subject and is considering a statewide study.

Announcements Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2017

An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.