

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

Joint Policy and Technical Committees Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 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
Mike Demster, City of Marion
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
Rex Vines, ARDOT

MPO Technical Committee Members Present...

The Honorable, William Johnson, Mayor, City of West Memphis
Eddie Brawley, MPO Study Director
Ed Cain, City of Marion
Mike Demster, City of Marion
Amanda Hicks, City of West Memphis
Rex Vines, ARDOT
Paul Luker, City of West Memphis
Paul Simms, ARDOT
Phillip Sorrell, City of West Memphis

Other Individuals Present...

Emanuel Banks, ARDOT
Judy Jackson, MPO
Jonne McEleah, Allan and Hoshall
Reginald Murdock, Arkansas House of Representatives, District 48
John Rech, Crittenden Publishing
Philip Rodgers, Crisp Contractors
Somerset Smith, City of West Memphis

Rhonda Standridge, City of West Memphis
Bobby Williams, MPO
John Youngbeck, Title IV Program Manager

A quorum was present for both committees.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and 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 August 8, 2017 Joint Policy Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Presentations

Mr. Emanuel Banks, ARDOT, made a PowerPoint presentation concerning the fiscal needs related to the Arkansas highway system and also encouraged everyone to take the Citizens Opinion Survey on Highways in Arkansas. The survey can be found on the ARDOT web site and a link to it is available on the West Memphis MPO web site.

Mr. Paul Simms, ARDOT, followed with a PowerPoint presentation on Safety Performance Targets. He explained how ARDOT had set the State targets and that the MPOs, under the FAST Act performance measures criteria, have the option of adopting their own targets or supporting the State targets. After discussing the issue, the Policy Committee voted to adopt the State targets for the WMATS by approving resolution 1117001.

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 he was awaiting final approval from ARDOT to advertise for construction.

Delta Regional River Park Trail—Mr. Luker stated that work on this project should be finished this week (By November 17, 2017). Another discussion arose about the possibility of providing a bikeway on Broadway. Mr. Brawley advised the committee that any design would have to be approved by ARDOT. Ms. Taylor requested that the MPO study the best way to do this and hold public hearing to ensure both public and professional input.

Interstate Project—Mr. Vines stated work is continuing and should be completed by the middle of June 2018.

Marion Overpass—Mr. Cain reported the environmental categorical exclusion report had been submitted to ARDOT and that preliminary roadway design was underway. He also said that they hoped to bid the project next August.

Highway 191 Preservation—Mr. Vines reported that this project is currently on hold due to the new hospital construction.

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

Highway 38—No Report.

Lehr Street Bridge—No Report

Highway 64 Widening in Marion—Mr. Cain reported that this project was now being referred to as the Gateway Project and that the City of Marion is currently negotiating with ARDOT on the project design.

Southloop Extension- Mr. Sorrell reported that the P.E. contract on this project has been under review with ARDOT since July. Mr. Simms stated that he would investigate the lengthy delay.

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. 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.

I-55 Bridge Closing Update

Mr. Brawley reported that TDOT continues to await the updated Memphis MPO Travel Demand Model before proceeding with the project.

Transit

Mr. Luker reported that despite the City's best efforts, the ridership has continued to drop and is now about 4,000 per month.

Interstate Safety Issues

Mr. Simms stated that a national study request on the problem of pedestrians crossing interstate highways has been submitted to the National Cooperative Research Program.

New Business

The 2018 MPO calendar was presented for approval. A motion as made, seconded and approved.

FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Simms stated that there was nothing to report from ARDOT on this.

Mr. Brawley discussed various traffic calming devices and requested approval from the committees to proceed in identifying pilot projects. If approved, funding for these projects would be made through available CMAQ funds and a local match. The local match would be 20%. There was a consensus agreement to move forward with this request.

Announcements/Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 2018

An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.