

**Minutes**  
**East TN Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting**  
**Tuesday March 24, 2015**  
**9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor, U.T. Conference Center**  
**600 Henley Street; Knoxville, Tennessee 37996**

**Members Attending :**

John Naylor, CMAA  
Melissa Taylor, Chattanooga TPO  
Bill Marrison, Knoxville Airport Authority  
John Bennett, Chattanooga  
Diane Davidson, ORNL  
David Freeman, CRP  
Don Loftis, Olin Corporation  
Debbie Davis Waltermire, Eastman Chemical  
Ed Shouse, Knoxville TPO  
Steve Hiatt, Chattanooga Chamber  
Mike Conger, Knoxville TPO  
Mark Burton, UT-CTR  
Nick Weander, TDOT  
Jack Qualls, TDOT  
John K. Barrett, TDOT  
Zach Johnson, TDOT  
Shengli Xiol, UT-CTR  
Matt Murray, UT-CBER  
Jin Zeng, UT-CTR  
David Clarke, UT-CTR  
Angie Midgett, TDOT  
Carlos McCloud, TDOT  
Bob Rock, TDOT

**Opening Comments**

**David Clark** welcomed the FAC to UT.

**Angie Midgett** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those attending introduced themselves and told who they represented.

## Plan Updates

### Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

- **Angie Midgett** gave an update on the progress made in the development of TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Plan.
- Executive leadership at TDOT has approved policies for incorporation into the eight policy papers that will serve as the foundation for the Plan. The topics for these policy papers were briefly discussed and it was mentioned that they are now online for public review and comment. FAC members should have received a link to the Long Range Planning Division website, where they can be found. They are available on the website until April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- We are accepting CMAQ applications in eligible non-attainment counties. Applications are due Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Freight Plan

- **Bob Rock** gave an update on the Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan.
- It was mentioned that the Plan has undergone extensive internal review by TDOT directors and that it is currently being reviewed by TDOT upper management before submittal to FHWA.
- The TRAIT tool was discussed briefly. This tool can be used to help prioritize projects.
- It was emphasized that even after the Freight Plan has been submitted and approved by FHWA it can be updated and revised as necessary.

### Travel Demand Model Update

- **Bob Rock** also presented an update on the new statewide travel demand model.
- It was communicated that TDOT now has a working travel demand model with estimated truck flows using ATRI data. Phase 3 of the model will make use of the TRANSEARCH data to estimate commodity flows on the network.

### Rail Plan Update

- **Carlos McCloud** provided a brief update on the progress made in the Statewide Rail Plan.
- Needs assessments have been completed for tracks and funding.
- Chattanooga received a TIGER grant to look at extension from airport to downtown.
- An inland port for Chattanooga was brought up and discussed.

## Freight Profiles

### Freight Newsletter

- **Bob Rock** and **Carlos McCloud** presented the first issue of a freight newsletter that TDOT has begun to develop. It is envisioned that this will be published on the TDOT website as well as emailed to FAC members and any other interested stakeholders across the state.
- The idea behind the newsletter is that it would be used to communicate freight-related project information to the industry and highlight companies, individuals, or projects pertaining to freight in Tennessee.
- It was mentioned that a freight blog has been suggested.
- The Chattanooga freight plan was discussed, along with a TDOT study on the VW plant.

#### Freight Brochure

- **Carlos McCloud** provided a brief description of the freight brochure that is currently under development in coordination with TDOT's other freight planning efforts.

#### Region Report

#### FAC Committee

- **Carlos McCloud** (TDOT) asked for recommendations in terms of companies and/or individuals who should be included in FAC events.
- Need of FACs to become working committees was discussed.
- **Mark Burton** of UT commented on the response to the Multi-modal Access Policy and asked what other topics interest the committee.
- The suggestion was made that the committee chairs could get together to discuss FAC's direction.
- The suggestion was made that TDOT could put together webinars like the "Talking Freight" series from FHWA to inform about freight topics.
- A possible Freight Symposium was mentioned and discussed.
- **Diane Davidson** suggested that the FAC needs to get together to find common ground and determine FAC needs.
- **Don Loftis** said that information given to the FAC on projects to prioritize was limited, so that good rankings were not possible. However, Don said that the since FAC rankings carried such low weight in the prioritization process, it did not matter.
- **Melissa Taylor** brought up the fact that most projects for Freight Plan were concerned with trucks. It is hard to provide input when only one mode is being considered.

#### TDOT Freight Related Project Status

- **John Barrett** from TDOT's Region 1 gave an update on projects in the region with a freight relation.

### Featured Speaker

- **Matt Murray** of the UT Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) gave a presentation on the state of the US and Tennessee economies, and the future outlook of these economies.
- Specifics included the housing and auto markets.
- The possible rise in interest rates was discussed.
- Low growth in rural areas of Tennessee was discussed.

### Discussion Items

- **Carlos McCloud** told the FAC members about a survey that they could take involving choices about public/private partnerships and priorities in freight. This survey is available online.

### Conclusion

- **Bob Rock** thanked everyone for attending and supporting the FAC in East Tennessee.