

Minutes
Joint Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting
December 13, 2013
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bridge Building, Nashville

FAC Members Attending :

Jim Fleming, Eastman	David Freeman, Capital Resource
John Bennett, JIT Chemical	Jenny Park, Chattanooga TPO
Dianne Davidson, ORNL	Don Loftis, Olin Corporation
William Marrison, Knoxville Airport Authority	W. Neely Mallory, The Mallory Group
Michael Garriga, BNSF Railway	Jim Kvedaras, CN Railway
Mike Moyer, Port of Memphis	Doak Slay, FedEx
Pragati Srivastava, Memphis MPO	Blake Roberson, Ingram Barge
David Dallas, Milan Express	Steve Hiatt, Chattanooga Chamber
Robby Klein, Norfolk Southern	Shundrekia Stewart, BNSF
Amber Locke, Cheatham County	Ken Marsh, Kingsport
Stan Williams, Clarksville MPO	Chad Bowman, City of Memphis
Dan Vits, Bridgestone America	Jenny Park, Chattanooga TPO
Phillip Edwards, Titan Transfer	A.C. Wharton, City of Memphis
Mandy White, Jackson Chamber	Felix Castrodad, Nashville MPO
Rob Wigington, Nashville Airport Authority	Kent Starwalt, TN Roadbuilders Association
Craig Philip, Ingram Barge	Steve Preston, CBRE
Scott Sigman, Freight Consulting FLM	Bill Marrison, Knoxville Airport Authority
Dexter Muller, Memphis Chamber	James Hay, Memphis Airport
John Butler, TN ECD	

Others Attending:

John Schroer, TDOT	Toks Omishakin, TDOT
Lyndsey Botts, TDOT	Tanisha Hall, TDOT
Pam Kordenbrock, FHWA	Corbin Davis, FHWA
Brian Caldwell, TDOT	Mark Burton, UTK
Kevin Herrit, TDOT	Stacy Morrison, TDOT
Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT	Angie Midgett, TDOT
Carlos McCloud, TDOT	George Moss, TDOT
Bob Rock, TDOT	Dave Clarke, UTK
Mark Abkowitz, Vanderbilt University	Dan Pallme, University of Memphis
Marty Lipinski, University of Memphis	Liza Joffrion, TDOT
Teresa Neal, AECOM	Lee Hutchins, AECOM
Ralph Comer, TDOT	Mihalis Golias, University of Memphis
Nick Weander, TDOT	Brad Freeze, TDOT
Mike Brown, TDOT	Preston Elliott, RPM
Larry McGoogin, TDOT	Janey Camp, Vanderbilt

Opening Comments

Tanisha Hall welcomed everyone to the Joint FAC meeting. Tanisha made note of the good turnout, saying that it showed the interest in freight in Tennessee. Tanisha talked about the agenda and pointed out that we would have group meetings later.

Presentations

Paul Sloan from the Cumberland River Compact gave a presentation about the history of the Bridge Building and about the Cumberland River Compact and its mission.

Pam Kordenbrock and **Corbin Davis** from FHWA Tennessee gave a PowerPoint presentation about Freight Planning from the perspective of MAP-21. They talked about the National and State Freight Advisory Committees, the national Primary Freight Network, state freight plans and performance management. Pam encouraged committee members to send in comments on the Primary Freight Network by the January 17, 2014 deadline. After the presentation, they answered questions from the committees.

TDOT Commissioner John Schroer talked about the backlog of projects confronting TDOT, and the lack of funding available for these projects. He noted that MAP-21 ends next year, and that we do not need to go back to the short-term funding resolutions of the past few years. He said that these short-term measures do not support long range planning efforts.

Bob Rock of TDOT and **Lee Hutchins** of AECOM gave a presentation on the State Freight Plan effort that is just getting underway. It was emphasized that this plan will be multi-modal, and that we need input from everyone on the committees.

Roundtable Discussion

The roundtable discussion was moderated by **Toks Omishakin**. Committee members on the Roundtable were **William Marrison, Don Loftis, Scott Sigman, Craig Phillip, and Dexter Muller**.

Listed below are the main points from the discussion:

Intermodal Connectivity

- Better connections needed to airports
- There are no facilities in Nashville for intermodal barge activity
- Chickamauga lock is failing; will put many trucks on highways
- Increase in diesel tax would provide more money for river system improvements

Funding

- Public Private Partnership (PPP) money is ready to be invested, but the mechanisms are not in place
- FHWA will try to get whatever is needed into the rules
- We need a coalition like AAA to lobby for change in revenues
- Index gas tax - fee on license plates

Public/Private Communication

- Communication is moderately good
- Some in group have received Customer Satisfaction Surveys
- Some public priorities are in line with ours (private)
- We need to broaden reach to other federal agencies and bring them in

Issues Facing Freight Industry

- Funding... We are willing to pay our share
- Fuel prices are biggest challenge
- State's general aviation airport system is well funded
- Agricultural roads and bridges in Tennessee are on decline- need help

Regional and Executive Committee Meetings

The committees broke down into regional and executive committees to introduce themselves, talk about issues and goals, and to discuss the subject of electing officers at the next meeting. The regional meetings were facilitated by representatives of our partner universities (**David Clarke, Mark Abkowitz, and Dan Pallme**), and the executive committee meeting was facilitated by **Tanisha Hall**.

Final Remarks

Tanisha thanked everyone for attending and said we will have another joint meeting early next year. That meeting will include representatives from adjoining states, and we will elect officers at that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.