



## **Middle TN Freight Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon**

**RASP Building, Tennessee State University**

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Attendees:**

<b>Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT</b>	<b>Casey Langford, TDOT</b>
<b>Max Baker, AECOM</b>	<b>David Lee, TDOT</b>
<b>Mike Bohleber, Pine Bluff Materials</b>	<b>Xiaoming Li, Tenn. State Univ.</b>
<b>Meredith Cebelak, Gresham Smith &amp; Partners</b>	<b>Andy Lucyshyn, Gresham Smith &amp; Partners</b>
<b>Deo Chimba, Tenn. State Univ.</b>	<b>Larry McGoogin, TDOT</b>
<b>Theresa Claxton, FHWA</b>	<b>Paul Perry, TDOT</b>
<b>Mary Connelly, Nashville MPO</b>	<b>Dan Pallme, TDOT</b>
<b>Joe Deering, TDOT</b>	<b>Craig Philip, Vanderbilt University</b>
<b>Tom Doherty, TDOT</b>	<b>Rashad Pinchney, TDOT</b>
<b>Deborah Fleming, TDOT</b>	<b>Jonathan Russell, TDOT</b>
<b>Vontra Giles, FHWA</b>	<b>Sean Santalla, FHWA</b>
<b>Jim Hall, Carrier Services of TN, Inc.</b>	<b>John Schroer, TDOT</b>
<b>Tanisha Hall, TDOT</b>	<b>Sperry Simmons, ABF Freight</b>
<b>Bill Hamilton, TDOT</b>	<b>Josh Suddath, TDOT</b>
<b>W. Yeol Joe, Tenn. State Univ.</b>	<b>Aayush Thakur, TDOT</b>
<b>Liza Joffrion, TDOT</b>	<b>Donna Tomlinson, TN Trucking Assoc.</b>
<b>Zach Johnson, TDOT</b>	<b>Mark Crutcher, Nashville Intl. Airport</b>
<b>Amy Kosanovic, TDOT</b>	<b>Craig Wade, Nashville &amp; Eastern RR</b>
	<b>Stan Williams, Clarksville MPO</b>

**9:30 a.m. – Meeting opened with words of welcome from Dr. S. Keith Hargrove, Dean, College of Engineering at Tennessee State University.**

**9:40 a.m. – Commissioner John Schroer of TDOT spoke on Governor Haslam's proposed budget, the IMPROVE Act. He showed a video that described the details of the IMPROVE Act and then fielded questions from the audience.**

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. – The meeting paused for a time of refreshments and networking.**

**10:45 a.m. – Tanisha Hall, Director of TDOT Long Range Planning Division, gave an update on university research activities. These research activities are related to freight-specific projects.**

**During the presentation, Dr. Craig Philip, Vanderbilt University, spoke specifically about the FAC and Supply Chains research project. He mentioned that a questionnaire will be coming out to gather feedback for this project.**

**Tanisha also encouraged all FAC members to provide feedback on the other freight research projects.**

**Aayush Thakur, Senior Freight Planner, directed members to the freight website for a listing of all research projects. A question was asked about the length of research projects and Tanisha and Aayush answered that most of the projects had time lengths of one to three years.**

**Tanisha next touched on making the statewide freight plan FastACT compliant. This process must be completed by September 2017.**

**Tanisha and Casey Langford, Supervisor of the Policy office, spoke on the Invest Round 3 implementation grant. They will need input of the 17 metrics of the grant. The deadline is September, 30, 2017.**

**Dan Pallme, Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning / Freight and Logistics Director, next spoke about reaching out to industry contacts to get feedback on all the freight projects.**

**Dan also covered what he is trying to do in his role. He wants FAC members to get value out of being involved in this committee. He is currently working with several divisions to develop a multimodal freight plan that works.**

**Joe Deering, TDOT Region 3 Project Development Director, spoke about freight projects that are specific to Region 3. He also highlighted the new Statewide Project Overview Tracker (SPOT) located on the TDOT website. SPOT can be used to locate information on all projects proposed to be impacted by the IMPROVE Act.**

**Dan Pallme spoke again how the current freight construction projects are being prioritized to benefit from the IMPROVE Act. Tennessee has also received \$28.5 million in federal funds to be utilized for freight construction projects.**

**Craig Philip asked Dan about funding for short line railroads. Dan said that this funding is currently on hold because of a lawsuit. However, he and Liza Joffrion, Director of Multimodal**

Transportation Resources Division, are developing criteria to prioritize projects once funding is available.

Jonathan Russell, OCT Community Planner, spoke to the group about the I-65 Corridor Study that is going on. He mentioned that there was a first round of public engagement that occurred in the fall of 2016. The next round of public meetings is coming up in late spring/early summer 2017. Craig Philip asked that the FAC members be included in the communication for these public meetings.

11:45 a.m. – Tanisha thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned.

