



West TN Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

FedEx Institute of Technology, University of Memphis

Meeting Minutes:

Attendees:

Calvin Abram, TDOT	Kenny Monroe, Kimley-Horn
Manny Belen, City of Memphis	Marty Morelli, Old Dominion Freight Line
Jasmine Champion, Mem. Assoc. of Govts.	Toks Omishakin, TDOT
Dave Curran, Cushman & Wakefield	Bill Pallme, Jamac Logistics
John Dudas, Belz Enterprises	Dan Pallme, TDOT
Michael Garriga, BNSF	Shahram Pezeshk, University of Memphis
Glen Harchum, Hatfield & Assoc.	Brian Rogers, Vibrant Memphis
James Hay, Memphis Intl. Airport	Darren Sanders, Shelby County
Michael Hoffman, FedEx	Nicole Seymour, TDOT
Bennie Hopkins, Desoto County, MS	Parker Sherwood, City of Memphis
Sajid Hossain, University of Memphis	Pragati Srivastava, Memphis MPO
Stephanie Ivey, University of Memphis	Aayush Thakur, TDOT
Mike Landrum, Mem. Assoc. of Govts.	Sherri Tipton, Alliance Shippers, Inc.
Casey Langford, TDOT	Tom Word, Memphis Light, Gas & Water
Martin Lipinski, University of Memphis	Don Colvin, FedEx
Larry McGoogin, TDOT	Kelly Rayne, Memphis Chamber
Sabya Mishra, University of Memphis	

9:30 a.m. – Meeting opened with words of welcome from Dr. Stephanie Ivey, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering at University of Memphis.

9:35 a.m. – Larry McGoogin, Assistant Director of TDOT Long Range Planning Division, welcomed everyone to the FAC meeting and extended TDOT's gratitude to University of Memphis for hosting the FAC meeting

9:40 a.m. – Pragati Srivastava, Administrator at Memphis MPO, shared the update on the ongoing projects at the MPO including the MPO freight plan, update to MPO Travel Demand

Model and next transportation plan for the MPO. The MPO freight plan will be updated by August 2018. This update will include truckers' interview responses regarding related challenges and an update to the travel demand model.

9:50 a.m. – Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishakin of TDOT spoke on Governor Haslam's proposed budget, the IMPROVE Act.

Toks spoke about where TDOT is as it pertains to State Transportation/infrastructure funding and how we can create ways to obtain the necessary funding needed to improve our transportation and infrastructure system.

The Deputy Commissioner spoke on 2005 and 2012 were the last time States received highway funding aside from continued resolutions (CR). This funding was MAP 21 and the next was the Fast Act; however, the Fast Act appears to be re- appropriating and/or borrowing funds throughout the government.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) was discussed and how it would need to include tolling. The major issue with this idea is tolling is not allowed through the State of TN law.

An eight (8) minute video was played for the audience. The video focused on rebuilding America's infrastructure and some of the complications associated with the effort.

- Tolling
- PPP
- Raising taxes

Above are the three (3) alternatives the video provided which could generate revenue to assist with transportation infrastructure projects.

He showed a two (2) minute video that described the details of the IMPROVE Act.

Proposed Changes to the Improve Act (second number is negotiated number between Senate and Governor)

- Fuel tax
 - Gasoline – seven (7) cents; six (6) cents (phased growth)
- Diesel
 - 12 cents – 10 cents (phased growth)
- Indexing – Eliminated
- Rental Car Increase – Eliminated
- LP, CNG, etc. – Lower increases

The overall negotiations represent a 17% decrease from initially proposed funding of the Improve Act.

Within the next week, the House will discuss the proposals between the Governor and Senate.

He also shared the latest updates on the bill as it passed through state senate on 03/13/2017.

He then fielded questions from the audience.

- Question on what the next steps are in the process of bill becoming a law
 - Toks said that the bill will be taken up by State House next week and then if it passes, it will be sent to the Governor for his signature
- Question about the open container law
 - Toks said that open container law may pass in this session and will allow state to use over \$18 million in federal funding towards transportation improvements
- Question about a prioritized list of freight projects
 - Toks showed the state website with 962 projects ready to go as soon as the funding is approved. <https://www.tdot.tn.gov/projectneeds/spot#/>
- Question about funding for transit
 - Toks said that bill also includes provision for having citywide referendum for funding transit projects. TDOT will be able to increase transit funding.
- Question about the anticipated start date of the projects
 - Toks said if the bill is signed into law, it will come in effect starting July 1. Work on the transportation projects will begin soon after. Changes in federal environment related regulations will likely streamline the process.
- Question about a future for potential tolling projects
 - Toks state he doesn't necessarily see an interest in tolling in the State of TN. As of this moment that appears to be two (2) potential projects that would make financial sense for tolling and those are a bridge in Memphis and a bridge in Chattanooga. The financial number for a potential bridge crossing the Mississippi into Memphis was unattainable and the tolling fees for Chattanooga was outside of the range in which potential drivers would be willing to pay.

10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. – The meeting paused for a time of refreshments and networking.

11:05 a.m. – Aayush Thakur, Senior Freight Planner at TDOT Long Range Planning Division gave an update on university research activities. These research activities are related to

freight-specific projects. Aayush also encouraged all FAC members to provide feedback on the other freight research projects.

Aayush next touched on making the statewide freight plan FAST Act compliant. This process must be completed by September 30, 2017.

Aayush also 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.

11:35 a.m. – Dan thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned.

ACTION ITEM:

1. Aayush/Amy will send out the link to YouTube video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmawKOD_3yw

