

MINUTES
MPO TECHNICAL STAFF
JACKSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
CITY HALL – 1ST FLOOR BEN LANGFORD ROOM – 111 EAST MAIN STREET
AUGUST 5, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.

Staff/Others Present:

Stan Pilant, Planning Director
Ellen Williams, Jackson Police
Ashley Owens, TDOT
Rachel Webb, TDOT

Whitney Dickson, JTA
Shelton Merrell, RPO
Brandon Garcia, TDOT

Stan Pilant, Chairman of the MPO Technical Staff, called the meeting to order upon making a determination of a quorum of members present. Mr. Pilant welcomed the public and officials in attendance and opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. With no one requesting to speak, the minutes of December 4, 2020 were unanimously approved on motion of Shelton Merrell and seconded by Ashley Owens. Afterwards, Pilant began reviewing the agenda business item.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2022 & 2023 – Chairman Stan Pilant presented the draft development and review for the UPWP for Federal Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023). He noted that this is revision three of the proposed draft based off comments received from TDOT and the Federal Highway.

Afterwards, Mr. Pilant briefly highlighted the Statewide Planning Priorities, which includes Virtual Public Involvement (VPI), Alternative Fuels and Project Delivery and discussed the Regional Planning Priorities, which the MPO will continue to partner with the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce to identify needs and concerns on the regional level. He stated that the Cooperative Development of the UPWP would allow the MPO to communicate between all partners that are a part of the planning process.

Mr. Pilant also highlighted new sections in the UPWP that include:

1. Status of Core Documents and Transportation Performance Dates. This will provide a list of federally set deadlines of projects that have been previously adopted or approved.
2. Work Program Tasks. This was added in efforts of working toward an electronic version of the UPWP. He stated that consistency would become important when structuring work program tasks for efficiency and that each task will consist of a budget table. He mentioned that the state would now carry 5% of the local match, which will consolidate the planning grant to (80/5/15).
3. Background Budget. This section will depict where resources are coming in, where they come from and how much money is spent in each task category. It will also provide a detail level budget that will be helpful when using consultants.

A motion was made by Shelton Merrell, seconded by Ellen Williams to recommend approval of the final draft of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2022 & 2023 to the Executive Board, contingent upon correcting the funding amounts in the tasks budget tables.

Status report of current transportation projects – Brandon Garcia, TDOT, discussed projects on CNR 272 (North Highland and Casey Jones) and CNU 315 that are near completion or completed and is on schedule.

Mr. Pilant questioned Garcia about the traffic backup on Vann Drive and North Highland and if the signals were operating correctly after receiving several calls on the matter.

Garcia stated that they did notice the signals and have reached out to TDOT design for reevaluation.

Rachel Webb, TDOT, noted that a section on I-40 that is West of Hollywood is waiting on railroad acquisitions and permits. She stated that SR-18 from Medon-Malesus Road to SR-5 on South Highland Avenue will be going back for review of some alignments to make sure they won't have many shifts during construction and are hoping to have those by October. She also stated that they are almost done reviewing line and grade for the Southern Bypass and that railroad coordination is underway.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.