



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization



Meeting #4 NOTES

MPO/GNRC Joint Steering Committee on Regional Coordination

Thursday, February 2, 2017

- Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order and welcomed members.
 - Mayor Reed recapped the third meeting of the Joint Committee. She recapped David Warm's remarks, reminding members that he stated that MARC had gone through a similar process as the Joint Committee is now and he encouraged the Committee that they have an opportunity to build strong capacity for the region.
 - Mayor McMillan asked Michelle Lacewell (MPO) to summarize the meetings staff held with stakeholders.
 - Lacewell provided the Committee with an overview of the meetings the staff had with non-profits and funders. She said that the participants had provided good feedback and that the overall response from stakeholders has been enthusiastic, with particular excitement about how MPO and GNRC integration could benefit their efforts.
 - Michael Skipper (GNRC) added that those attending the funder meeting included representatives from TDOT, TDHA, TDEC, ECD, TCAD, and FHWA. He said that he had also been in contact with staff at FTA and EDA.
 - Skipper said that he and Mayor Moore met with Senator Steve Dickerson and that the Senator agreed to be a champion for us in the Legislature, including helping us get meetings with members.
 - Mayor Moore agreed that it was a positive meeting.
 - Mayor McMillan asked Skipper to discuss the staff's recommendation.
 - Skipper stated that based on research, discussions, and other input the staff feels strongly the Committee should proceed with option #4 – full integration. Skipper reviewed the handout outlining the pros and cons of the four models.
 - Skipper reminded the Committee that this would be an initial recommendation and that staff would review how the recommendation would be implemented. He said that part of the staff's work would be to follow up with stakeholders and staff.
 - Skipper said staff would come back to the Committee with the information and at that time, the Committee will decide how to proceed – either with full integration or another option.
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- Skipper reviewed the process, stating that once the Committee has a final recommendation the recommendation will be presented to the GNRC and MPO boards. He predicted that if all goes well, implementation would take place between May and September.
- Revisiting the handout on the model, Skipper provided an overview of the questions and comments listed that staff have been hearing from stakeholders. He stated that staff needs to answer these concerns before moving forward. Continuing with the handout, Skipper reviewed the summary of staff's research on the different models.
- Skipper told the Committee that staff is working on the final report and that a draft will be available to them next week on the website.
- Concluding, he stated that staff would entertain questions and hoped for endorsement.
- Mayor Bradley asked how the financial contribution provided to the MPO from Metro would that be made up if the MPO integrated with GNRC.
- Skipper stated that is something staff would be looking into. He reviewed the history of Metro's in-kind contributions and stated that there is no long-term agreement with Metro, allowing Metro to cease their contribution at any time. Skipper also talked about how the MPO has installed member dues, which is how MPOs across the nation raise the funds to match Federal grants.
- Mayor Bradley asked if the GNRC would have to cover the salaries of MPO employees.
- Lacewell replied that the MPO employee salaries are paid by grants, but that office space, HR, and other overhead costs are covered by Metro's in-kind contribution.
- Mayor Bradley stated that the discussion to integrate the MPO and the GNRC is the first discussion he has been apart of that is focused on getting to more efficient government. He suggested county governments should be having these types of discussions as well.
- Mayor Holt put a motion forward to move forward with fully integrating the MPO and the GNRC and that staff work to address the concerns stated.
- Mayor Hunt seconded the motion.
- Mayor Wallace asked about the potential impact to the RPO.
- Skipper stated that staff definitely wants to look at that, adding that the motivation to align the MPO and the GNRC should also spur looking at Clarksville MPO and RPO.
- Mayor Wallace asked if staff would be addressing the RPO before or after board action on integrating the MPO and the GNRC.
- Skipper stated that the timeline for those discussions will be driven by the Clarksville MPO and RPO.
- Mayor McMillan added that the Clarksville MPO includes Kentucky counties so there is a bit more complexity, but stated that conversations with the CMPO and RPO should continue.
- Pam Kordenbrock (FHWA) asked about the geographical region of full integration.

- Skipper replied that it would include the 13 counties in the GNRC and the 7 MPO counties.
- Mayor Norman asked if Federal funding would be affected.
- Skipper replied that it should not be affected, but that staff would be exploring that question more fully.
- Mayor Norman asked if Metro supported full integration.
- Lacewell replied that staff's conversations with Metro have been good, adding that Vice Mayor Briley couldn't attend the Committee meeting.
- Mayor Norman asked if the Committee could get answers to the questions regarding implementation before the next meeting.
- Skipper assured the Committee that staff would have that information for them prior to the next meeting.
- Pam Kordenbrock (FHWA) contribute that FHWA is unsure how or if Federal funding would be affected, but that she and her colleagues are committed to working with the Committee and staff.
- Josh Suddath (TDOT) asked if enabling legislation would be required.
- Skipper replied that it depends. He added there are very few mentions of the MPO in state law. He stated that legislation would be required to change the GNRC boundaries, but added that that was not part of the discussion. Skipper concluded by saying that changing the structure of the GNRC might be explored and then legislation could be needed.
- Mayor McMillan told the Committee that staff would like the Committee to think about how the Committee members would be discussing integration with the MPO and GNRC boards.
- Mayor Holt stated that in his opinion staff should talk with board members, emphasizing that a final decision has yet to be made.
- Mayor McMillan clarified to the Committee that they would be voting on endorsing, not implementing full integration.
- Mayor McMillan called for vote.
- The vote to endorse full integration was unanimous.
- Skipper thanked the Committee for their time and commitment.
- Mayor McMillan asked if the Committee could have a designated a staff contact.
- Lacewell replied that those serving on behalf of the MPO should contact her and those serving on behalf of the GNRC contact Skipper.
- The meeting adjourned.

Join Committee Members in Attendance:

- Carroll Carman
- Jessie Wallace
- Charlie Norman
- Jim Hunt
- Jill Burgin
- Mary Esther Reed
- Ken Moore
- Howard Bradley
- Anthony Holt
- Kim McMillan
- Jerry Kirkman