

Side by Side Comparison of the Nashville Area MPO and Greater Nashville Regional Council
For discussion purposes, October 25, 2016

	Nashville Area MPO	Greater Nashville Regional Council
Creation and Purpose		
Formation	Began as the "Nashville Urban Area Transportation Study" in 1969-70 by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.	Created in 1965 by the Tennessee General Assembly as one of 9 Development Districts; Renamed the GNRC in 1988 through additional enabling legislation.
Original Intent	MPOs were introduced by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 to provide a voice for local communities in the determination of federally-funded transportation projects. MPOs facilitate the regional transportation planning and programming process on behalf of state and local governments.	Like other states across the nation, Tennessee created development districts to serve as a forum for multi-jurisdictional coordination, to carry-out regional economic development and planning efforts, and to administer federal programs for the region.
Type of Organization	Federally-designated program administered by Metropolitan Planning Commission of Nashville-Davidson County (MPC) on behalf of the MPO Executive Board.	Free-standing public agency created through legislative act and owned by its local government members.
Area Served		
Current Population (2015)	1.5 million people	1.8 million people
Current Boundaries	7 Counties including Davidson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson	13 Counties including Davidson, Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson
Geographic Considerations	MPO geography is determined by the MPO executive board and the Governor. The MPO has expanded incrementally as the region's commuter shed and economic area has grown.	GNRC geography set by statute. GNRC programs administered across various geographies including the entire area, parts within, and parts outside.
Governance & Committees		
Board Size	31 voting members, 2 non-voting members	93 voting members
Governing Body	Executive Board	Regional Council

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Voting Membership	Mayors and county executives, governor, representatives of public transit operators, county highways departments, and GNRC	Mayors and county executives, representatives of minority populations and industry, two members of the Tennessee General Assembly
Board Leadership	MPO board elects a Chair and Vice Chair. Executive Director serves as Secretary. No Treasurer.	GNRC Council elects a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Executive Director serves as Secretary.
Committees	Executive Committee - Strategic planning, executive director oversight Finance and Audit Committee - invoice approval; Technical Coordinating Committee - technical review	Executive Committee - general business; Finance and Personnel Committee - management and financial issues
Meeting Frequency	Executive Board - once per month Executive Committee - as needed Finance and Audit Committee - once per month by email Technical Coordinating Committee - once per month	Regional Council - once per year Executive Committee - once per month Finance and Personnel Committee - once per month
Administration & Management		
Executive Management	MPO Executive Director, appointed by MPO Executive Committee, employed by MPC	Executive Director appointed by the Council
State Legislative Affairs	No direct engagement	Tennessee Development District Association
Legal Counsel	Metro Legal Department	GNRC Chief Legal Counsel and staff attorney(s)
Finance/Accounting	MPC Finance Officer, Metro Finance Department	GNRC Finance Department (4 full time staff)
Communications & Marketing	MPO Communications Officer	No communications position at this time
IT Support	Metro ITS Department	ImageQuest, under contract to GNRC
Internal Auditing Services	Monitoring review by TDOT	Crosslin & Associates, under contract to GNRC
Human Resources	Metro HR Department	GNRC HR Manager
Payroll Services	Metro Finance Department	Paycor, under contract to GNRC
Retirement, Health Insurance	Metro Pension, Metro Health Insurance Options	TCRS, 457B, State Health Insurance Options
Contracting Authority	Metropolitan Planning Commission	GNRC Executive Committee on behalf of full Council

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Staffing Resources		
Full-Time Employees	11	68
Professional Positions	Planners, engineers, geographers, policy and research analysts, communications	Planners, geographers, policy and research analysts, attorneys, accountants, social workers/counselors
Professional Certifications	AICP, APR	AICP, others (still compiling)
Administrative Positions	Office manager	Office manager, HR manager, admin assistant pool
Budget and Funding		
Operating Budget (2017)	\$3 million	\$10 million
In-direct Cost/ Overhead Rate	45%, donated in-kind by Metro Nashville	42%, charged to grant revenue
Pass-Thru Share of Budget	39%	48%
Pass-Thru Recipients	GNRC, transit agencies, non-profits, planning consultants	Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency, senior centers, other senior/disability service providers, local communities
Funding Sources	Federal grants, TDOT, Local dues	State and federal grants, state formula funding, local dues, fee for service, program revenues
Local Dues - Per capita rates	Cities - 12.5 cents; Counties - 11 cents	21 cents
Dues Application	90% for required matching funds to pay for planning consultants. 10% for the MPO contingency fund.	80% in support of the Area Agency on Aging and Disability programs, 20% in support of planning, research and economic development services
Other Local Contributions	Local governments provide additional funding as needed to provide matching funds for subregional studies	Fee for service contracts
Assets and Liabilities		
Office Facilities	No ownership. Use of Metro Planning Department office space at 800 Second Avenue is provided at no charge.	Ownership of office condo at 501 Union Ave (approximately \$1.5 million market value)
Equipment	Computers and equipment purchased with MPO funds are owned by the MPO, all other equipment owned by Metro	Furniture and general office equipment; computers and printer by lease agreement with ImageQuest

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Loans/ Liens	No loans or liens, Metro Govt provides cash flow	Line of credit to support operating cash flow. Office condo is owned, free and clear
Unrestricted Cash Reserves	\$74,850	\$400,000
Products and Services		
Key Issues	Transportation, land use and development trends, environmental quality, public health, social equity, demographics	Economic development, transportation, land use and development trends, solid waste, housing, historic preservation, tourism, environmental quality, social equity, demographics, aging and disability, lending
Major Products	Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Unified Planning Work Program, Nashville Region's Vital Signs (with Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce)	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Solid Waste Reduction Reports, Local Plans and Zoning Ordinances, Area Agency on Aging and Disability Programs, Middle Tennessee Tourism Council, Small Business Loans (MADC)
Primary Services	Corridor studies, land use and transportation studies, travel demand forecasting, land use and development forecasts, research services	Economic development assistance, grant writing and administration, comprehensive planning, historic preservation, tourist development, research and data, aging and disability services, small business lending.
Federal or State Designations	MPO	TN Development District, U.S. Economic Development District, Area Agency on Aging and Disability, TennCare CHOICES SPOE, State Data Center Affiliate, Community Development Corporation (MADC), formerly Middle Tennessee RPO