



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization



Meeting #2 NOTES

MPO/GNRC Joint Committee on Regional Coordination

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

- Mayor Reed (Smyrna) called the meeting to order. She shared that Mayor McMillan (Clarksville) sent her apologies but was not able to attend. She reviewed the notes from the first meeting and reminded participants of the phases and goals of the committee's work.
 - Michelle Lacewell (MPO director) and Michael Skipper (GNRC director) welcomed several GNRC and MPO staff in attendance and provided an overview of the agenda.
 - Mr. Skipper discussed in detail the "Overview of Middle Tennessee Organizations" chart provided in the meeting packet. He noted that the chart was not an exhaustive list of regional organizations, but one that focuses on organizations which coordinate on growth and development issues. He walked committee members through the list of organizations and the attributes that were recorded for each.
 - SEE HANDOUT FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL
 - Mr. Skipper asked the committee members to share their thoughts and/or questions.
 - Mayor Bradley (Robertson County) asked if the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Committee should be added. Mr. Skipper agreed and asked other committee members to please get back to him with any other questions or concerns regarding the list of organizations.
 - Ms. Lacewell and Mr. Skipper presented information from the handout entitled, "Side by Side Comparison between MPO and GNRC" that was provided in the meeting packet. The handout includes a detailed comparison of each agency's formation, governance, administration, staffing, funding, and services.
 - SEE HANDOUT FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL
 - Mayor Bradley asked about GNRC's role in the Meals on Wheels program and how GNRC's work related to HRA's. Mr. Skipper said that GNRC contracts with the Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency and Metro Social Services to deliver the Meals-on-Wheels programs in Middle Tennessee. He invited Norma Powell (GNRC Aging and Disability Service Director) to provide further explanation. Ms. Powell stated that the program was funded by federal funding for nutrition and provided to GNRC by the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD).
 - Mr. Skipper presented the Venn Diagram of GNRC and MPO services that was handed out at the meeting. Mayor Charlie Norman (Maury County) asked if the Venn diagram was attempting to show how the two organizations could merge programs. Mr. Skipper said that eventually the committee would be having those discussions, but that the diagram was focused more on the overlapping or adjacent services provided by each. Ms. Lacewell added that Venn diagram also can be seen as a
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talent diagram, noting that the MPO is required to undertake certain functions that the GNRC is currently not, and vice versa.

- Mr. Skipper introduced Sean Pfalzer (GNRC) and Shelly Hazle (MPO) to share the preliminary results of the national peer review analysis. He said that has looked at many regional councils, and ten peers were selected to review in greater detail. Mr. Pfalzer and Ms. Hazle (MPO) reviewed the handout entitled, “Peer Councils – Activities Matrix,” that was handed out during the meeting.
 - SEE HANDOUT FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL
- Sabrina David (Federal Highways Administration) stated that she had been asked by Ms. Lacewell to look into instances where the efforts of MPOs and regional councils to merge were unsuccessful. She suggested that staff explore the Mesa, Arizona as an unsuccessful merger. Ms. David also stated that all of the regional councils that now house MPOs developed in different ways, for different reasons. She encouraged staff and the committee to not lose track of the goals of these discussions.
- Mr. Skipper provided a reference to the shared goals identified in the Memorandum of Agreement between the MPO and GNRC as the basis for evaluating the options being considered by the committee.
- Ms. Lacewell described the survey that was being administered to the staff of the GNRC and MPO to collect initial opinions about the effort. Mr. Skipper summarized the responses-to-date, noting that staff were able to provide feedback anonymously. Following are the final results of the survey:
 - 64 GNRC and 9 MPO staff members have responded (near 100% participation);
 - 28% have attended a joint committee meeting to learn more about the effort;
 - 38% say they are excited about the potential outcomes; 12% say they have an open mind, 1 person has serious concerns, and 48% have not formed an opinion as of yet.
 - 32% said that its makes the most sense for the MPO and GNRC to fully integrate; 13% said that its makes the most sense for staff and programs to integrate, but for the boards to remain separate; 2 people said the two should continue to exist as separate agencies; 45% indicated they had no preference at the time.
- Mr. Skipper stated that the open-ended questions of the survey were proving useful for identifying staff excitement and concerns about the potential integration. He said that GNRC and MPO staff will be getting together to learn more about each organization and to talk through issues.
- Ms. Lacewell and Mr. Skipper invited committee members to review the peer review analysis prior to the next meeting. That information will be useful in discussing what it is that the GNRC and MPO does well now, as well as what models and services should be explored further.
- The meeting adjourned.