

## **JOINT RESOLUTION 2017-J001**

**A resolution of the  
NASHVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
and the  
GREATER NASHVILLE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**In support of the integration of the federally-required transportation planning program for the  
Nashville Metropolitan Planning Area into the Regional Council of Governments**

**WHEREAS,** the **Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** was established in 1970 by the Tennessee Highway Department and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County in response to requirements set forth by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 mandating that the nation's urban areas carry-out a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing transportation planning process as a condition of federal transportation funding; and

**WHEREAS,** the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) for the MPO has grown from its original footprint, located wholly within Davidson County, to include the Tennessee counties of Davidson, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson; and

**WHEREAS,** the MPO fulfills various federal planning requirements in accordance with Title 23, Part 450 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations in order to maintain the eligibility of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, city and county governments, and public transit agencies for federal transportation grants aimed at improving roadways, bridges, transit service, and transportation options for pedestrians and bicyclists; and

**WHEREAS,** the MPO planning program has been administered, since its inception, by the Nashville-Davidson Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), and furthermore relies on the MPC for its contracting authority, professional staffing, and office support; and

**WHEREAS,** the MPO Executive Board serves as the federally-designated Transportation Policy Board for the MPA and is comprised of mayors and county executives, the Tennessee Governor, and transportation officials; and

**WHEREAS,** the **Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC)** was established in 1965 by the Tennessee General Assembly as public body politic to serve as the development district for northern Middle Tennessee, and further empowered as a regional council of governments in 1988 to enhance regional planning and coordination in preparation for anticipated growth and development of the region; and

**WHEREAS,** the GNRC, serving in its roles as a development district and regional council of governments has the necessary capacity to staff and administer a host of federally-required programs or state-funded functions on behalf of the communities across Middle Tennessee including the Area Agency on Aging and Disability, the region's Economic Development District, the Middle Tennessee Tourism Council, the Mid-Cumberland Development Corporation, among others; and

**WHEREAS,** the GNRC is wholly-owned and operated by its membership which represents 52 cities and 13 county governments across Middle Tennessee, and governed by a Regional Council and Executive Committee comprised of local elected officials, state legislators, and mayoral appointments; and

**WHEREAS,** on August 17, 2016, the **MPO and GNRC** entered into a formal memorandum of agreement (MOA) to develop strategies and recommendations to improve regional planning and coordination in preparation for continued growth and development across Middle Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS,** the MOA identified a set of shared goals for enhanced regional coordination, set forth a scope of work to evaluate proposed strategies and recommendations, and established a Joint Committee to oversee the scope of work and bring forth a recommendation to each board; and

**WHEREAS,** on April 11, 2017, the **Joint Committee** voted to recommend to the respective boards that the MPO program be integrated into GNRC, and furthermore, identified that in doing so, such integration would help streamline and improve regional coordination among local governments across Middle Tennessee, align infrastructure planning with economic development initiatives, and bring Middle Tennessee in line with the state of practice in peer regions across the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Joint Committee further delineated actions that would be required by each organization in order to fulfill the vision for integration including necessary amendments to organizational bylaws and federally-required documents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Executive Board of the Nashville Area MPO and the Executive Committee of the Greater Nashville Regional Council that each organization:

- 1) Intends to integrate the federally-required MPO program for the designated MPA, along with all associated staffing and administrative support and executive board functions, into the Regional Council, and to take the necessary steps during the remainder of federal fiscal year 2017 to facilitate such integration;
- 2) Requests that the Tennessee Department of Transportation coordinate with the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Nashville-Davidson County to re-assign federal planning grant contracts to GNRC in order to fund the activities of the MPO program;
- 3) Directs their respective staff to coordinate with board leadership and the appropriate state and federal partners to develop a "Transportation Policy and Planning Agreement" to define the MPO Executive Board's oversight of the MPO planning process carried out by GNRC, and to prepare necessary amendments to organizational bylaws, budgets and contracts, work programs, and other documents required by state and federal law that need to reflect the integration;
- 4) Agrees to extend the MOA through September 30, 2017 to allow additional time to facilitate the implementation of the Joint Committee's recommendation; and
- 5) Calls on the Joint Committee to continue its work to oversee the process of integration and to make periodic reports on the progress to the governing body of each organization.


**ADOPTED, this 17th day of May, 2017:**

**Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**

  
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Chair

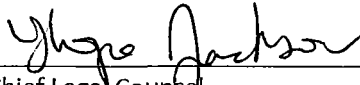
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director & Secretary

**Greater Nashville Regional Council**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
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Executive Director & Secretary

Approved as to Form and Legality:

  
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Chief Legal Counsel