



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

January 16, 2019

RE: Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting of January 23rd, 2019

Dear Committee Members:

The agenda for the upcoming meeting of the N.A.R.T.P.C. Citizen Advisory Committee is attached. The meeting will be held at **4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center (300 S. Church Street).**

The main purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss updates/next steps regarding MPO plans and projects.

As always, all stakeholders to the regional transportation planning process are welcome to attend this meeting. Those in attendance are encouraged to speak on any matter related to transportation planning whether it is on the current agenda or not. Please call the MPO staff office at (870) 933-4623 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Cecelie Cochran, M.P.A.
MPO Planner



NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION

N.A.R.T.P.C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Municipal Center, 300 S. Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas
January 23, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, or as otherwise specified by the Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee. It is requested that presentations be limited to three minutes, and that members of the audience identify themselves and state their point as briefly as possible when addressing the Committee.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Metropolitan Planning Organization office (Tel # (870) 933-4623) 48 hours in advance of the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

- 1. Committee Chair to Call the Meeting to Order**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from 11.28.18 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. Administrative Changes
 - b. STIC/STEP Study
- 5. Old Business**
 - a. Transit Development Study
- 6. New Business**
 - a. 2019 Committee Meeting Dates/Calendar
 - b. Elections (Chair/Vice-Chair)
 - c. 2019 Title VI Demographic Survey
 - d. CAC Promotional Video Project
- 7. Project Updates**
- 8. Public Comments**
- 9. Adjournment**

Contact Lists (Emails, Faxes, and Postal Mail Addresses): Please update your information and give us the addresses of those you would like to be on the MPO mailing list.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes

Date November 28, 2018

Location 3rd Floor Conference Room
Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Time 4:00 p.m.

Opening Rick Cheshier called the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on November 28, 2018 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Center.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Billy Holland
Harold Carter
Rick Cheshier
Frank Plucinski
Shunqetta Cunningham
Rob Gordon

Staff

Cecelie Cochran

Others

Steve Ewart

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Billy Holland made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 19, 2018; Harold Carter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements

Cecelie announced to the committee that Dewaine Beisner has officially retired and resigned from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). She stated that she spoke with Mr. Beisner and thanked him for the time and input he dedicated to the committee. Cecelie asked members to continue to submit potential suggestions and contacts to MPO staff as soon as possible. Cecelie also introduced Rob Gordon, Campus Experience Coordinator for Arkansas State University, as the newest addition to the CAC.

Staff Updates

Transit Development Study

Cecelie reminded the committee that the MPO and JET have partnered together with Alliance Transportation Group to conduct a Transit Development Study, which will include the development of plan detailing a 10-year forecast of potential transit service improvement and expansion within the region. She explained that the public input process for the study was completed in August 2018, and that the consultants are currently working to finalize drafts of

recommended transit development scenarios and implementation phases. Cecelie informed the committee that a draft of the plan will be presented at the upcoming MPO Joint Committee on December 11, 2018, and afterwards, the consultants will present the final version of the draft plan to Jonesboro City Council the following week on December 18, 2018. She stated that she will email the committee reminders of the dates and locations of the upcoming meetings, and encouraged members to attend at least one should schedules permit.

New Business

STIC/STEP Study

a. *Public Participation*

Cecelie reminded committee members that the MPO, in partnership with Metroplan, was awarded federal funding from the FHWA to conduct a Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) study at previously selected locations in Jonesboro (N. Church St. and Johnson Ave.) and Little Rock (Cantrell Road). She stated that the purpose of the study is to determine appropriate measures for midblock crossings between long distance intersections. Cecelie added that a temporary pedestrian crossing demonstration will be installed at Johnson Avenue and State Street, and that the MPO is still working with the consultants (Garver) and ARDOT to finalize the Scope of Works and cost estimates for the projects. Cecelie informed members that she did present the draft promotional flyer and brochures for the study to the Joint Committee, who expressed approval of the materials to help serve as educational aids for the upcoming project. She thanked members for their input on the design and content of the drafts.

I. Next Steps

Cecelie informed the committee that MPO staff is still hoping that the study will begin by the end, and if not, within early 2019 at the latest. She announced that, in light of the upcoming study, MPO staff is hoping to solicit member participation in volunteering to conduct pedestrian counts at the location site of the temporary crossing. Harold Carter inquired if participation would require 24-hour surveillance. Cecelie responded by clarifying that participation would only be required for specific days/timeframes throughout the course of the study (one year). She stated that the dates will be sporadic, and, most likely, assigned according to time of year and area/community activities, such as football games, downtown events, and/or school succession. Rob Gordon recommended that MPO staff also contact the Sociology Department and International Student Services to solicit volunteers as well. He stated that Sociology students often have class assignments that might relate to the study, and that much of the international students live directly near or around the area of the location of the temporary crossing.

Special Projects for CAC

Cecelie relayed that it has been a while since the committee has taken on a special project, and inquired if members had any ideas regarding a planning assignment or initiative that could be specific to the CAC. Steve Ewart pointed out that the area draws a high cyclist population, and that he expects much of the bicycle activity is not solely centered on recreation but also commute to work. He asked if there has been any inquiry into the number of people who bike to work. Cecelie responded by stating that, although the Census Bureau provides estimates for type of travel to work, there has not been a definitive study within the region assessing the actual number of people in the area who bike to work at this time. Steve Ewart suggested that it would be advantageous to develop an educational/promotional video regarding appropriate use of the road for motorists and cyclists in order to help boost safety and alleviate aggressive attitudes/behaviors towards cyclists in the area. Shunqetta agreed, and stated that a diverse number of people use bicycles to travel to work, school, shops, etc. She suggested that the video include a variety of cyclists of all ages, income, and industry advocating for equal rights to the road in order to promote a more progressive region. Rob Gordon added that international students at A-State should also be featured in the video as many of those students have no access to vehicles, and therefore, often bike to various locations as a means

of every day travel. Cecelie encouraged the idea, and stated that she would contact Bill Smith and the Northeast Arkansas Bicycle Coalition (NEABC) regarding cycling video and educational materials that could potentially be used in the development and promotion of the video. She added that, if the project is approved, MPO staff would solicit help from the media department at local schools for the production of the video. Cecelie stated that she would also need participation from members for possible interviews/features. Rick Cheshier expressed that documented support from the Mayors of the local jurisdictions would help boost public reception. Cecelie stated that she would contact the Mayors regarding potential participation in the video once the project has been approved and the theme details are finalized.

Additionally, Rick Cheshier recommended that MPO staff develop a separate web or event page that allows the public to access exact details regarding active transportation and track progress/projects within the region. He also suggested MPO staff develop a radio ad or commercial announcement that could be presented to local media stations to help boost public awareness of the MPO and upcoming meetings. Cecelie stated that presently, with limited staff, low public engagement in current MPO media avenues (social media and newsletter) and the potential upcoming re-design of the MPO webpage, it is unlikely that staff would be able to devote the time to develop an additional media page due to the unlikelihood of actual public usage. However, she added that she would relay both ideas to Erica regarding approval and/or feasibility.

Project Updates

There were no further project updates at this time.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Adjournment

Billy Holland made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Frank Plucinski. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.