



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

January 13, 2021

RE: Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting of January 20th, 2021

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 20th, 2021 in the First 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 Director



**NORTHEAST ARKANSAS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**N.A.R.T.P.C. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Jonesboro Municipal Center, 300 S. Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas
January 20, 2021, 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 Citizen 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 7.22.20 Meeting**
- 4. Staff Updates**
 - a. MPO Newsletter (Volume III, Issue IV): <https://mailchi.mp/857e72ddb7bf/mpo-quarterly-digital-newsletter>
 - **Upcoming Volume IV, Issue I**
- 5. New Business**
 - a. 2021 Elections
 - **Vote Required: Chair & Vice-Chair**
 - b. Updated MPO Safety Action Plan
 - c. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): https://www.jonesboro.org/DocumentCenter/View/7391/Propel-2045-MTP_Official-Draft
- 6. Project Updates**
- 7. Public Comments**
- 8. 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 July 22, 2020

Location 1st Floor Conference Room
Jonesboro Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Time 4:00 p.m.

Opening Alan Pillow called the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. on July 22, 2020 in the 1st floor conference room of the Jonesboro Municipal Center.

Roll Call Those in attendance are listed below.

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

Angy Abaunza
Andy Davis
Ana Saucedo

Staff

Cecelie Cochran
Alan Pillow

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Andy Davis made the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 22, 2020; Angy Abaunza seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

MPO Newsletter (Volume II, Issue IV)

Alan reminded the committee that an electronic link to the newest edition of the MPO digital newsletter (Volume III, Issue II) has been emailed to members. He stated that the MPO staff welcomes any/all feedback concerning the content and design of the newsletter. Alan also asked the committee to share the link to the newsletter with their respective communities, and to submit to MPO staff any ideas for potential features in the next edition (Volume III, Issue III). He informed those present that a new edition of the newsletter would be released by July 31, 2020.

Strava Data Contract

Alan reminded the committee that the MPO originally entered into a contract with Strava Metro in 2017 to collect pedestrian and bicycle data within the MPO boundary. He explained that, since that time, the MPO has renewed its contract with the company at the end of each year. Alan notified members that the annual renewal fee of the Strava contract (\$1,000) will be waived starting in 2021 and beyond. He stated that Strava Metro has allowed a fee waiver to government agencies for use of their data in hopes it will help create new policies and projects towards multimodal safety.

New Business

2020 Elections (Chair/Vice-Chair)

Alan explained to the committee that, due to the low number of committee members present, the 2020 election for Chair and Vice-Chair should be postponed until a quorum could be achieved. The committee members agreed.

Annual Performance & Expenditure Report APER

Alan notified the committee that the 2020 Performance & Expenditure Report is due by August 30th each year. The Annual Performance & Expenditure Report outlines tasks accomplished by the MPO staff as well as the amount of the budget expended for the specified fiscal year. Alan stated that a link to the report would be emailed to members for review. Cecelie explained that the report doesn't require approval from the MPO Technical Advisory or Policy Committee before it is published on the MPO website.

STIC/STEP Study

Alan reminded the committee that, in 2017, the MPO was awarded federal funding to conduct a STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) study of two midblock crossing location in Jonesboro that had been identified as having high traffic volume and significant amounts of pedestrian activity. The purpose of the study was to try to develop particular countermeasures to recommend in order to reduce pedestrian fatalities and/or serious injuries that may occur in high activity corridors.

- **HWY 91 Temporary Crossing (Public Comment Period Results)**

Alan presented the committee with recommendations for Phase II of the STEP study, which included the temporary installation of a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Highway 91 and State Street. Through the collection of relevant traffic, crash, speed and behavioral data at the site both prior to and after the installation, the consultants were recommending two options as potential permanent solutions to improving pedestrian safety in that area. Alan provided members with a brief summary of the recommendations for the given intersection, which included (1) installation of a full traffic signal due to the crash experience in the area, or (2) installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (HAWK signal) several hundred feet west of the intersection due to MUTCD regulations. Alan stated that the consultants also expressed that enforcement of existing traffic laws as well as a reduction of vehicle speed in the area is important to help ensure the safety of the public.

In addition, Alan informed the committee that a virtual public meeting was hosted by the consultants on a separate website in order to obtain public feedback on the presented recommendations. Citizens were able to view all presented documents and recommendations on the study, and comment forms were made available on the site for written feedback. According to the Public Comment Summary, 47% of respondents preferred a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) and 29% of respondents preferred a full traffic signal at the study location. Participants were also asked about the perceived impact of the proposed countermeasures on surrounding property or community. Almost 80% of participants stated that they believed either of the proposed countermeasures would have a positive impact on the surrounding property or community.

- **Next Steps**

Alan informed members that a one page summary of Phase II of the STEP study was included in their agenda packets, and that a full report is located on the MPO's website. He notified the committee that the temporary crossing was dismantled on July 8, 2020 as the study has been completed and the number of vehicle conflicts with the signal barriers have created a road hazard for the location. Alan added that, per the Jonesboro Streets Department, the crosswalk paint and pedestrian warning signs will remain at the location. Additionally, Alan informed members that Cecelie has presented the findings from Phase II of the STEP study to the city of Jonesboro

at the most recent council meeting. He stated that the MPO will continue to coordinate with the city of Jonesboro and ARDOT concerning permanent options for the area.

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Status

Alan reminded the committee that the MPO is in the process of updating the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is a long-term plan that is updated every five years, and contains the overall community vision for the region as well as a list of intended improvement projects and projected funding availability for the region. Alan informed members that Cecelie is currently working to develop the chapters for the MTP, and that a draft of the plan would likely be available in August 2020.

Project Updates

There were no project updates at this time.

Public Comments

Angy Abaunza announced that the city of Jonesboro is accepting applications for Small Business Emergency Grants until July 31, 2021. She stated that businesses interested in the grant should contact the grants department. Cecelie also informed the committee that Shunqetta Cunningham has tendered her resignation from Citizen Advisory Committee due to scheduling conflicts and growing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adjournment

Andy Davis made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Angy Abaunza. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.



Safety Action Plan Summary

The Move Safe Action Plan provides an evaluation of existing traffic and safety data for Craighead County for the identification and future improvement of critical crash corridors within the region.

Key Takeaways

- ❖ From 2014 to 2018 Craighead County experienced a 29% increase in motor vehicle crashes
 - A portion of the increase may be attributed to increased reporting
- ❖ Average fatality rate is 16.4 fatalities per year county wide
 - Largely consistent from 2015 to 2018
- ❖ From 2014 to 2018 the county saw a 23.9% increase in crashes resulting in an injury
 - Crashes resulting in serious injury were more variable, but showed an overall decrease
- ❖ Most frequent Crash Manners: Rear-end, Angled, and Single Vehicle Collisions
- ❖ Common Causes for Fatalities: Roadway Departure, Intersection-Related, Crashes Involving Large Trucks

Cluster Areas for Crashes Resulting in Fatality and/or Serious Injury

- ❖ Hwy 49 between Hwy 351 & Paragould Drive
- ❖ Red Wolf Blvd. (Hwy 49) between E. Nettleton Ave. and I-555
- ❖ E. Highland Drive (Hwy 18) between Main Street and Red Wolf Blvd.
- ❖ E. Highland Drive (Hwy 18) between Red Wolf Blvd. and Barnhill Road
- ❖ E. Johnson Ave. (Hwy 91) between Main Street and Melrose Street

Areas with Multiple Fatal or Incapacitating Injury Crashes Involving Pedestrians and/or

Pedalcyclists

- ❖ E. Johnson Ave (Hwy 91) between Main Street and N. Patrick Street
- ❖ Red Wolf Blvd. (Hwy 49) between Race Street and Stallings Lane
- ❖ Harrisburg Road (Hwy 1B) between Highland Drive and Gladiolus Drive
- ❖ W. Matthews Ave. between Freeman Street and S. Culberhouse Street

Strategies for Improvement

While the plan includes a much more in depth look at proposed recommendations for the region, a few of the recommendations can be found below:

- ❖ Roadway modification to prevent roadway departures
- ❖ Increased education and enforcement of pre-existing roadway laws
- ❖ Provide essential accommodations for Pedestrians and Cyclists