

Minutes
East Tennessee Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting
August 22, 2013
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Room 401, UT Conference Center, University of Tennessee

FAC Members Attending : Jim Fleming, Eastman; A.L. Lotts, Rail Solutions; David Freeman, Capital Resource; John Bennett, JIT Chemical; Jenny Park, Chattanooga TPO; Ed Shouse, Knoxville TPO; Diane Davidson, ORNL; Don Loftis, Olin Corporation; William Marrison, Knoxville Airport Authority; John Naylor, Chattanooga Airport Authority;

Others Attending: Tanisha Hall, TDOT LRP; Corbin Davis, FHWA; Brian Caldwell, TDOT Aviation; Mark Burton, UTK; Kevin Herrit, TDOT OCT; Stacy Morrison, TDOT OCT; Greg Dyer, TDOT Project Planning; Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT Multimodal; Angie Midgett, TDOT LRP; Carlos McCloud, TDOT OCT; George Moss, TDOT Multimodal; Bob Rock, TDOT LRP; Chrisman Dagger, UTK; Hua Liu, UTK; Larry Bray, UTK; Dave Clarke, UTK; Jeff Welch, Knoxville TPO

Opening Comments

Tanisha Hall discussed the mission of TDOT to be the leader in multimodal transportation. She also noted that one of the goals of these meetings was to reach out into each region of the state (each grand division) and include members interested in freight in TN. Another goal of the committee is to keep members of the National Freight Committee informed on important freight issues in TN.

Tanisha also discussed that the role of the universities (University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Memphis) was to act as a think tank and as technical staff for the FAC.

Presentations

Carlos McCloud presented information on the MAP-21 legislation which included a discussion of goals for improving freight gateways and national freight policy.

Bob Rock made a presentation on the role and structure of the FACs. He discussed the differences across the three grand divisions of Tennessee, the FAC's role on informing the state on freight priorities, issues, projects, and funding, the FAC acting as a forum and champion of freight planning, and the structure of the FAC including electing officers and a meeting schedule.

During a short discussion after Bob's presentation, there was a question on whether different modes would be represented on the committee. The answer was that we are trying to have all modes represented.

Open Discussion

Listed below are the main points from the discussion:

- Interest in representation from the trucking industry.
- Interest in bringing in speakers to better educate the committee.
- The importance of funding (primarily TDOT) but that other public / private partnerships should /will be looked at and also the importance of coordination between agencies.
- When addressing airport infrastructure, also take a look at the routes to the airport.
- Suggestion to integrate Thrive 2055 and adding someone from the South East TN Development District to the committee since they set up the funding (Beth Jones was mentioned).
- Issues of non-brick and mortar were discussed such as fuel issues & fuel capacity, cost and supply and productivity improvements.
- Future rail in TN should be taken into account. The plan is to address rail to a certain extent.
- Think multimodal and intermodal by starting with a set of tools/data to pull from.
- Use the advantages that barge and rail offer over trucks, and how the issues at the Chickamauga lock limit that. If the lock is closed, rail and freight costs will increase the next day.
- TN support for rail corridors.
- The State should focus on infrastructure to support all modes, but a balance needs to be found due to most modes being private which may lead to looking more at public / private partnerships.
- Need to identify regional and national partnerships.
- Need to develop a primary freight network (maps).
- There should be consideration beyond freight with a look at passenger as well.
- Short line rail should link with main lines. Improve maintenance and redevelop short line rail systems to serve communities.
- Additional truck stops are needed due to new federal guidelines. Need more parking locations for truck traffic even though this is not a new issue.
- There could be a need for incentives to get rail to cooperate.

Final Remarks

Tanisha thanked everyone for attending and discussed the joint meeting in November and that the election of chairpersons would take place at that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.