

Minutes
West TN Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting
July 29, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
The Port of Cates Landing

FAC Members Attending :

Pragati Srivastava, Memphis MPO
Scott Sigman, Freight Consulting FLM
James Hay, Memphis Air Authority
Trung Trinh, Mississippi DOT (by Phone)
Dexter Muller, Memphis Chamber
Steven Matheny, Pinnacle Foods
Bruce Hohorst, West TN RR
Shundrekia Stewart, BNSF
David Dallas, Milan Express

Others Attending:

Toks Omishakin, TDOT
Tanisha Hall, TDOT
Angie Midgett, TDOT
Carlos McCloud, TDOT
Bob Rock, TDOT
Marty Lipinski, University of Memphis
Teresa Neal, RPM
Alan Jones, TDOT
Aury Kangelos, TDOT
Max Baker, AECOM
Lee Hutchins, AECOM
Kayla Kelly, RPM
Andrew Ray, Memphis MPO
Michael Welch, TDOT Region 4
Dan Pallme, University of Memphis

Opening Comments

Scott Sigman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Port employees. **Toks Omishakin** talked about the purpose of the FAC, and how important FAC input is to our Freight Planning efforts.

Presentations

Tom Cooley gave an overview of the Port of Cates Landing, including its strategic location and the potential for growth over the next few years. Tom told the committee that there are over 350 acres available for industrial development, and that barges with up to a 14 foot draft can be accommodated. The Port is in an area above the 500 year flood plain, so it should not be subject to normal river flooding.

Alan Jones made a presentation on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program including what it entails and what grants and partnerships are available to industry. Alan pointed out that the increase in freight could lead to air quality and non-attainment problems. This is what the CMAQ program can address. Alan encouraged participation in the form of applying for available grant money to address CMAQ related problems.

Mike Welch of the TDOT Region 4 Office gave an overview of the operations at his office. Mike then talked about the projects in Region 4 that are under development or under construction, and how these projects were progressing.

Tennessee Draft State Freight Plan and Project Priorities

Tanisha Hall opened this session by explaining why the FAC's input was important in order to develop the State Freight Plan.

Lee Hutchins of AECOM delivered a PowerPoint presentation that talked about the growth of all areas of freight. Lee then talked about the development of the Tennessee State Freight Plan, and what we had learned from our data analysis and from stakeholder input. Lastly, he went over recommendations and next steps in the process, including the use of a fully operational commodity flow inclusive statewide travel demand model.

Teresa Neal and **Lee Hutchins** then initiated the discussion about prioritization of projects in West Tennessee by the committee. After a lively discussion, a total of seven (7) projects were prioritized as being considered the most important freight projects in West Tennessee. These priorities were made with no consideration of cost.

Final Remarks

Scott Sigman thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close. Attendees were invited to take a self-guided tour of the Port facilities before they left.