



**TDOT Joint
Freight Advisory
Committee Meeting**



Tuesday, December 13, 2016

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST

The Bridge Building, Nashville, TN

Minutes:

FAC Members Attending:

Andrew Ray, Chattanooga MPO
Bill Albright, Kingsport MPO
Brent Greer, Henry County
Chris Jenkins, Qk4
Connie Vaughan, McKee Foods Corp.
Ruth Thompson
Daniel Bugbee, Garrott Brothers
Dave Freeman, CRP-USA
Dexter Muller, Memphis Chamber
Dianna Tomlin, Mid-Cumberland HRA
Donna Tomlinson, TN Trucking Association
Jane Covington, CSX Railroad
Ken Marsh, Kingsport MPO
Kirby Lewis, TN ECD

Lynda Hogue, Carlex Glass
Mary Connelly, Nashville MPO
Michael Agee, Agee Consulting Services
Michael Hoffman, Fedex
Mike Bohleber, Pine Bluff Materials
Pragati Srivastava, Memphis MPO
Rob Wigington, Nashville Intl. Airport
Sherry Bell Simmons, ABF Freight
Shundrekia Stewart, BNSF
Stan Williams, Clarksville MPO
Tausha Alexander, Alexander Group
Tony Linn, West TN Railroad
Virginia Solimine, Upper Cumberland
Development District

Other Attendees:

Aayush Thakur, TDOT
Amy Kosanovic, TDOT
Anne Freeman, TDOT
Calvin Abram, TDOT
Casey Langford, TDOT
Commissioner John Schroer, TDOT
D. Chimba, Tennessee State University
Dan Pallme, TDOT
David Clarke, UTK
David Lee, TDOT
Deborah Fleming, TDOT
Joe Deering, TDOT, Region 3
Jonathan Russell, TDOT
Joren Dunnavant, TDOT

Josh Suddath, TDOT
KB Aboagye, TDOT
Kevin Teagarden, TDOT
Larry McGoogin, TDOT
Liza Joffrion, TDOT
Mark Abkowitz, Vanderbilt
Mark Burton, UTK
Max Baker, AECOM
Michael Welch, TDOT, Region 4
Nicole Seymour, TDOT
Randy Plummer, TDOT, Region 1
Rashad Pinckney, TDOT
Sara Elmore, TDOT
Scott Allen, FHWA

Stacy Morrison, TDOT
Stephanie Hargrove, UTK
Tanisha Hall, TDOT

Thomas Doherty, TDOT
Dep. Comm. Toks Omishakin, TDOT
Wesley Huguen, TDOT, Region 2

Opening Comments

The meeting opened at approximately 11:45 a.m. Tanisha Hall, Director of Long Range Planning at TDOT, welcomed everyone to Nashville and the Bridge Building. She then introduced Commissioner John Schroer, Commissioner of TDOT and the keynote speaker.

Keynote Address

Commissioner Schroer gave an update on TN transportation funding and the Future of Freight Transportation. He utilized a short film in his presentation regarding trending autonomous vehicle technology that can be used for moving freight. On October 20, 2016, Otto Trucking and Budweiser completed the world's first shipment by a self-driving truck. The truck drove itself on I-25 from Fort Collins, CO through Denver to Colorado Springs. The driver was out of the driver's seat the entire 120 mile stretch. The presentation and film was an exciting example of the future of Freight Transportation.

Some other points from Commissioner's address included the following:

- Tennessee is one of five states without transportation debt. We are also very active in attracting new business.
- Freight is important to Tennessee!
- Technology, demonstrated in the film, is going to make the difference not only for freight, but also to improve safety and help reduce or eliminate approximately 35,000 highway accidents and fatalities that occur on U.S. highways each year.
- New technology through Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CV/AV) will be a transportation revolution equal to or greater than the invention of the car and the train.
- Tennessee will be fluid and flexible in welcoming these new technologies so that our transportation system is not obsolete as these changes occur.

Lunch

Lunch was served at approximately 12:30.

Project Updates from Regions

Randy Plummer, TDOT, Region 1, Wesley Huguen, TDOT, Region 2, Joe Deering, TDOT, Region 3, and Michael Welch, TDOT, Region 4, gave updates on projects in their respective regions that are related to the freight community.

TDOT FAC Engagement

Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishakin opened by thanking everyone for traveling to Nashville for the joint meeting. In covering FAC Engagement, he made the following points:

- The federal government created a new discretionary freight-focused grant program that will invest \$4.5 billion over 5 years for freight related projects
- U.S. DOT also created a National Highway Freight Program and is providing \$6.3 billion in formula funds over five years for States to invest in freight projects on the National Highway Freight Network.
- He provided some recent example agendas from Freight Advisory Committee meetings in CA and TX to demonstrate other states' commitment to FACs and encouraged TN to emulate.
- Our governor and commissioner are extremely supportive of freight in Tennessee.

He ended his presentation by giving a breakdown of funding available to the freight community through the many programs at the federal and state level.

TDOT FAC Research Updates

Dan Pallme, Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning at TDOT, opened this part of the program by covering ten research projects that relate to the freight community. He encouraged Tennessee to give three times the participation in freight over previous efforts. He broke down the research projects being conducted by each University. He then introduced Dr. Mark Abkowitz from Vanderbilt University before turning the program over to Dr. Abkowitz.

Dr. Abkowitz covered one of the projects that Vanderbilt University is conducting during this presentation. The research project pertained to the use of freight advisory committees in responding to supply chain disruption.

Closing Remarks

Tanisha Hall ended the meeting by mentioning future 2017 freight advisory committee meetings and proposed dates for those meetings to occur. The final dates along with all other materials will be posted on the TDOT website specific to freight. She also encouraged attendees to get the freight industry involved in future meetings. She thanked all the presenters and organizers who made the meeting possible.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m.