

# GNRC + MPO

## Joint Study to Improve Regional Collaboration

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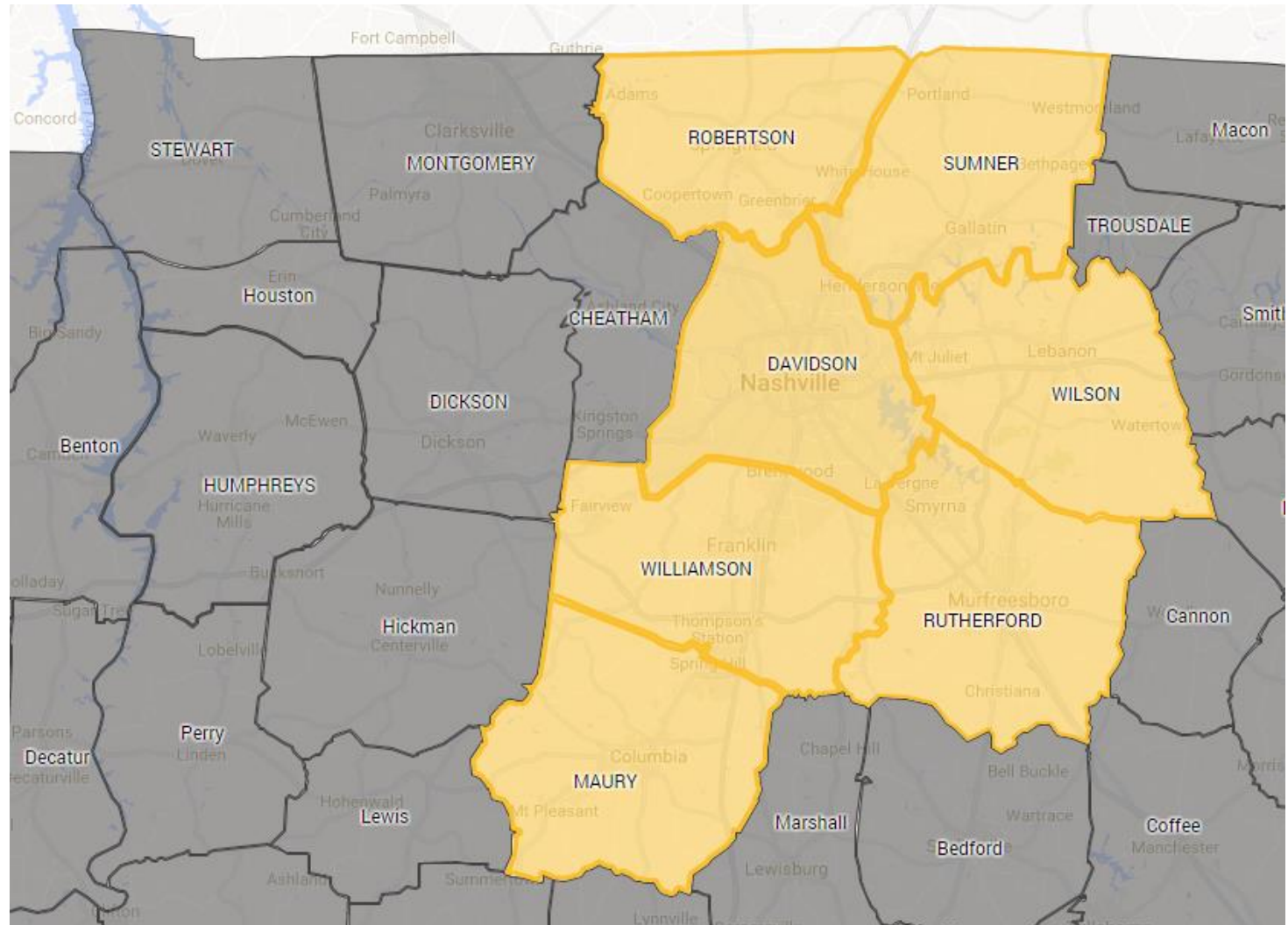
Michelle Lacewell  
GNRC, Deputy Director  
Oct. 26, 2017



# ABOUT THE NASHVILLE AREA MPO

- Facilitates strategic transportation planning for the seven counties in the Nashville region.
- Led by a Transportation Policy Board made up of county and city mayors, development district, transit and county highway representatives, and the Governor of Tennessee
- Funded by federal grant programs by contributions from the Tennessee DOT and local government members
- Historically has been hosted by Metro Nashville Planning Commission.

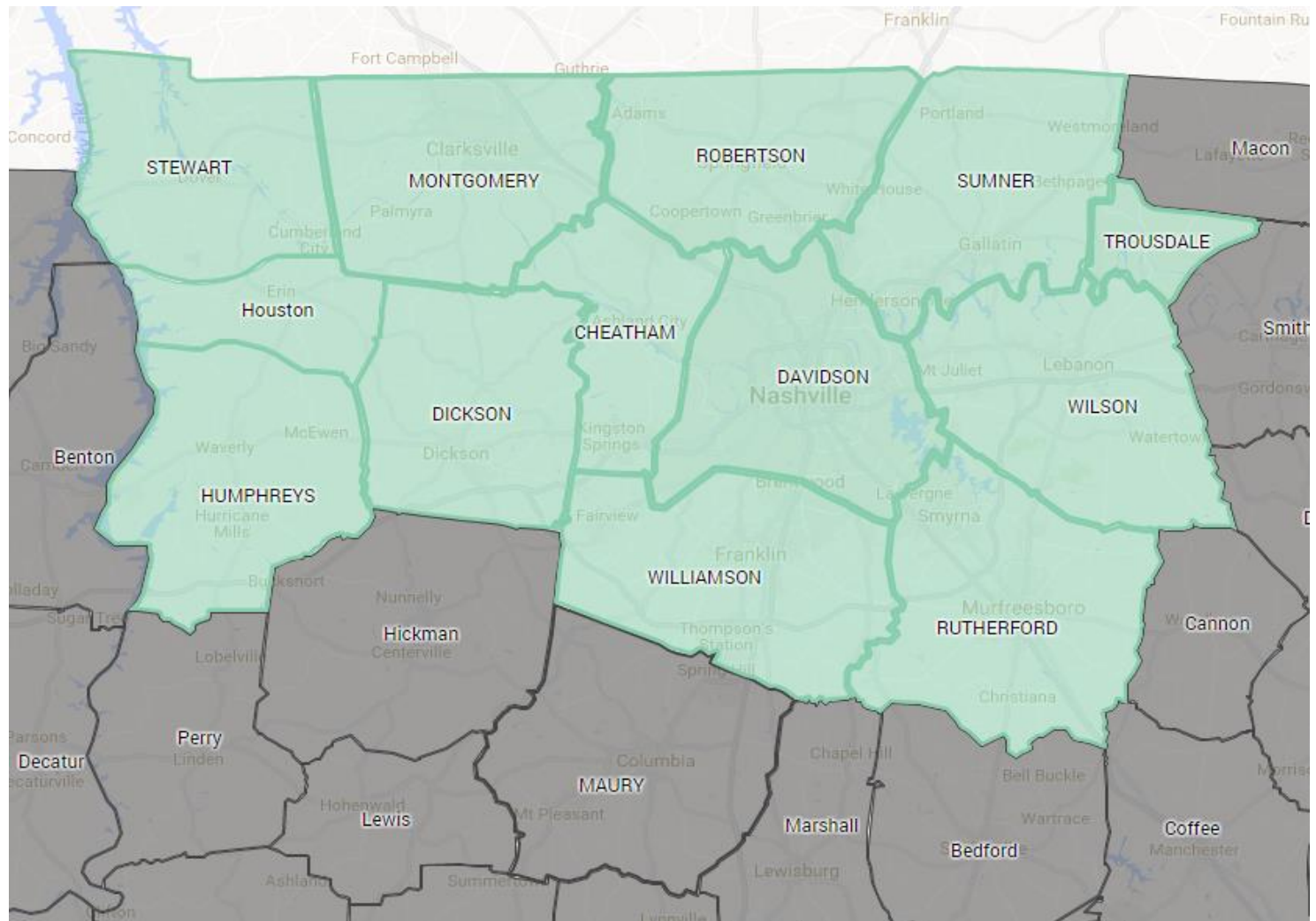
# MPO FOOTPRINT



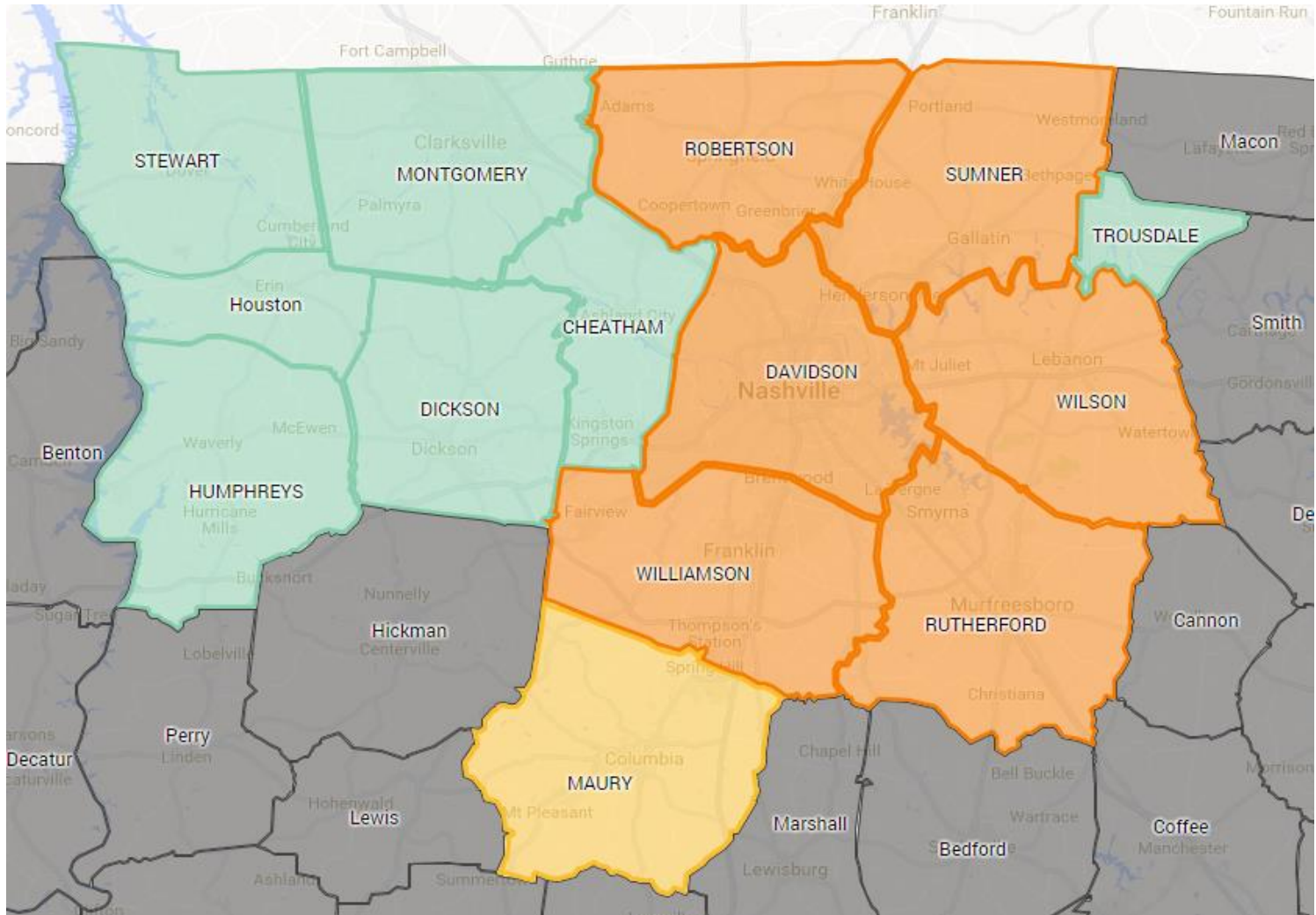
# ABOUT GNRC

- Development District established by the General Assembly
- Represents 13 counties and 52 cities
- Led by elected officials and minority representatives from the counties; two members of the Tennessee General Assembly
- Assists local communities, provides direct services, and develop regional strategies

# GNRC FOOTPRINT



# COMBINED GNRC | MPO



# POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVED COORDINATION

Four types of MPO/Council of Government (COG) relationships were evaluated:

1. MPOs that are staffed by local agency,
2. MPOs that are stand alone,
3. MPOs that are embedded in COGs,
4. MPOs fully integrated into COGs.

# SHARED GOALS

- **Simplify and streamline** the current process of collaboration among area jurisdictions.
- Provide a **clear and easy single point of access to data, research, and planning activities.**
- **Better align existing regional plans and programs** with state and local community priorities.
- **Bridge the growing divide** between rural and urban communities.
- Strengthen the regional planning portfolio to **better link transportation planning and decision-making with other activities.**
- **Grow the menu of services** available to local government members.

# SHARED GOALS

- Better **position regional priorities to the state legislature**, agencies, and federal government.
- Optimize the use of local funds.
- Ensure **equity in the governance structure and decision-making** of regional agencies.
- Better **promote the advantages, opportunities, and successes associated with regional cooperation** through strengthened brand identity and unified messaging.

# PEER RESEARCH TO FIND BEST PRACTICES

70 percent of U.S metro regions of 1 million people or more have an integrated MPO and Council of Government.



# COORDINATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

State and Federal agencies, departments, and regional organizations participated in the process to provide feedback to the Joint Committee.

Tennessee Dept. of Transportation

Tennessee Dept. of Economic and Community Development

Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Tennessee Housing and Development Agency

Federal Highway Administration

Chambers of Commerce

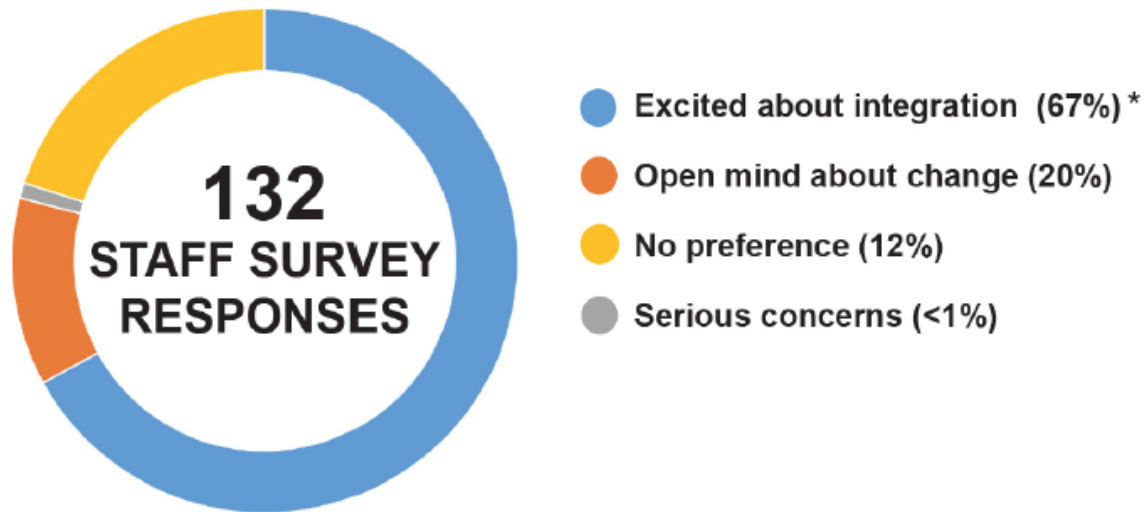
Non-profit organizations

Transit Agencies

Service Providers

# STAFF ENGAGEMENT

80 staff members of the combined MPO and GNRC had their voices heard throughout the process and influenced the final recommendation.



# MAJOR MILESTONES

## **AUG 2016**

Established shared goals and signed Memorandum of Agreement.

## **OCT 2016**

Appointed Joint Committee and hosted kick-off meeting.

## **DEC 2016**

Joint Committee hosted David Warm from Kansas City's integrated MPO and Council of Government.

## **FEB 2017**

Joint Committee endorsed initial recommendation for MPO|GNRC integration.

## **MAR 2017**

Joint Committee reviewed feedback from regional stakeholders.

# MAJOR MILESTONES

## **APR 2017**

Joint Committee voted to recommend the integration of the MPO program into GNRC.

## **SEP 2017**

MPO board adopted a sponsorship agreement that officially designated GNRC as the MPO program sponsor agency.

## **OCT 2017**

MPO and GNRC co-locate and begin the process of implementing the integration of the MPO into the GNRC program of work.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION

## **APRIL 2017**

Joint Committee presented its recommendation through a joint resolution which signifies a commitment of each organization to integrate the MPO program into the Regional Council.

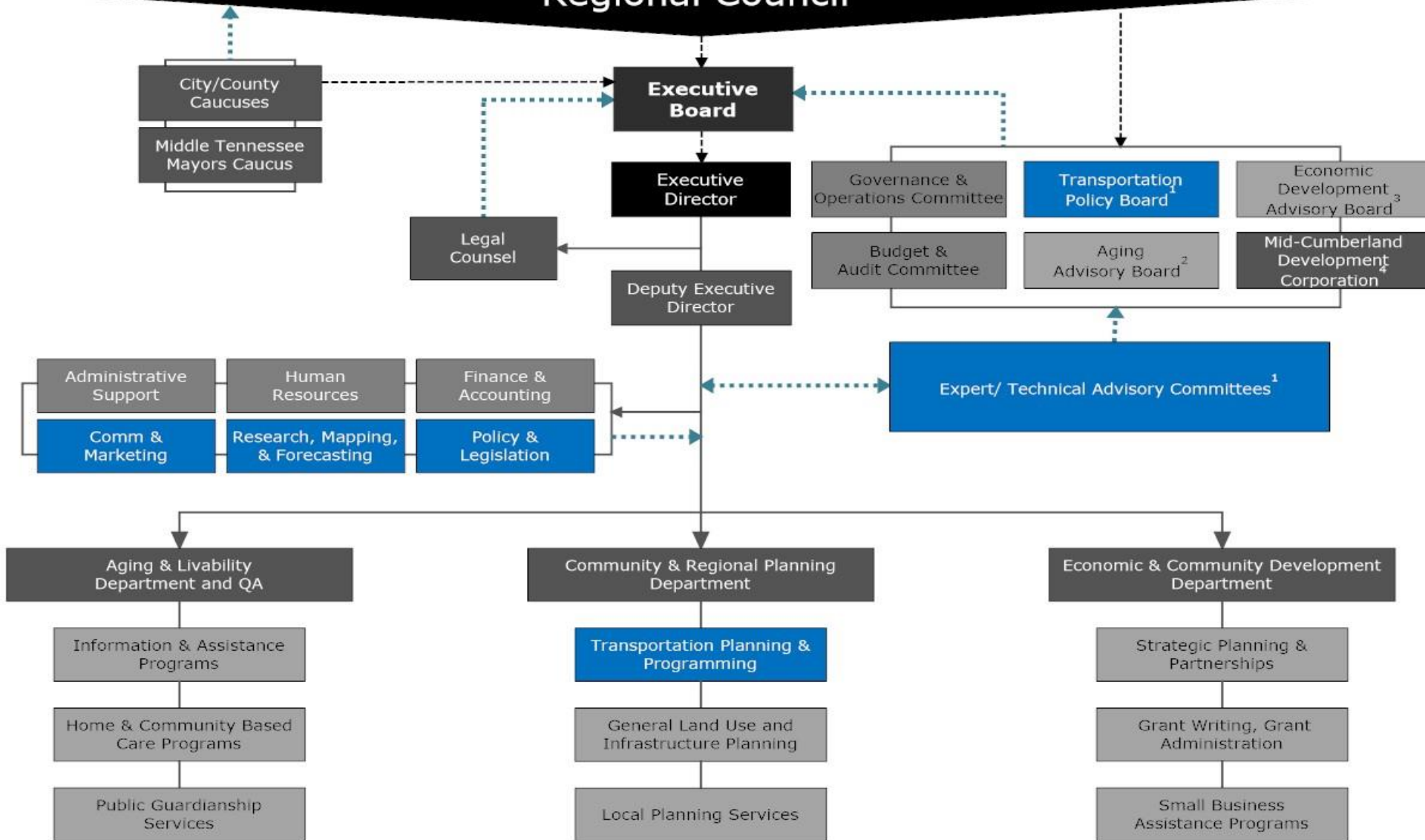
## **MAY-AUG 2017**

- Adopt or Amend MPO Documents – Prospectus, Unified Planning Work Program and Public Participation Plan
- Amend Organizational Bylaws for MPO
- Develop a Transportation Policy and Planning Agreement
- Reassign MPO Grants to GNRC

## **SEP 2017**

MPO and GNRC adopted the Transportation Policy and Planning Agreement, formally reassigning the sponsorship of the MPO to the GNRC.

# Regional Council\*



## RELATIONSHIP:

Supervisory

Advisory

Appointment

\* Mayors, County Executives, Legislators, Minority and Industry Appointments

1. Fulfills federal MPO- and RPO-related requirements

2. Fulfills federal Older Americans Act requirements

3. Fulfills U.S. EDA requirements

# WHY INTEGRATION MATTERS

- Better position the region to tackle serious strategic issues related to economic development, infrastructure, the environment, and social equity.
- Bring new capacity for governance and facilitated decision-making to achieve shared visions.
- Creates a foundation for greater participation of private and nonprofit sectors at the regional scale.
- Cements the growing commitment to regionalism in Middle Tennessee.

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