GNRC + MPO
Joint Study to Improve Regional Collaboration

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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.
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
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.
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
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 being 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.
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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