

**MINUTES**  
**MPO TECHNICAL STAFF**  
**JACKSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**  
**CITY HALL – SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – 111 EAST MAIN STREET**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.**

**Staff/Others Present:**

**Stan Pilant, Planning Director**  
**Ellen Williams, Jackson Police Dept.**  
**Ashley Owens, TDOT**  
**Whitney Dickson, JTA**  
**Shelton Merrell, RPO**

**Brandon Garcia, TDOT**  
**Hannah Mathis, Planning Dept.**  
**Thiera Taylor, TDOT**  
**Randy McKinnon, TLM**  
**Bart Walls, Madison County Highway Dept.**

Stan Pilant, Chairman of the MPO Technical Staff, called the meeting to order upon making a determination of a quorum of members present. Mr. Pilant welcomed the public and officials in attendance and opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. With no one requesting to speak, the minutes of August 5, 2021 were unanimously approved on motion of Shelton Merrell and seconded by Randy McKinnon. Afterwards, Pilant began reviewing the agenda business item.

**Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects** – Chairman Stan Pilant presented the annual listing of federally obligated projects for review and explained that by federal law, the MPO is required to prioritize these projects each year that are managed by TDOT. The annual listing of federally obligated projects were prioritized as follows:

1. (Southern Bypass) SR-186 from SR-1 (Airways Boulevard) to SR-5 (South Highland Avenue)  
Federal Fiscal Year 2023
2. SR-18 from North of Jared Lane to North of Medon-Malesus Road  
Federal Fiscal Year 2024
3. (Bolivar Highway) SR-18 from North of Medon-Malesus Road to US-45 (SR-5)  
Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Afterwards, a motion was made by Bart Walls, seconded by Shelton Merrell to recommend approval to the MPO Executive Board the annual listing of federally obligated projects. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Updates** – Mr. Pilant gave an update on the Great Wolf Lodge project. He stated that they are still moving forward. They have received their approvals, investments and incentives from the state, but are still evaluating their time and landscape towards moving forward with the project. Currently, the project is in design for the access road off Dr. F.E. Wright Drive and is subject to be complete by November 2022. Construction will begin December 2022 and will be subject for completion by November 2023.

Afterwards, there was some discussion about the traffic flow through North Highland Avenue and the Interstate.

Mr. Pilant also gave an update on the Southern Bypass. He stated that the design is still in the preliminary phase and plans are subject to change. Due to the driveways, it appears that access will be controlled

from the interchange back from Rebel Road. This means that any property on either side will not have a left turning lane, which will cause an impact to the properties.

Brandon Garcia gave an update on the I-40 Project. He stated that currently, TDOT is working toward completing the retaining and sound barrier walls and are on schedule for completion.

Ashley Owens, TDOT, gave an update on the Multimodal Access Grant. She stated that the applications have been narrowed down to about 70 and sent to the Commissioner for approval.

Ashley also gave an update on the Transportation Planning Grant. She stated that the grant will be open until December 31, 2021.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.