

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)  
July 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved (date): 01/18/17

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 10:05 am on July 14, 2016, in the Owensboro Riverport Authority conference room in Owensboro, KY.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

Greg Pritchett, Chairman  
Ed Riney

Greg Curlin  
Norb Whitlock

Also in attendance were:

Gordon Sloan (for Bryan Judy), Office of Attorney General

Bill Miller, Paducah Riverport

Asa Swan, KYTC

Carol Brent, KYTC

Bryan Gibson, Kentucky Transportation Center

Andrew Gates, Paducah Riverport

Lynn Soporowski, KYTC

Deanna Mills, KYTC

Chris Van Dyke, Kentucky Transportation Center

The Chair requested all attendees introduce themselves.

The Chair invited all attendees to make comments. No comments were received.

The minutes of the June 14, 2016, meeting were approved on motion of Norb Whitlock seconded by Ed Riney.

**Election of Officers:** Chairman Pritchett pointed out that the Bylaws for the WTAB do not include a Secretary or Treasurer for the WTAB. Greg Pritchett nominated Greg Curlin as Chair of the WTAB. The nomination was accepted on motion of Norb Whitlock seconded by Ed Riney. Ed Riney was nominated as Vice Chair of the WTAB on motion of Greg Curlin seconded by Greg Pritchett. Norb Whitlock moved and Greg Pritchett seconded to accept the nominations by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously. Greg Pritchett and Greg Curlin agreed that Greg Pritchett would conduct the current meeting and Greg Curlin would assume the Chairmanship thereafter.

**Revision of the WTAB Bylaws:** Lynn presented staff-recommended revisions of the Bylaws for the WTAB Board to discuss: 1) terms of service for officers, 2) proposed revisions to the Bylaws document correcting previous typing errors, and 3) a new article with three subsections to codify current operating procedure for the Kentucky Riverport Improvement (KRI) Program (See Attachment 1-Bylaws with changes). The proposed Addendum 1, Section A, defines eligible applicants for KRI funding. Section B documents the process currently being used in which the WTAB first votes on eligibility of projects and then prioritizes the eligible projects for the available funding recommendations. Section C, under the assumption that the legislature will continue to award KRI funding, sets out procedures for an annual deadline for applications and recommends project completion within a specified period. The intent of this amendment is to reaffirm the requirement the ports complete projects and submit the required documentation in a timely fashion. In view of the fact that KRI funding is awarded in advance of work, KYTC auditors review all projects annually.

The WTAB discussed the proposed bylaw amendments including the differences between federal and KRI reporting requirements, funding sources' impact on the grant process, eligibility criteria, and project prioritization. Lynn asked members to review the scoring criteria developed in the Wisconsin waterway (attached). Wisconsin gives priority to dredging (maintenance of access) while new commercial facilities have the lowest score. Projects are scored on the need or urgency of the project as well as distribution among rural and urban areas.

Asa Swan, KYTC Chief of Staff, noted the data-driven prioritization of projects is probably Governor Bevin's #1 goal for the Cabinet as he works to remove politics from the transportation project prioritization process. At the request of the Governor's Office, KYTC is developing a data-driven process for scoring highway projects. The Cabinet is asking for a greater level of accountability and transparency with riverports, as partners, working collaboratively on language for the revised bylaws because KRI is not where it needs to be in terms of accountability. Predictability, accountability, and transparency are goals of the Cabinet and of the staff-proposed changes to the WTAB bylaws. The riverport data-driven prioritization fits well in the Cabinet's highway data-driven prioritization.

The WTAB decided to convene a special meeting to review and discuss proposed changes to the bylaws. KYTC staff noted the Amendment of the bylaws needs to be complete by the January KBT meeting. KYTC will send the MSWord version of the draft bylaws to all the WTAB members. The WTAB members should send their preliminary thoughts and comments to Casey Wells, KYTC Freight Coordinator, who will compile the comments into a single document and return it to the members before the special meeting. KYTC staff proposes a web-based meeting to discuss the proposed amendment and comments by mid-September.

**Draft Kentucky Freight Plan:** Lynn told the WTAB KYTC continues to accept comments on the Draft Freight Plan. The Draft Freight Plan comment web page also has an opportunity to register an interest to become a member of the Kentucky Freight Advisory Committee on Transportation (KY FACT). The goal is to seat the KY FACT committee by early fall to begin developing criteria for prioritization of multimodal projects. For the new federal FAST freight funding, a process for comparing needs of road versus railroad versus riverport versus pipeline versus airport is needed. All projects are required to improve the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). Mr. Swan told the WTAB, KYTC asked the Governor for the opportunity to spend the federal FAST Freight Program funds on riverports and other non-highway projects because KYTC desires to do more to assist the non-highway modes. Up to 10% of the \$20 million is eligible for non-road projects. The next step for the Freight Plan is to identify specific freight projects so that they can be eligible for FAST Act funds. KYTC is requesting a list of projects from the riverports, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Coast Guard for prioritization with other KYTC freight projects. Projects must be amended into the KY Freight Plan before October 2017 to be eligible for FAST Freight Funds.

Tentatively, the WTAB scheduled a meeting at the KBT annual conference on Wednesday evening, January 18, 2017, at 6 pm.

There being no further business, on motion of Greg Curlin seconded by Norb Whitlock, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Submitted:

Carol Brent for  
Casey Wells

Water Transportation Advisory Board staff, KYTC