



15 August 2002

MPO Public Hearing

I want to thank the MPO for conducting public hearings throughout the region. This provides an opportunity for a broader cross section of officials and citizens to comment on this important, long range planning document.

As an alderman for the City of Franklin, I serve on both the Public Transportation Committee and our Urban Growth Boundary Land Use Plan Steering Committee. These assignments emphasize for me the importance of coordination in our Land Use and Transportation planning, particularly in the next 20 to 25 year horizon. Franklin and Williamson County are one of several significant economic centers in the region, and projections indicate that this part of middle Tennessee will continue to develop rapidly. It is imperative that roadway planning meets our current and future requirements.

I have three specific comments on this plan:

1) The 2006 horizon projects list does not include the McEwen Drive interchange with Interstate 65. For the City of Franklin, that interchange is critical to the implementation of our major thoroughfare plan in the Cool Springs area. We need for all agencies - the MPO, TDOT, and the City - to work together to make the McEwen interchange a reality.

2) The proposed project list for the 2015 horizon includes Section One of Mack Hatcher Parkway, western loop. I believe this project must be moved forward and included in the 2006 LRTP projects. There is continued and growing pressure on the infrastructure of the central business district due to east/west through traffic, and increased residential development on the west will only add to this concern. The completion of the critical final leg of the Mack Hatcher Parkway is of utmost priority to relieve the traffic pressure on our historic downtown and ensure the safety of our residents.

3) The proposed project list shows Columbia Avenue improvements south of downtown as not being included in the TIIP, but are included on the 2006 LRTP projects listing. As a community, we are engaged in evaluating our downtown central urban area needs and ask this project not be considered until such time as our planning process is complete. Ultimately, completion of the western loop of Mack Hatcher Parkway would have a very positive impact on determining downtown solutions.

Again, thank you for including Franklin as a site for this public hearing process, and for your consideration of my comments.

Daniel B. Klatt
4th Ward Alderman
Franklin, Tennessee