



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

Sustainability Commission

June 7, 2019

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

City of Franklin –CDCR – City Hall

8:00 am	Welcome/Introductions	All
8:05 am	*Approval of April Meeting Minutes	Dana Kose
8:05 am – 8:10 am	Announcements: Nashville Scooter Update State of the City Address Staffing No July Meeting	Andrew Orr
8:10 am – 8:15 am	Recycling Hub Tour Recap	Andrew Orr/Dana Kose
8:15 am – 8:30 am	*Downtown Parking Garage EV Chargers	Andrew Orr
8:30 am – 8:55 am	2019 Work Plan—Recap and Outlook	All
8:55 am – 9:00 am	Other News/Adjourn	All

*Item contains an attachment or link

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sustainability Commission provides guidance to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission and leadership for the entire Franklin Community.

Brenton Montgomery (12/11/2021)
Will Dodson (12/13/2019)
Beverly Burger (BOMA co-terminus)
Patrick Baggett (Franklin Tomorrow co-terminus)
Mike Leonard (2/26/2022)

Todd Palmer (8/9/2019)
Dana Kose (12/13/2019)
Nancy Whittemore (10/23/2021)
Micah Wood (10/23/2021)

The City of Franklin has committed itself to developing an ongoing strategy of sustainability for the community. This initiative will be designed to achieve viable, fulfilling, and rewarding lifestyles for our residents and business partners through responsible and innovative stewardship of the environment.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

April 5, 2019

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, April 5, 2019, at 8:00 a.m., in the Community Development Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Dana Kose, Todd Palmer, Micah Wood, Nancy Whittemore, and Patrick Baggett

Members Absent: Alderman Beverly Burger, Mike Leonard, Will Dodson, and Brenton Montgomery

Visitors: Steve Bland (RTA), Debbie Henry (TMA Group), Chase Harper (TMA)

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Emily Hunter, Elaine Ellis, and Kelly Dannenfelser

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Kose called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Whittemore moved, seconded by **Mr. Wood**, to approve the minutes from March 1, 2019. The motion carried (5-0).

Mr. Baggett asked if there was any discussion to create an ordinance for scooter regulations. **Mr. Orr** stated that two people were looking into starting the process.

Announcements

Marshall County Recycling Hub Tour

Mr. Orr stated that the tour will take place on May 3rd. There is an Outlook invite for the Commissioners. He suggested everyone wear closed-toe shoes.

TDEC Food Smart Program

Mr. Wood stated that this program is to “Promote using food wisely”. The program promotes providing food waste for composting. The program is looking for partners from local governments and businesses to participate in composting. **Ms. Kose** stated that there is a vendor at the Franklin

Farmer's Market (at the Factory) who will take food waste for composting. **Mr. Wood** stated that the TDEC group is asking people to take a pledge. **Ms. Whittemore** will check into a program in Nashville that works with local restaurants. She stated they use a visual presentation at events to show the benefits of composting. She stated that their Fleet Department was participating. **Ms. Kose** stated that they should be invited to a future meeting.

Gov's Environmental Awards LEED for Cities

Mr. Orr stated that they are working on the application and it will be for the Sustainable Performance category.

Local and Regional Transit Options

Mr. Steve Bland is the CEO for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The RTA began in 1988. Their legislative area is a ten-county area with Davidson County at the center. They work with nine of the counties. **Ms. Dannenfelser** is the Governor's appointee for Williamson County for the 39-member board. About ten years ago, RTA contracted with the Nashville Metro Transit Authority to manage their day to day services. Metro Nashville Transit Authority and RTA are both rebranding to "WEGO". They manage ten commuter routes to and from Downtown Nashville to surrounding counties. They also manage the Music City Star railway. One of the major challenges for the success of the program is directly related to the quality of the Park and Ride locations. The location needs to be convenient, have good lighting, and be secure. The big challenge for the Franklin/Cool Springs area is to find a permanent Park and Ride area. There is an express service from Franklin that meets at the Ag/Expo Center. This is not convenient for people in Cool Springs because they have to drive south to go north. Each time the park and ride location moves, they lose riders. For the strategic plan, they are working with commuters to identify areas of concern. They are working with TDOT to enable the RTA buses to use the interstate shoulder when traffic is at a slow speed. This tactic has been successful and found to be safe in several states. There is a study looking at alternatives to improve mass transit from Maury County to Downtown Nashville. Most bus service is contracted through Grayline Bus Service. The RTA is looking to establish a brand identity. The long-term goal is to have seamless commuting to connect the commuter choices, even though it will involve separate organizations. They are also looking to create a smart card for riders. They are looking to use GPS for trip planning to work with Uber, Lyft, scooters, etc. to connect riders to park and ride locations. The Easy Ride program works with employers help underwrite the cost of using the commuter service. For example, an employer may pay for the parking cost while the employee pays for the parking pass. **Ms. Whittemore** stated that a major benefit would be if employers would enable employees to start their work day while on the bus. The RTA buses have wireless internet service

available. There are some electric buses in Nashville. There is a challenge to use these for longer commuter routes. **Mr. Bland** stated that there would be three-wheel scooters coming soon to the area. The long-term goal is to connect and create a network for the regional activity centers such as RTA, TMA, Franklin Transit, Uber, Lyft and scooters. Finally, RTA is looking to expand the Spring Hill service to Columbia.

Ms. Debbie Henry discussed the following about TMA:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
- Established in 1988 as a public-private partnership of business, governmental, and community leaders
- First TMA established in the Southeast – 35th in the nation
- Governed by 25-member Board of Directors comprised of City and County Mayors, CEOs, Business Owners, and Community Leaders. **Ms. Dannenfels** is on the Board.
- Work closely with local and regional municipalities, GNRC/MPO, TDOT, ACT, Federal Transportation Administration
- TMA is a designated National Best Workplaces for Commuters
- Serve Employers, Employees, Developers, Elected Officials, Users, Citizens, Local Governments, Federal Government, and State Governments
- Serve the Middle Tennessee area – approximately 15 counties
- TMA supports a regional transportation system that provides a variety of sustainable, accessible, affordable, reliable, and interconnect transportation solutions that are both healthy for the environment and for people.
- Current Sustainability Projects include:
 - Franklin Transit
 - Columbia State Community College Partnership – 60% of students live in Franklin.
 - VanStar Regional Commuter Vanpool
 - Operator/Manager by contract with RTA and Williamson County since 1992.
 - Regional Park and Ride: Safety and Location are important. Just received a \$2 million dollar grant to identify new park and ride locations.
 - Transportation Demand Management (TDM) - maximize commuter choices.
 - CMUTER
 - Clean Air Partnership
 - Established in 2003 in partnership with Williamson County. Work with businesses and citizens.
 - School Pool Program – online ride matching service
 - FSSD Partnership

- Transit Management:
 - Transit Route Service Expansion
 - Expansion into Cool Springs 100+ stops added
 - Increased frequency
 - Relocation of Hub
 - 7.5% increase in ridership
 - Partnership with Columbia State Community College-WC - Increased employer partners
 - Free Rides to our Veterans and Active Military members
 - TODD (Transit On Demand) pre-arranged curb to curb service. Have 5 vehicles.
 - Shuttle service to City Festivals
 - Buses emit 20% less CO2 per mile than a SOV.
 - South Corridor Study Stakeholder/Active Participant. **Meeting is April 30th at 6 pm. Workshops will be from 5:30 to 8 pm.**
 - Bringing technology to commuter services.
 - For every dollar public invest, there is a \$4 return.
 - Ride Sharing Made Easy by Commuting in Style:
 - Insurance is included
 - Online ride-matching software
 - Maintenance is included
 - Tax free fuel.
 - All drivers volunteer.
 - Group sets the times/routes.
 - Guaranteed Emergency Ride Home Program
 - Sustainable Transportation to Jobs:
 - Provides 236,000+ annual trips
 - Saves \$2M+ in fuel and maintenance costs
 - Annually Eliminates:
 - 9 Million VMR annually
 - 4 Million tons pollutants
- Clean Air Partnership:

Public-private coalition that coordinates the Air Alert Day program; and educates business and residential citizens about air pollution, the use of alternative transportation modes and making environmentally sound choices.
- School Pool Ridesharing for Schools

Ride matching program tailored specifically for assisting parents that transport their own children to school. Carpool references are quickly generated via a user friendly web interface. Great for

one school or a whole school district. Current School Pool is Cool partners:

- Freedom Intermediate (FSSD)
- Freedom Middle (FSSD)
- Poplar Grove Elementary (FSSD)