



FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 22, 2023
Location: Greenwood City Hall, 30 Bell Road, Greenwood, AR 72936
Time: Called to Order at 12:15 PM

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ARDOT
Mr. Jason Hughey	ARDOT
Judge Chris Keith	Crawford County
Judge Steve Hotz	Sebastian County
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor George McGill	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mrs. Sasha Grist <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Mr. Daniel Mann <i>*represented by proxy Lorie Robertson</i>	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Robert Endicott	Cherokee Tribal Nation

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
Mrs. Sasha Grist <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	WAPDD

Voting Members Not Present:

Mayor Jimmy Fincher	City of Alma
Mayor Bill Collins	City of Bonanza
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor Andrew Crow <i>*represented by proxy Michael Griffin</i>	City of Kibler
Dawn Sullivan, P.E.	ODOT
Commissioner Vallard Cambell	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Josh Johnson	Town of Arkoma
Ms. Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Ms. Valera McDaniel

Mr. Carl Geffken

FHWA | Arkansas

City of Fort Smith

Others Present: Mrs. Reese Brewer, FMPO, Mrs. Desaray Fuentes, FMPO, Chris Dillaha, ARDOT, and Sonny Bell, City of Greenwood

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- With no corrections nor additions, George McGill motioned to approve the agenda. Joe Hurst seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

b. Approval of the March 30, 2023, Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- Sunny Farmahan motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ken Savage. A unanimous vote was reached.

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the March 30, 2023, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered.

- **MARAD Regional Roundtable** – Staff coordinated speakers for the MARAD Regional Roundtable which included Maritime Administrator, Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, Dr. Heather Nachtmann, Mack Blackwell Transportation Center (UA), Dr. Sarah Hernandez, Civil Engineering (UA), Aimee Andres, Inland Ports, Rivers, & Terminals, Cassandra Caldwell, Arkansas Waterways Commission, John Edwards, Port of Helena, US Army Corps of Engineers, Marty Shell, Five Rivers Distribution, and local freight interests.
- **WAIA & Five Rivers Distribution MARAD PIDP Grant:** Staff applied for a \$20 million grant on behalf of WAIA and Five Rivers Distribution for the design and installation of a slack water harbor sheet pile dock.
- **Fort Smith Active Mobility, Bicycle, & Pedestrian Plan RFQ:** Staff developed and published in coordination with the City of Fort Smith the Active Mobility, Bicycle, & Pedestrian Plan Request for Qualifications. The selection and evaluation team reviewed and scored submitted proposals in May 2023. The team selected a consultant.
- **Stateline Road – Seek Designation in County Improvements, Roads & Bridges Plan:** Staff continues to facilitate efforts to improve and fund Stateline Road improvements. The City of Pocola will host the next meeting.
- **CDC Walkability Action Institute Louisiana:** Reese Brewer was invited to present at the Louisiana Academy. Reese Brewer spoke on the Frontier MPO experience with the CDC Walkability Institute.
- **City Health Dashboard:** Congratulations to the City of Alma. Staff forwarded on this opportunity to qualifying cities. Alma described their plans to use Dashboard data for important health and well-being projects. Alma will receive in-kind analytic services from City Health Dashboard data team and be added to the City Health Dashboard, providing new access to their city and neighborhood-level data starting in summer 2023. They will be able to use all of the site's features including exploring metric maps, comparing metrics within their city or comparing to other Dashboard cities, viewing demographic maps, accessing Take Action resources, and more.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Check with Frontier MPO on numerous federal grant opportunities.

- **C2C Clean Energy to Communities:** Frontier MPO is pleased to announce that Reese M. Brewer has been selected to attend the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) pilot peer learning cohort titled “Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment.” This program is supported by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

d. Public Comment Period

- Mayor Kinslow stated that the City of Greenwood would be having their Freedom Fest on July 4th in the Downtown Square. Mayor Kinslow then asked around the room for the different dates on which the towns would be hosting a firework celebration for the 4th of July Holiday. Robert Endicott stated that they are starting a pilot program for the east part of the county in the Muldrow and Roland area which would be an on-demand transit service that would also use phone app technology to schedule rides and spoke on the Highway 412 project from Oklahoma to Arkansas. Lorie Robertson complimented ARDOT on the 255 project and then stated that the next Fort Chaffee market would be on July 8th and that the Fort Smith Transit Department would be using these market Saturdays as a pilot route. Mayor George McGill mentioned that the U.S. Marshalls Museum would be opening on July 1st.

II. New Business

- a. **Resolution 23-06** – A Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.
 - **Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Lorie Robertson, proxy for Daniel Mann, seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- b. **Resolution 23-07** – A Resolution to Approve the Public Participation Plan for Release for Public Comment.
 - **Ken Savage made a motion to approve, and Lorie Robertson, proxy for Daniel Mann, seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- c. **Resolution 23-08** – A Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Infrastructure (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Targets of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT).
 - **Robert Endicott made a motion to approve, and Ken Savage seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- d. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
 - Jason Hughey provided written ARDOT Updates. He spoke on the various construction and pavement preservation projects currently going on. Mayor George McGill asked about the Towson Avenue project, and Jason Hughey stated that they are still working on the utilities.
 - No action required.
- e. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation**
 - There were no updates.
 - No action required.

III. Open Discussion

Sunny Farmahan wanted to encourage each board member to read the Public Participation Plan. Michael Griffin stated that the Runway Extension should be completed hopefully in the coming weeks. HE also mentioned that the Fire Station Expansion would be happening soon as well.

IV. Next Meeting

- **Technical Committee**
Tentatively: September 28, 2023
- **Policy Board:**
Tentatively: September 28, 2023

V. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M. by Steve Core and seconded by Ken Savage. The next Policy Board meeting will tentatively be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023.