



**FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: March 30, 2023
Location: Alma Community Center, 114 Collum Lane E, Alma, AR 72921
Time: Called to Order at 12:00 PM

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ARDOT
Mr. Chad Adams <i>*represented by proxy Chris Dillaha</i>	ARDOT
Judge Chris Keith	Crawford County
Judge Steve Hotz	Sebastian County
Mayor Jimmy Fincher	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor George McGill <i>*represented by proxy Jeff Dingman</i>	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Doug Kinslow <i>*represented by proxy Danielle Smith</i>	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
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 Andrew Crowe (Virtual)	City of Kibler
Ms. Dawn Sullivan, P.E. <i>*represented by proxy Sarah McElroy</i>	ODOT
Commissioner Vallard Campbell, III	Leflore County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Tribal Nation

Non-Voting Members Present:

Voting Members Not Present:

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Chuck Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor Andrew Crow	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mrs. Sasha Grist	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Commissioner Casey Covey	Sequoyah County
Ms. Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Isaac Akem
Ms. Valerie McDaniel
Mr. Carl Geffken
Mrs. Sasha Grist

FHWA/Oklahoma
FHWA/Arkansas
City of Fort Smith
WAPDD

Others Present: Michael Rosenberg, WAPDD; Mrs. Reese Brewer, FMPO, Mark Allen, Cody Schindler, and Amanda Moses.

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- With no corrections nor additions, Chris Dillaha motioned to approve the agenda. Rick Harvey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

b. Approval of the December 7, 2022, Policy Board Meeting Minutes

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

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the December 7, 2022, meeting and an upcoming event that will be taking place in April. Activities related to the following topics were covered.

- **MARAD Regional Roudtable** – The MARAD Regional Roundtable will take place on April 12, 2023, at the PEAK Innovation Center. It will discuss a variety of modes for transportation of freight, focused on water, maritime, road and intermodal facilities, congestion points, and challenges for the region.
- **RAISE Grant** – Applied for a \$400,000 RAISE Grant on behalf of WAIA for the design and planning of an Intermodal Railroad Laydown Yard but have not heard any news at this point.
- **WAIA MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant** – Applied for a \$19 million WAIA MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant on behalf of WAIA and Five Rivers Distribution for slack water harbor infrastructure on the Arkansas River. This would improve safety for barge personnel that are along the Arkansas River. This grant is due by the end of the month.
- **Active Mobility, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Plan** – Assisted and published in coordination with the City of Fort Smith, the Active Mobility, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Plan Request for Qualifications. The selection and evaluation team will review, and score submitted proposals in April 2023. Frontier MPO will act as a contractor to the selected consultant, but the City of Fort Smith will work very closely with the selected consultant as well.
- **Stateline Road** – Reese Brewer met with Leflore County Commissioner, to discuss Stateline Road to see what options and opportunities are available to improve safety in that corridor.
- **ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program** – Reese Brewer stated there is \$1 million maximum federal aid available and that eligible projects would be intersection improvements, roundabouts, or anything to help with safety and to reduce injury and fatalities.

- **Safe Streets 4 All Grant** – Assisted the City of Fort Smith with their winning of the Safe Streets 4 All federal grant application. This grant would help to figure out a plan and identify projects that will improve safety and reduce deaths.
- **Grant Opportunities** – Reese Brewer stated that there were several grant opportunities available and that they are highly competitive, but many of them do not have matching requirements if you meet certain eligibility requirements.
- **HAZMAT Innovation** – Michael Rosenberg stated that they are assisting Sebastian County and all of the schools with their Hazard Mitigation updates. He provided a brochure to each person present.

d. Public Comment Period

- There were no public comments.

II. New Business

- Resolution 23-02** – A Resolution to Approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment # 5 (ODOT)
 - **Judge Steve Hotz made a motion to approve, and Robert Endicott seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Resolution 23-03** – Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Safety Performance Targets of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)
 - **Judge Chris Keith made a motion to approve, and Sunny Farmahan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Resolution 23-04** – Resolution Approving Public Review and Comment Period for the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program
 - **Lorie Robertson made a motion to approve, and Sunny Farmahan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Resolution 23-05** – Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Infrastructure (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Targets of the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)
 - **Robert Endicott made a motion to approve, and Lorie Robertson seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
 - Sunny Farmahan provided written ARDOT Updates. He spoke on construction projects and provided a map of updated construction projects. He also stated that you can find these updates on the ARDOT Website.
 - No action required.
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation**
 - Sarah McElroy with Planning and Policy Branch with ODOT stated that they are working on an active transportation plan currently. She also mentioned that they are working on a carbon reduction plan.

III. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IV. Next Meeting

- **Policy Board:**
June 22, 2023
- **Technical Committee**
June 22, 2023

V. **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM by Steve Core and seconded by Sunny Farmahan. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023.