



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 21, 2021
Location: Virtual Meeting
Time: Called to order at 12:19 p.m.

Present:

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ArDOT
Mr. Chad Adams	ArDOT
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	Town of Barling
Judge Dennis Gilstrap <i>*represented by proxy Elaine Stanfield</i>	Crawford County
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Sen. Mat Pitsch <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Daniel Mann	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
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Members Not Present:

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor George McGill	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Chuck Wallace	Town of Central City
Judge David Hudson	Sebastian County
Mayor Floyd Lawrence	Town of Arkoma
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Mr. Matthew Swift	ODOT
Commissioner Derwin Gist	LeFlore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Tim Allen	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith
Mrs. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

Others Present: Reese Brewer and Stacy Willinger, FMPO, Brian Waldrip, City of Fort Smith, Marcus Rainwater, ArDOT

I. Administrative

A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- a. **With no corrections nor additions, Chad Adams motioned to approve the agenda. Sunny Farmahan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

B. Approval of the November 18, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- a. **Ken Savage motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Chad Adams. A unanimous vote was reached.**

C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the January 13, 2020 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- a. **Stacy Willinger** is the new FMPO Transportation Planner. Stacy came from the WAPDD Workforce Development group.
- b. **Parsons Engineering Smart Cities Transforming Intersections Challenge:** The Intelligent Intersections traffic monitoring and optimization solution is in deployment. Parsons to present to March quarterly meeting on data being collected and how signalization may be updated, or change based on their findings.
- c. **MTP Update:** Several sections of the MTP update are drafted and available for your review. There is more information on the Public Input platform. We can share posters with QR codes to share with the community. The first public meeting to discuss regional transportation needs and priorities is scheduled virtually for January 29, 2021.
- d. **TIP:** The 2021-2024 TIP is being prepared for public notice and review in late February. ArDOT Highway Commissioners are meeting in February to finalize the ArDOT STIP. Frontier MPO staff will undertake additional changes required by the ArDOT STIP. The goal is to have the TIP adopted at the March 24th meeting.
- e. **UPWP:** Work is beginning on the draft FY 2022 UPWP, there will be a draft soon. Please let us know if you have any tasks or projects you would like included.
- f. **National Science Foundation Grant:** The National Science Foundation selected the University of Arkansas Civil Engineering Department to receive Stage 1 funding with Frontier MPO as their co-investigator, to study shared micromobility services near affordable housing in the north Fort Smith area. As we have more information we will share and may ask for input.
- g. **National Education and Environmental Health Foundation: The National Recreation and Park Association Inclusive Healthy Places** Frontier MPO applied for, and won, a grant addressing increasing park access and equity on behalf of Crawford County. Crawford County will receive almost \$20,000 to use toward making the Diamond Complex Park more accessible and inclusive.
- h. **Chronic Disease Coordinators, Walkability Institute Grant:** The Frontier Walkability Team is virtually attending the Institute and completing an Action Plan. Dr. Lisa McClain will present on findings from using the Our Voice app from Stanford Medical University. The team is comprised by of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education – Health & Wellness Center, 64.6 Downtown, the City of Fort Smith, the City of Van Buren, Crawford County, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, ArDOT Pedestrian &

Bicycling Coordinator, UAMS SPAN Coordinator, and Western Arkansas Planning & Development District.

- i. USDA Rural Smart Transit Hub Study:** The final draft is available for review. Fort Smith Transit and other transit providers are also reviewing. This study is intended to offer a select menu of technologies and programs to help connect people with transportation barriers in rural communities around Fort Smith, Arkansas. Recommendations include creating a Mobility Coordinator position. This position would bring together different transit options and serve a broad variety and range of clients, from the elderly to disabled to anyone needing transit services or medical services transportation. Funding and office location remain an issue.
 - j. Local Roads Safety Plans:** Frontier MPO is drafting a local roads safety plan to develop appropriate countermeasures due to a growing trend of accidents, especially in our more rural sections of the MPO. Our intern, Ms. Lizbeth Juarez-Bartol, is assisting in this effort. Our goal is to develop Local Roads Safety Plans for each jurisdiction. Lizbeth is funded by the University of Arkansas; we appreciate that she gets to be part of our team. For questions or comments, reach out to Reese and she will communicate your ideas/questions/thoughts.
 - k. Green Man Plus:** The Singapore Land and Transit Authority Traffic Operations and Signal Department's Green Man Plus program allows the elderly and disabled to increase crossing times at intersections by scanning a card that gives additional time to cross the road or highway. This approach may or may not work in our area. It may not meet the manual of uniform traffic control devices, but we want to learn more about how the program was set up and if a pilot project is warranted. Frontier MPO staff contacted and scheduled a virtual meeting with the Green Man Plus program to learn more.
 - l. Advancing Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Mini Grant:** Frontier MPO applied for the Advancing Justice Technical Assistance Mini Grant. Dr. Lisa McClain is also a partner on this grant. This grant uses the Our Voice approach to look at environmental justice in terms of transportation projects.
 - m. Public Input Platform:** Check out our projects on our public input links. The Walkability Action Team, Walk10 Crawford County, and the MTP Update are currently available. We are happy to put up some of your information, reach out to Reese.
 - n. Selected as National Executive Board Member for AMPO:** Reese Brewer was nominated by the AMPO National Executive Board and selected by the membership to serve on the National Executive Board.
 - o. Please Welcome our guest: Dr. Lisa McClain, Director of Health & Wellness, Arkansas Colleges of Health Education**
- D. 2021 Board Meeting Dates:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021. Due to COVID-19, we anticipate a virtual meeting. Usually, we will meet at various locations in 2020 so that jurisdictions can share their projects.
- E. Guest Speaker Dr. Lisa McClain, Director of Health & Wellness, Arkansas Colleges of Health Education**
- a.** Dr. Lisa McClain spoke about Our Voice Approach findings from The Walkability Action Team.

F. Public Comment Period

- a. There were no public comments.

II. New Business

A. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair (each from different jurisdictions)

Sunny Farmahan nominated Doug Kinslow to continue as Chair with Joe Hurst as second. **A unanimous vote was reached.**

Ken Savage nominated Dennis Gilstrap as Vice Chair. **A unanimous vote was reached.**

B. Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates

Chad Adams stated the mill and fill of Hwy 59 in between I-40 and downtown Van Buren is complete. Projects in Lavaca and Van Buren to replace some box culverts are about 25% complete. Mill and fill on Hwy 59 from Hwy 22 to Hwy 71 is nearly complete. Widening projects on 255 are off to a slow start with leveling and utility relocation ongoing. Upcoming projects include mill and fill on Hwy 71 between Hwy 10 in Greenwood and Mill Creek in Fort Smith, and an overlay of Rogers Ave/Hwy 22 from I-540 to Hwy 96. Both upcoming projects should be underway this summer.

No action was taken.

C. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates

Sarah McElroy has taken over for Braden Cale. Sarah is with the planning and performance branch at ODOT and serves as STIP coordinator. No project updates.

No action was taken.

III. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

March 24, 2021, Virtual Meeting

Policy Board:

March 24, 2021, Virtual Meeting

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm by Sunny Farmahan and seconded by Chad Adams. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, virtually.