



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 7, 2022
Location: PEAK Innovation Center, 5900 Painter Ln, Fort Smith, AR 72903
Time: Called to order at 11:45 a.m.

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chad Adams	ARDOT
Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ARDOT
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Ms. Teresa Harris <i>*official representative for Central City</i>	Town of Central City
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst <i>*represented by proxy Wally Bailey</i>	City of Van Buren
Judge Dennis Gilstrap <i>*represented by proxy Judge-Elect Chris Keith</i>	Crawford County
Mr. Daniel Mann <i>*represented by proxy Lorie Robertson</i>	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Judge David Hudson <i>*represented by proxy Judge-Elect Steve Hotz</i>	Sebastian County
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT
Mayor Roy Walker <i>*represented by proxy Amanda Goldsmith</i>	Town of Pocola

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
Mrs. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

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
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Le Flore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

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

Others Present: Dr. Elizabeth McLain, ACHE; Chris Dillaha, ARDOT; Norel McAdoo, ARDOT, Ryan DeVasher, ArDOT; Stacy Willinger, FMPO; Dr. Gary Udouj, PEAK Innovation Center; Ashley Garris, WAPDD.

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- With no corrections nor additions, Lorie Robertson motioned to approve the agenda. Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached

b. Approval of the September 14, 2022 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

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

c. FHWA Environmental Excellence Awards Presentation

- Frontier MPO and partners Mercy, Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, City of Fort Smith – Fort Smith Transit, ARDOT District IV, and the University of Arkansas were presented with the FHWA Environmental Excellence Awards by Valera McDaniel for ‘The Frontier MPO: Using Innovations from the FHWA Framework for Incorporating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning to Advance Health and Equity in Fort Smith, Arkansas’.

d. MPO Director’s Report

- Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the September 14, 2022, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:
- **AMPO AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT FOR A NON-TMA MPO:** Frontier MPO has garnered a nationally recognized award for Outstanding Overall Achievement for a Non-TMA MPO; the distinction was presented on October 27th at the 2022 Annual AMPO Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Frontier MPO has received numerous awards for impact and regional success. They were awarded the grand prize for the SMART CITY CHALLENGE and their SMILES - Shared Micromobility for Affordable-Accessible Housing - project.
- **WESTERN ARKANSAS LOCAL ROADS SAFETY ACTION PLAN (LRSP):** Draft of Frontier MPO/WAPDD local roads safety action plan is available for viewing and final comments. Draft can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/528anh6s>. This safety action plan can position jurisdictions within the Frontier MPO and WAPDD boundaries to apply for grants and should be viewed as a living document that can be updated to reflect changing local needs and priorities.
- **STATELINE ROAD & BRIDGE TOUR:** Reese coordinated a tour with the City of Fort Smith, the towns of Pocola and Arkoma, and ODOT to begin to address funding road and safety improvements to Stateline Road. **Special thanks to Fort Smith Transit.**
- **SMART GRANT:** Frontier Staff is assisting the City of Fort Smith to pursue advanced signalization technology for 136 intersections through a SMART grant application.
- **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:** Check with Frontier MPO on numerous federal grant opportunities. The City of Barling Transportation Alternatives Program grant application was awarded \$300,000 to start work on sidewalks along Fort Street/Hwy. 22 in Barling
- **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CIVIC INNOVATION CHALLENGES GRANT (SMILIES) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT:** Staff provided support to the University of Arkansas and have received an additional \$97K for the SMILIES project. Also, staff provided support and coordination to relocate bikeshare stations to better serve the community. Staff coordinated three public engagement sessions with SMILIES users and non-users.

- **FORT SMITH ACTIVE MOBILITY, BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN:** The City of Fort Smith reviewed the RFQ and MOA. We expect to release the RFQ soon.
- **TOWN OF POCOLA STREETS IMPROVEMENT DRAFT PLAN:** Staff is completing the Streets Improvement Draft Plan based on information provided by the Town of Pocola’s Street Condition Index. Frontier MPO assisted with template, format, and draft document.
- **MARAD REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE:** Reese is working with the MARAD Administration to host a regional freight/maritime roundtable in spring 2023.
- **TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE AWARD:**
 - **AT015 – Urban Freight Planning** – a committee that Reese serves on received a Blue-Ribbon Award for innovation from the National Academies of the Sciences, Transportation Research Board.

e. Public Comment Period

- a. There were no public comments.

II. New Business

- i. **Resolution 22-10 – Adoption to Approve 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4**
Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Chris Keith seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- ii. **Resolution 22-11 – Adoption to Approve MTP Update, Amendment #1**
Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Sunny Farmahan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- iii. **Resolution 22-12 – Adoption to Approve 2023-2026 TIP**
Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- iv. **Resolution 22-13 – Approval of ARDOT PM1 Safety Targets**
PM2 and PM3 safety targets are being finalized by ARDOT. Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
 - a. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
Chad Adams provided ArDOT updates: See page 5.
No action required.
 - b. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**
Sarah McElroy provided ODOT updates:
 - The ODOT Freight Plan was submitted on 11/15/2022 with requested updates made and resubmitted on 12/6/2022 to become BIL compliant.
 - ODOT is conducting a pilot on wrong way detection systems along the I-40 E corridor. This pilot includes “Do Not Enter” signage, flashing lights, safety improvements and updated freeway on- and off-ramps. The closest pilot sites are exit 321, U.S. 64 eastbound, in Muldrow, OK, and exit 330 westbound in Roland, OK. This is pilot program only, but further expansion may be possible.**No action required.**

III. Open Discussion

- Judge-Elect Steve Hotz let board know that a retirement reception would be held for Judge Hudson on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Ben Geren shelter to thank him for 25 years of service.
- Steve Core reinforced the importance of local roads safety action plan and discussed the benefits of sharing the plan with local police and other agencies.
- Jurisdictions should start considering what impact the I-49 extension from Alma to Barling will bring to businesses, transportation, communities, etc.
- Lorie Robertson notified the Policy Board that 60 acres of land in eastern Chaffee Crossing was sold for a huge distribution center. A new stoplight will be installed at Mahogany and Highway 22 for traffic. This new business will bring new jobs to the area.

IV. Next Meetings

Policy Board:

March 30, 2023; location to be determined

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. by Jerry Martin and seconded by Lorie Robertson. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2023.