



Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

Date: January 13th, 2020
Location: Alma Community Building, Alma, AR
Time: Called to order at 12:12 p.m.

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ArDOT
Mr. Chad Adams	ArDOT
Judge Dennis Gilstrap	Crawford County
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	Town of Barling
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Mr. Daniel Mann	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Braden Cale	ODOT Planning

Non-Voting Members Present:

Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma

Members Not Present:

Judge David Hudson	Sebastian County
Mayor Chuck Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O’Kelley	City of Kibler
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Floyd Lawrence	Town of Arkoma
Commissioner Derwin Gist	LeFlore County
Mayor George McGill	City of Fort Smith

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
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Others Present: Reese Brewer and Cody Schindler, FMPO; Sasha Grist and Ashley Garris, WAPDD; Chris Dillaha, ArDOT; Mike Sprague, Arkansas State Parks; Carl Geffken, City of Fort Smith; Janice Scaggs, Congressman Womack’s Office; Jessi Solley, Congressman Boozman’s Office.

I. Administrative

A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

With no corrections nor additions, Chad Adams motioned to approve the agenda. Ken Savage seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

B. Approval of the October 2nd, 2019 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Chad Adams motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sunny Farmahan. A unanimous vote was reached.

C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the October 2nd, 2019 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- **Frontier MPO with its partners**, is one of 10 semifinalists across the world for the Parson's Engineering Smart Intersections Challenge. Parsons has assigned a traffic signal specialist to the City of Fort Smith and the team.
- **FHWA/FTA Technical Assistance Rogers Avenue:** Frontier Staff is working on a draft report, Integrating Health into Transportation Corridors" for the FHWA/FTA technical assistance program.
- **City of Fort Smith, Downtown Truck Study:** Halff and Associates is finalizing the study and recommendations.
- **Bike Share Program:** The City of Fort Smith, GO FS bike share launched in September 2019. An additional bike rack sponsored by Coca-Cola is now at the Fort Smith Convention Center. Staff continues to seek funding opportunities.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian & Traffic Counts, City of Greenwood & Town of Pocola:** An open house was held at the City of Greenwood. In addition, a survey regarding the current pedestrian and bicyclist facilities and needs was developed.
- **National Recreation and Parks Association Grant:** Frontier MPO assisted Crawford County in applying for this grant with Crawford County receiving a grant award of \$40,000.00. Staff recently attended National Recreation and Parks Association training.
- **People4Bikes Grant:** Frontier MPO applied for a Better Bike Share Partnership grant of \$10,000.00 through People4Bikes. The proposed project is focused on helping all community members learn about and use bike share. Announcements will be made on 17 January 2020.
- **Chronic Disease Coordinators, Walkability Institute Grant:** Frontier MPO and its many partners, the City of Fort Smith, Crawford County, the Arkansas College of Health & Education, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, Mercy Hospital, and other key partners have applied to attend the CDC's Walkability Institute in April 2020.
- **USDA Rural Smart Transit Hub Study:** Work is starting on the USDA Rural Smart Transit Hub Study by the Western Institute of Transportation. Look for upcoming meetings, surveys, and other materials soon.

- **Towson Avenue:** Frontier MPO staff is assisting with coordinating streetscaping complete streets design on behalf of the City of Fort Smith.
- **FHWA Center for Innovative Finance Support:** FHWA headquarters members will provide training on innovative financing and resources in spring 2020.
- **Please Welcome our Guests,** Dave Thomson and Ashley Newsom of the Midwest Region, National Parks Service, Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance program.
- **2020 Board Meeting Dates:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020 at the City of Greenwood. We will meet at various locations in 2020 so that jurisdictions can share their projects.

D. Public Comment Period

Isaac Akem elaborated on the Innovative Finance Support and how helpful this opportunity will be for this region.

Doug Kinslow thanked Jerry Martin for the usage of the Alma Community Building for the meeting.

II. New Business

A. Adopt City of Fort Smith Transit Asset Management Targets – Resolution 20-1

Reese Brewer explained that the City of Fort Smith Transit recently completed their TAM plan and the resolution is to adopt the targets within the plan. **Jerry Martin motioned for approval; Dennis Gilstrap seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

B. 2020 Meeting Dates

Reese Brewer provided the meeting dates for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. The dates are May 13, August 19, and November 18. **No action was taken.**

C. Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates

Chad Adams provided the update from ArDOT. Chad noted that they are still working on I-40 and I-540 and it'll be complete by August. Chad also listed several projects that are upcoming within the next couple years. **No action was taken.**

D. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates

Braden Cale had no updates from ODOT, but there will be some projects in five years. **No action was taken.**

E. National Park Service, Midwest Region, Ashley Newsom, Community Planner

Ashley provided info about the public meeting later that night at the glass pavilion in downtown Fort Smith. The meeting will be a charette that will focus on trails connecting to parks or other interest areas. **No action was taken.**

III. Open Discussion

Isaac Akem noted that FHWA is working with federal transit to review STIP projects within this area, as well as several other things such as performance measures.

Lorie Robertson stated that FCRA and ACHE acquired 180 acres that will be used as a mountain biking destination on the ACHE campus adjacent to I-49. They also applied for a TAP grant for more trails in Chaffee Crossing. Lorie also noted that Torraine Lake now has a complete trail around the lake.

Doug Kinslow explained that Greenwood has an old bridge that an engineer will be looking at to possibly get it restored for use at Lake Greenwood.

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

May 13th, 2020, Bell Park, Greenwood, AR

Policy Board:

May 13th, 2020, Bell Park, Greenwood, AR

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm by Roy Walker and seconded by Dennis Gilstrap. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 at noon at Bell Park in Greenwood, AR.