



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 8, 2021
Location: Hybrid Meeting
Time: Called to order at 12:07 PM

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chad Adams	ARDOT
Mr. Sunny Farmahan <i>*represented by proxy Chris Dillaha</i>	ARDOT
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Judge Dennis Gilstrap <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Crawford County
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Sen. Mat Pitsch <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith
Mrs. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

Members Not Present:

Mr. Daniel Mann	Chaffee Crossing
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
Judge David Hudson	Sebastian County
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Le Flore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mr. Matthew Swift	ODOT

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

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

Others Present: Danielle Smith, City of Greenwood; Stacy Willinger, Frontier MPO; Reese Brewer, Frontier MPO; Greg Buckley, City of Arkoma.

I. Administrative

A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- a. With no corrections nor additions, Ken Savage motioned to approve the agenda. Mayor Roy Walker seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

B. Approval of the September 23, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- a. Ashley Garris (proxy for Mat Pitsch) motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mayor Roy Walker. A unanimous vote was reached.

C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the September 23, 2021, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- a. **FHWA Development of Safety and Traffic Data Collection System & Analysis Framework:** Crawford County was selected to participate in the development of a FHWA pilot project to develop a safety and traffic data collection system and analysis framework for more rural highway systems. Frontier MPO and Crawford County are directly working with FHWA on this effort.
- b. **Federal Lands Access Program:** Frontier MPO is assisting Crawford County with a FLAP application for improved safety and access to forestry roads.
- c. **FHWA Assistance for MPO-wide Local Roads Safety Plan:** FHWA will assist with our partners, ArDOT in the development of a regional local road(s) safety plan starting in 2022.
- d. **Work Rise 2021:** Frontier MPO and the University of Arkansas were selected for a six-month, \$10K seed grant to write a literature synthesis of approximately 10 pages describing the SMILIES current scope and quality of evidence on the questions raised in your proposal, and to define the frontiers and questions where additional research could bridge vital knowledge gaps to inform stronger policies, programs, or practices.
- e. **Van Buren wins TAP grant:** Frontier MPO staff (Stacy Willinger) assisted the City of Van Buren with their winning grant of \$274,000 for the Northridge sidewalks project.
- f. **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance:** Frontier MPO is disseminating surveys and meeting with community stakeholders and freight interests to kickoff this effort.
- g. **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** Staff and Dr. Suman Mitra with the University of Arkansas met with various stakeholders and community champions to kick off the "SMILIES" project in north Fort Smith.
- h. **NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program:** New work and a survey is being developed to identify future transportation hubs and wayfinding signage to the National Historic Site and the Riverfront amenities.
- i. **Laneshift Build School:** Technical Committee member Lorie Robertson and staff transportation planner Stacy Willinger attended Laneshift Build School in NWA in early November. Build School is an immersive 4-day training on of how to execute and implement bike infrastructure and related culture.
- j. **Presentations:** Ms. Brewer provided presentations on Frontier MPO's work and projects to the University of Washington Urban Freight Lab, the Transportation Research Board, "Freight Hour," to the FHWA Health & Transportation Planning group. Reese is invited to speak at the annual Transportation Research Board meeting in January on the freight equity project in north Fort Smith. .

D. Public Comment Period

- a. There were no public comments.

II. New Business

- A. Resolution 21-10:** Support the safety performance targets of the Oklahoma Department Of Transportation (ODOT). Reese Brewer clarified that this resolution would approve the adoption of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation safety targets for Frontier MPO.
Ken Savage made a motion to approve, and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- B. Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
 Chad Adams gave ArDOT updates: See table 1.
No action was taken.
- C. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**
 There were no updates.
No action was taken.

III. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

March 2, 2022, Hybrid Meeting expected

Policy Board:

March 2, 2022, Hybrid Meeting expected

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:31 pm by Steve Core and seconded by Ken Savage. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, most likely as a virtual/hybrid meeting.

ARDOT Current Pavement Preservation Projects.					
Job Number	Budget (in millions)	Contractor	Description	Est. Completion	Notes
40772	\$8.7	Forsgren Construction	Highway 22 from I-540 – East of Highway 96.	10/29/2021	Project substantially complete on 10/18/21
40765	\$5.3	Emery Sap and Sons	Highway 71 from Scott Co. to Highway 10	12/17/2021	Project is 80% complete
40794	\$4.8	Forsgren Construction	Highway 255 and 71B from South Zero at Mill Creek to Highway 64	12/15/2021	Project is 90% complete
ARDOT Construction Projects					
Job Number	Budget (in millions)	Contractor	Description	Est. Completion	Notes
40716	\$19.3	Forsgren Construction	Highway 255 from Massard to Highway 22	6/2/2023	This job consists of the widening and relocation of Highway 255.
40819	\$8.0	Mobley Contractors	Highways 64, 96, and 252	2/18/2022	The job consists of the replacement of five structures with concrete box culverts on Highway 64 in Van Buren and 4 structures on Highway 96 and 252 in northeast Sebastian County.
12372	\$44.2	Koss Construction	I-40 - LM 17-47	11/17/2021	Project was substantially complete on 11/17/21.
12379	\$19.2	American Contracting and Services	Bridge Hydrodemolition with Latex Modified Overlay	12/30/2022	This job will provide bridge rehabilitation including a latex modified overlay of the I-540 river bridges and the Highway 64 river and relief bridge.
Upcoming Projects					
Job Number	Description				Est. Letting Date
40713	Highway 45 Widening between Highway 255 and 71				Late 2022
40723	Highway 71B (Towson) Resurface, Drainage and Sidewalk improvements				Late 2022
40714	I-40/Highway 59 Interchange Improvements				Early 2023
TBD	Pavement Preservation projects for Hwy 255 (Riverfront Dr) and Hwy 64 between Van Buren and Alma				2022