



Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

**Date:** June 8, 2022  
**Location:** Arts On Main, 415 Main Street, Van Buren, AR 72956  
**Time:** Called to order at 12:10 PM

**Policy Board Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Chad Adams <i>*represented by proxy Marcus Rainwater</i>	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 George McGill <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Judge Dennis Gilstrap	Crawford County
Mr. Michael Griffin <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Sen. Mat Pitsch <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Mr. Daniel Mann	Chaffee Crossing
Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O’Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
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

**Non-Voting Members Not Present:**

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

**Others Present:** Stacy Willinger, Frontier MPO; Reese Brewer, Frontier MPO; Michael Rosenberg, WAPDD

## I. Administrative

### A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

- a. With no corrections nor additions, Mayor Joe Hurst motioned to approve the agenda. Mayor Jerry Martin seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

### B. Approval of the March 31, 2022 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- a. Mayor Jerry Martin motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Judge Dennis Gilstrap. A unanimous vote was reached.

### C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the March 31, 2022 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- **FHWA Assistance for MPO-wide Local Roads Safety Plan:** FHWA and their consultant is seeking input on road safety issues by the end of June. In order to provide comment, go to the following links at:
  - [Polk County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
  - [Logan County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
  - [Scott County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
  - [Sebastian County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
  - [Franklin County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
  - [Crawford County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
- **Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant:** Reese Brewer assisted the Crawford County Public Works Department with their FLAP grant application. Crawford County was selected and will make safety improvements to a National Forest Service facility.
- **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** The SMILIES Bikeshare (Ride4Smilies) officially launched on May 12, 2022.
- **TAP Grant/Barling:** Frontier MPO staff (Stacy Willinger) submitted a TAP grant on behalf of the City of Barling. The project is for 6-foot sidewalks on the southern side of Fort St/Hwy 22 from 22<sup>nd</sup> St to Frontier St. We received letters of support from Barling Elementary School thanks to Principal Carl Hill. Project will benefit families, especially those residing in triangle of Highway 22 to Church Street to Painter Lane/Moody Road/22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Highway 22, as there is no bus service for students in that area. The project will also connect with sidewalks on Strozier and link with the new trail going in at Mercy Crest.
- **ArcBest Health & Wellness:** Frontier coordinated meetings with ArcBest, Tandem Mobility, and the University of Arkansas to discuss sponsorship of SMILIES bikeshare stations and bicycles.
- **CDC Walkability Action Institute Grant Funds:** Crawford County completed their access project to the Diamond Park Complex in April 2022.
- **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance:** Reese Brewer virtually presented at the American Society of Civil Engineers conference in May to discuss the micro-freight project in North Fort Smith.
- **MARAD Project Designation Application:** Reese Brewer is assisting WAIA with a project designation application to the Maritime Administration.
- **EV Slow Charger Program:** Frontier MPO staff is assisting the City of Van Buren with a future EV Slow Charger application. While current funds are expended in this program, additional funding is anticipated later in the year.
- **FHWA Environmental Excellence Award:** As a result of her efforts on the FHWA Health & Transportation Design Framework technical assistance grant and plan for the Rogers Avenue Corridor, Reese Brewer and Frontier MPO was selected as a recipient of this national award in the Community

Considerations in Transportation Improvements category. A total of 13 awards for various categories were given. Below is a list of the awardees:

- University Avenue Corridor Study and Roadway Improvement Project (Louisiana)
  - Telling the Rest of the Story: Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives in Public Transportation Projects (Ohio)
  - Flint Hills Trail: Connecting Communities, Cultures, and Landscapes (Kansas)
  - 424407-1 SR 968/SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street at Miami River Bridge #870660 Replacement (Florida)
  - **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 (Arkansas)**
  - I-15/US-20 Connector PEL (Idaho)
  - Town Branch Commons (Kentucky)
  - Vermont Highways & Habitats: Road Ecology Training for Transportation Professionals (Vermont)
  - Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation (Minnesota)
  - Gleason Beach Roadway Realignment Project (California)
  - Mitigation Site for OR 140 (OR DOT 140 (3)) (Oregon)
  - Snake River Bridge Reconstruction and Wildlife Crossing Integration (Wyoming)
  - OR244: Whiskey Creek Culvert Replacement (Oregon)
  - Advancing Science to Better Consider the Ability of Nature Based Solutions to Protect Transportation Infrastructure from Sea Level Rise and Flooding (Alabama, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire)
- **Walking College Update** – Attended an in-person workshop on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Walking College Fellows were able to meet in person for the first time. Activities include I gave a brief presentation on walkability’s positive effect on quality of life. We worked on our Walking Action Plans for our communities, went on a Walk Audit of the area around the downtown Little Rock
  - **City of Fort Smith Mobility Coordinator:** Frontier MPO staff met with Mr. Michael Mings, the new City of Fort Smith Mobility Coordinator to discuss future mobility and bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts.
  - **Presentations/Appointments:**
    - Reese is invited to speak at the FHWA Environmental Excellence Award ceremony at the [AASHTO Committee on Environment and Sustainability 2022 annual meeting](#).
    - Reese spoke at the annual American Society of Civil Engineers conference.
    - Reese spoke at the American Association of State and Highway Officials annual conference.
    - Reese spoke at the FHWA “Talking Freight” Webinar series on Freight Equity.
    - Reese provided presentations at Leadership Crawford County regarding I—49, the Intermodal Facility, and the economic impacts and benefits of trails, bicycling.
    - Staff attended several public meetings and held online open houses on the Draft MTP update during May 2022.

#### **D. Public Comment Period**

- a. There were no public comments.

#### **I. New Business**

- a. **Resolution 22-3:** To Adopt and Approve the Final MTP Update: Together 2045
- b. **Mayor Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- c. **Resolution 22-4:** To Approve the TIP Amendment for the ODOT Transit Funding changes.

**Judge Dennis Gilstrap made a motion to approve, and Mayor Jerry Martin seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

- d. **Resolution 22-5:** To Approve the TIP Amendment to bring forward the City of Fort Smith Transit Department's Alternative Access project forward using FTA carryover funds.  
**Mayor Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Judge Dennis Gilstrap seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- e. **Resolution 22-6:** To Approve and Adopt the Final UPWP FY 2023.  
**Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Judge Dennis Gilstrap seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- a. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**  
Marcus Rainwater provided written ArDOT updates: See page 5.  
**No action required.**
- b. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**  
There were no updates.  
**No action required.**

**II. Open Discussion**

There was no open discussion.

**III. Next Meetings**

**Policy Board:**

September 14, 2022; location to be determined

**IV. Adjournment**

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm by Steve Core and seconded by Mayor Jerry Martin. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

## **6/8/22 ArDOT Project Summary in the Fort Smith/Van Burren Metro Area (Marcus Rainwater)**

### Construction Projects

- 040716, 19.3 million, contract awarded to Forsgren Construction, Highway 255 from Massard to Highway 22.
  - This job consists of the widening and relocation of Highway 255. The utilities contractors are performing fiber splicing and transfers. Once complete the Contractor will be able to proceed with the project. The estimated completion date is Fall 2023.
- 040819, 8.0 million, Mobley Contractors, Highways 64, 96, and 252
  - 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. Project is 86% complete and has an estimated completion date of early summer for the original portion of the project.
- 012379, 19.2 million, American Contracting and Services, Bridge Hydrodemolition with Latex Modified Overlay.
  - 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. This multi-District job has started in another District and has an estimated completion date of winter 2022.

### Pavement Preservation

- A40011, 5.2 million, resurfacing of Highway 64 between Van Buren and Alma, contract awarded to Forsgren Construction.
- A40010, 3.9 million, resurfacing of Highway 255 (Riverfront Drive) has an apparent low bidder of Forsgren Construction, project pending award.

### Upcoming Projects

- 040713 – Highway 45 Widening between Highway 255 and 71 – Scheduled letting late 2023
- 040723 – Highway 71B (Towson) Resurface, Drainage and Sidewalk improvements – Scheduled Spring 2024
- 040714 – I-40/Highway 59 Interchange Improvements – Scheduled letting early 2023
- 040748 – The I-49 connector between I-40 and Highway 22 will be divided into four jobs. The clearing work for the southern end of the project will be let later this year. Major construction work is scheduled to start in 2024. A second public hearing will be held the summer of 2022.