



FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 22, 2023
Location: Greenwood City Hall, 30 Bell Road, Greenwood, AR 72936
Time: Called to Order at 10:35 AM

Technical Committee Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater <i>*represented by proxy Jason Hughey</i>	ARDOT
Dustin Willet	Crawford County
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Michael Stephens <i>*represented by proxy Michael Griffin</i>	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	City of Lavaca
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mrs. Sasha Grist <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mrs. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit Department
Commissioner Vallard Campbell	Leflore County
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Tribal Nation

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
Mrs. Tonya Sarlls	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Sasha Grist <i>*represented by proxy Ashley Garris</i>	WAPDD

Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor Andrew Crow	City of Kibler
Mayor Bill Collins	City of Bonanza
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Mr. Michael Mings	City of Fort Smith
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Josh Johnson	Town of Arkoma
Ms. Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett
Mr. John Limocker	Town of Pocola

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Ms. Valera McDaniel
Mr. Carl Geffken
Ms. Ronisha Hodge
Mr. Tim Allen

FHWA | Arkansas
City of Fort Smith
USDOT – FTA
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce

Others Present: Mrs. Reese Brewer, FMPO, Mrs. Desaray Fuentes, FMPO, Mr. Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT, and Heather Edwards, Restore Hope

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

- With no corrections nor additions, Robert Endicott motioned to approve the agenda. Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

b. Approval of the March 30, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

- Mark Yardley motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sonny Bell. A unanimous vote was reached.

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the March 30, 2023, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered.

- **MARAD Regional Roundtable** – Staff coordinated speakers for the MARAD Regional Roundtable which included Maritime Administrator, Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, Dr. Heather Nachtmann, Mack Blackwell Transportation Center (UA), Dr. Sarah Hernandez, Civil Engineering (UA), Aimee Andres, Inland Ports, Rivers, & Terminals, Cassandra Caldwell, Arkansas Waterways Commission, John Edwards, Port of Helena, US Army Corps of Engineers, Marty Shell, Five Rivers Distribution, and local freight interests.
- **WAIA & Five Rivers Distribution MARAD PIDP Grant:** Staff applied for a \$20 million grant on behalf of WAIA and Fiver Rivers Distribution for the design and installation of a slack water harbor sheet pile dock.
- **Fort Smith Active Mobility, Bicycle, & Pedestrian Plan RFQ:** Staff developed and published in coordination with the City of Fort Smith the Active Mobility, Bicycle, & Pedestrian Plan Request for Qualifications. The selection and evaluation team reviewed and scored submitted proposals in May 2023. The team selected a consultant.
- **Stateline Road – Seek Designation in County Improvements, Roads & Bridges Plan:** Staff continues to facilitate efforts to improve and fund Stateline Road improvements. The City of Pocola will host the next meeting.
- **CDC Walkability Action Institute Louisiana:** Reese Brewer was invited to present at the Louisiana Academy. Reese Brewer spoke on the Frontier MPO experience with the CDC Walkability Institute.
- **City Health Dashboard:** Congratulations to the City of Alma. Staff forwarded on this opportunity to qualifying cities. Alma described their plans to use Dashboard data for important health and well-being projects. Alma will receive in-kind analytic services from City Health Dashboard data team and be added to the City Health Dashboard, providing new access to their city and neighborhood-level data starting in summer 2023. They will be able to use all of the site's features including exploring metric maps, comparing metrics within their city or comparing to other Dashboard cities, viewing demographic maps, accessing Take Action resources, and more.

- **Grant Opportunities:** Check with Frontier MPO on numerous federal grant opportunities.
- **C2C Clean Energy to Communities:** Frontier MPO is pleased to announce that Reese M. Brewer has been selected to attend the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) pilot peer learning cohort titled “Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment.” This program is supported by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

d. Public Comment Period

- Sonny Bell stated that the City of Greenwood would be having their Freedom Fest on July 4th in the Downtown Square. Robert Endicott stated that they are starting a pilot program for the east part of the county in the Muldrow and Roland area which would be an on-demand transit service that would also use phone app technology to schedule rides. Chris Dillaha stated that ARDOT is having their Bi-Annual Transportation Planning Conference in September from the 19th through the 21st. Reese Brewer stated that Desaray Fuentes would be attending that meeting in September. Reese Brewer stated that the next Technical Committee meeting is currently set for September 28th but may need to be re-scheduled due to her being out of town at a conference.

II. New Business

- Resolution 23-06** – A Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.
 - **Lori Carr made a motion to approve, and Chis Dillaha seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Resolution 23-07** – A Resolution to Approve the Public Participation Plan for Release for Public Comment.
 - **Ashley Garris, proxy for Mayor Hugh Hardgrave, made a motion to approve, and Lori Carr seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Resolution 23-08** – A Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Infrastructure (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Targets of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT).
 - **Robert Endicott made a motion to approve, and Jason Hughey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
 - Jason Hughey provided written ARDOT Updates. He spoke on the various construction and pavement preservation projects currently going on.
 - No action required.
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation**
 - There were no updates.
 - No action required.

III. Open Discussion

Robert Endicott spoke on the Highway 412 project from Oklahoma to Arkansas. Wally Bailey asked about the Highway 59 to Sunset Avenue widening project. Commissioner Vallard Campbell stated that this is still ongoing and that currently they are working on utilities. He stated the project would hopefully be completed by mid-2024. Robert Endicott asked about the Urbanized Area Boundary Revisions. Reese Brewer stated that she is still waiting for the Census Bureau. Sonny Bell mentioned that he would like to thank ARDOT for their patience on the Greenwood Sidewalk project.

IV. Next Meeting

- **Technical Committee**
Tentatively: September 28, 2023
- **Policy Board:**
Tentatively: September 28, 2023

V. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM by Wally Bailey and seconded by Jason Hughey. The next Technical Committee meeting will tentatively be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023.