



**FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date: March 30, 2023

Location: Alma Community Center, 114 Collum Lane E, Alma, AR 72921

Time: Called to Order at 10:30 AM

Technical Committee Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater <i>*represented by proxy Sunny Farmahan</i>	ARDOT
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mr. Michael Stephens	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst <i>*represented by proxy Wally Bailey</i>	City of Van Buren
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mrs. Lori Carr <i>*represented by proxy Michael Rosenberg</i>	Transit Department
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Tribal Nation
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola
Mayor Andrew Crow (Present Virtually)	City of Kibler

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Cody Schindler	City of Alma
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Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Dustin Willet	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Mr. Michael Mings	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mrs. Sasha Grist	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Commissioner Derwin Gist	LeFlore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Ms. Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Ms. Valera McDaniel
Mr. Isaac Akem
Mrs. Tonya Sarlls
Mrs. Sasha Grist
Mr. Carl Geffken

FHWA/Arkansas
FHWA/Oklahoma
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
WAPDD
City of Fort Smith

Others Present: Michael Rosenberg, WAPDD; Mrs. Reese Brewer, FMPO

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

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

b. Approval of the December 7, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

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

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the December 7, 2022, meeting and an upcoming event that will be taking place in April. Activities related to the following topics were covered.

- **MARAD Regional Roudtable** – The MARAD Regional Roundtable will take place on April 12, 2023, at the PEAK Innovation Center. It will discuss a variety of modes for transportation of freight, focused on water, maritime, road and intermodal facilities, congestion points, and challenges for the region.
- **RAISE Grant** – Applied for a \$400,000 RAISE Grant on behalf of WAIA for the design and planning of an Intermodal Railroad Laydown Yard but have not heard any news at this point.
- **WAIA MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant** – Applied for a \$19 million WAIA MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant on behalf of WAIA and Five Rivers Distribution for slack water harbor infrastructure on the Arkansas River. This would improve safety for barge personnel that are along the Arkansas River. This grant is due by the end of the month.
- **Active Mobility, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Plan** – Assisted and published in coordination with the City of Fort Smith, the Active Mobility, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Plan Request for Qualifications. The selection and evaluation team will review, and score submitted proposals in April 2023. Frontier MPO will act as a contractor to the selected consultant, but the City of Fort Smith will work very closely with the selected consultant as well.
- **Stateline Road** – Reese Brewer met with Leflore County Commissioner, to discuss Stateline Road to see what options and opportunities are available to improve safety in that corridor.
- **ARDOT Intersection Improvement Program** – Reese Brewer stated there is \$1 million maximum federal aid available and that eligible projects would be intersection improvements, roundabouts, or anything to help with safety and to reduce injury and fatalities.

- **Safe Streets 4 All Grant** – Assisted the City of Fort Smith with their winning of the Safe Streets 4 All federal grant application. This grant would help to figure out a plan and identify projects that will improve safety and reduce deaths.
- **Grant Opportunities** – Reese Brewer stated that there were several grant opportunities available and that they are highly competitive, but many of them do not have matching requirements if you meet certain eligibility requirements.

d. Public Comment Period

- Sonny Bell asked what needed to be done to get the government back to these meetings. Reese Brewer stated that the By Laws have been updated to state that if you miss a certain number of meetings, you will be replaced. She then mentioned that one of the main challenges is with Oklahoma due to having such a small slice of Oklahoma and they do not always understand the benefits of allocation of federal dollars. She then pointed out that short of offering amenities, it is just tough to get people to these meetings.

II. New Business

- a. **Resolution 23-02** – A Resolution to Approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment # 5 (ODOT)
 - **Sunny Farmahan made a motion to approve, and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- b. **Resolution 23-03** – Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Safety Performance Targets of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)
 - **Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- c. **Resolution 23-04** – Resolution Approving Public Review and Comment Period for the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program
 - **Sunny Farmahan made a motion to approve, and Robert Endicott seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- d. **Resolution 23-05** – Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Support the Infrastructure (PM2) and System Performance (PM3) Targets of the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)
 - **Chris Dillaha made a motion to approve, and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- e. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
 - Sunny Farmahan provided written ARDOT Updates. He spoke on construction projects and provided a map of updated construction projects. He also stated that you can find these updates on the ARDOT Website.
 - No action required.
- f. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation**
 - There were no updates.
 - No action required.

III. Open Discussion

Reese Brewer stated that the City of Alma has been working on some very cool things with their trails.

IV. Next Meeting

- **Technical Committee**
June 22, 2023
- **Policy Board:**
June 22, 2023

V. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM by Sunny Farmahan and seconded by Steve Core. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023.