



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

Date: December 7, 2022
Location: PEAK Innovation Center, 5900 Painter Ln, Fort Smith, AR 72903
Time: Called to order at 10:32 a.m.

Technical Committee Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ARDOT
Mr. Mark Yardley <i>*represented by proxy Cody Schindler</i>	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mr. Michael Stephens	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Michael Mings	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Ms. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Ms. Teresa Harris (Official Representative for Central City)	Town of Central City
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT Planning
Mr. John Limbocker <i>*represented by proxy Amanda Goldsmith</i>	Town of Pocola

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
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Members Not Present:

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O’Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Ms. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Tim Allen	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Julie Murray	Van Buren Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

Others Present: Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT; Norel McAdoo, ARDOT, Ryan DeVasher, ARDOT; Stacy Willinger, FMPO, Hunter Mikles, City of Greenwood; Dr. Gary Udouj, PEAK Innovation Center.

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

- With no corrections nor additions, Lori Carr motioned to approve the agenda. Cody Schindler seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached

b. Approval of the September 14, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

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

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the September 14, 2022, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- **AMPO AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT FOR A NON-TMA MPO:** Frontier MPO has garnered a nationally recognized award for Outstanding Overall Achievement for a Non-TMA MPO; the distinction was presented on October 27th at the 2022 Annual AMPO Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Frontier MPO has received numerous awards for impact and regional success. They were awarded the grand prize for the SMART CITY CHALLENGE and their SMILES - Shared Micromobility for Affordable-Accessible Housing - project.
- **WESTERN ARKANSAS LOCAL ROADS SAFETY ACTION PLAN (LRSP):** Draft of Frontier MPO/WAPDD local roads safety action plan is available for viewing and final comments. Draft can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/528anh6s>. This safety action plan can position jurisdictions within the Frontier MPO and WAPDD boundaries to apply for safety grants and should be viewed as a living document that can be updated to reflect changing local needs and priorities.
- **STATELINE ROAD & BRIDGE TOUR:** Reese coordinated a tour with the City of Fort Smith, the towns of Pocola and Arkoma, and ODOT to begin to address funding road and safety improvements to Stateline Road. **Special thanks to Fort Smith Transit.**
- **SMART GRANT:** Frontier Staff is assisting the City of Fort Smith to pursue advanced signalization technology for 136 intersections through a SMART grant application.
- **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:** Check with Frontier MPO on numerous federal grant opportunities. The City of Barling Transportation Alternatives Program grant application was awarded \$300,000 to start work on sidewalks along Fort Street/Hwy. 22 in Barling.
- **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CIVIC INNOVATION CHALLENGES GRANT (SMILIES) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT:** Staff provided support to the University of Arkansas and have received an additional \$97K for the SMILIES project. Also, staff provided support and coordination to relocate bikeshare stations to better serve the community. Staff coordinated three public engagement sessions with SMILIES users and non-users and is coordinating with the Fort Smith Library on payment options for those lacking debit or credit cards.
- **FORT SMITH ACTIVE MOBILITY, BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN:** The City of Fort Smith reviewed the RFQ and MOA. We expect to release the RFQ soon.
- **TOWN OF POCOLA STREETS IMPROVEMENT DRAFT PLAN:** Staff is completing the Streets Improvement Draft Plan based on information provided by the Town of Pocola's Street Condition Index.

- **MARAD REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE:** Reese is working with the MARAD Administration to host a regional freight/maritime roundtable in spring 2023.

- **TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE AWARD:**

- **AT015 – Urban Freight Planning** – a committee that Reese serves on received a Blue-Ribbon Award for innovation from the National Academies of the Sciences, Transportation Research Board.

d. Public Comment Period

- There were no public comments.

II. New Business

a. Resolution 22-10 – Adoption to Approve 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #4
Michael Stephens made a motion to approve, and Sonny Bell seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

b. Resolution 22-11 – Adoption to Approve MTP Update, Amendment #1
Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Sonny Bell seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

c. Resolution 22-12 – Adoption to Approve 2023-2026 TIP
Wally Bailey made a motion to approve, and Chris Dillaha seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

d. Resolution 22-13 – Approval of ARDOT PM1 Safety Targets
PM2 and PM3 safety targets are being finalized by 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
Marcus Rainwater provided written ARDOT updates: See page 4. He explained that his updates come from ARDOT staff minutes, which can be viewed most easily by searching “ARDOT Staff Minutes” online or visiting
No action required.

f. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates
Sarah McElroy provided ODOT updates:

- The ODOT Freight Plan was submitted on 11/15/2022 with requested updates made and resubmitted on 12/6/2022 to become BIL compliant.
- ODOT is conducting a pilot on wrong way detection systems along the I-40 E corridor. This pilot includes “Do Not Enter” signage, flashing lights, safety improvements and updated freeway on- and off-ramps. The closest pilot sites are exit 321, U.S. 64 eastbound, in Muldrow, OK, and exit 330 westbound in Roland, OK. This is pilot program only, but further expansion may be possible.

No action required.

III. Open Discussion

- Sonny Bell introduced Hunter Mikles of the City of Greenwood’s Planning and Development department and informed the committee that Hunter may act as his proxy if he is unable to attend meetings. He also informed the Technical Committee that Bell Park Christmas lights are up, and the Greenwood Christmas parade was held on Monday, December 5th.
- Build America, Buy America (BABA) is more stringent and there are issues with sourcing for which waivers no longer work.

- Senator Mat Pitsch spoke about utilities being an obstacle to many projects due to not all utilities agencies being responsive. It was suggested that building relationships with utility representatives could be beneficial, and, if allowed by the Fed, could be beneficial to have on the Technical Committee and/or Policy Board.

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

March 30, 2023, location to be determined

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. by Michael Stephens and seconded by Steve Core. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2023.