



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

**Date:** June 8, 2022  
**Location:** Arts On Main, 415 Main Street, Van Buren, AR 72956  
**Time:** Called to order at 10:30 AM

**Technical Committee Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ARDOT
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Chaffee Crossing
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. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mr. Wally Bailey <i>*represented by proxy Jennifer Willoughby</i>	City of Van Buren
Mr. Michael Griffin <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Ms. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Ms. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Mr. Robert Endicott <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Cherokee Nation
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT Planning

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola

**Non-Voting Members Not Present:**

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

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

## I. Administrative

### A. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

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

### B. Approval of the March 31, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

- a. Steve Core motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mark Yardley. 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 \(arcgis.com\)](#)
  - [Logan County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](#)
  - [Scott County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](#)
  - [Sebastian County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](#)
  - [Franklin County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](#)
  - [Crawford County Reporter \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- ❖ **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/22nd 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)
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- ❖ **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.

## II. New Business

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

**Michael Stephens made a motion to approve, and Steve Core 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.  
**Michael Stephens made a motion to approve, and Sonny Bell 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 Michael Stephens seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

**b) Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**

a. Marcus Rainwater provided written ARDOT updates: See page 5.  
**No action was taken.**

b. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**  
There were no updates  
**No action was taken.**

**III. Open Discussion**

- a. Ms. Reese Brewer commented that Fort Smith is installing sidewalks in front of the library
- b. Mr. Steven Core commented that the LRSP maps are very thorough.
- c. Mr. Sonny Bell said that the ARDOT public meeting in Greenwood had good turnout with both positive and negative reactions to the 10 Spur projects
- d. Mr. Cody Schindler from City of Alma said the Alma Lake trails are nearly complete.

**IV. Next Meetings**

**Technical Committee:**

September 14, 2022, In-Person Meeting expected

**V. Adjournment**

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM by Steve Core and seconded by Lori Carr. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

## **6/8/22 ArDOT Project Summary in the Fort Smith/Van Buren 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.