



FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
**MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** February 15, 2024  
**Location:** For Smith Public Library, Main Branch • Fort Smith, AR  
**Time:** Called to order at 12:05 a.m.

**Policy Board Members Present:**

Mr. Sunny Farnaham	ArDOT
Mr. Jason Hughey * <i>Proxy Marcus Rainwater</i>	ArDOT
Judge Steve Hotz	Sebastian County
Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor Jimmy Fincher	City of Alma
Mayor Bill Collins	City of Bonanza
Mayor George McGill * <i>Proxy Jennifer Petrovich</i>	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Daniel Mann * <i>Proxy Mundi Ross</i>	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mrs. Ashley Garris	WAIA
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit
Mayor Roy Walker * <i>Proxy Amanda Goldsmith</i>	Town of Pocola
Mayor Joshua Johnson	Town of Arkoma
Ms. Dawn Sullivan, P.E. * <i>Proxy Devon Westbrook</i>	ODOT
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation

**Members Not Present:**

Judge Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Chuck Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor Andrew Crow	Mayor of Kibler
Commissioner Vallard Campbell	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County

**Non-Voting Members Not Present**

Ms. Laura Chaney	ODOT
Ms. Amy Heflin	FHWA – AR
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA – OK
Ronisha Hodges	FHWA-FTA

**Others Present:** Reese M. Brewer, Frontier MPO, Sasha Grist, WAPDD; Danielle Smith, City of Greenwood, Mark Allen, Sebastian County, Anthony Hunter, ArDOT, Cody Schindler, City of Alma, Whitnee Bullerwell, VeloCity, Mark Jones, VeloCity, and Colby Fulfer, Velocity.

**I. Administrative**

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

**With no corrections nor additions, Judge Steve Hotz motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Robert Endicott seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

**B. Approval of the December 14, 2023 Policy Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Sunny Farnaham motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Judge Steve Hotz; a unanimous vote was reached.**

**C. MPO Director's Report**

Reese M. Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the December 14, 2023 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- **WAIA & Five Rivers Distribution MARAD Grant:** Reese assisted with developing the NEPA RFQs and various planning documents and federal requirements to assist WAIA and Five Rivers Distribution with this work.
- **Texas Transportation Institute:** Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) is working on a USDOT IDEA grant application and is seeking partners to undertake work in truck parking. Frontier MPO facilitated a meeting with TTI, WAIA, and Frontier MPO to discuss this effort.
- **Transit Providers Meeting:** Frontier MPO facilitated a meeting between the Cherokee Nation, Kibois Transit, Fort Smith Transit, and the Area Agency on Aging to discuss how to optimize and coordinate services. Key regulatory challenges exist and may prove difficult to overcome.
- **Oakridge Road/Highway 59 Meeting:** Frontier MPO facilitated a meeting between the Cherokee Nation and Crawford County to include 0.7 miles of Oakridge Road into the BIA road inventory. This will permit requests for federal funding and grants. Oakridge Road reaches the junction of Hwy. 59 east of Stillwell, Oklahoma and west of Bell, Arkansas. The Cherokee Nation and Crawford County executed an agreement on this segment. Mr. Robert Endicott thanked Frontier MPO staff for their assistance.
- **GRANTS:** Frontier MPO was selected for consideration for the Thriving Communities grant. Frontier MPO wrote this on behalf of the Fort Smith Health Council Subcommittee on Mobility.
- **Freight Roundtable 2025:** Reese continues to seek speakers and panelists for the next Freight Roundtable on behalf of WAIA. Artificial intelligence, innovative technologies along with infrastructure resiliency is the focus of the event.
- **Frontier MPO held an Electric Vehicle Preparedness Workshop in late January 2024:** Electric vehicles (EVs) are here. This workshop gathered local and national experts and leaders to discuss developing a plan to anticipate EV demands and needs.
- **Webinar Information on Transportation Infrastructure Impacts from Solar Eclipse provided.**
- **The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2024.**

**D. Open Discussion/Public Comment Period**

Vice Chair Ken Savage welcomed all to provide details on any concerns, upcoming community events and notices. Michael Mings provided a presentation on the City of Fort Smith's RAISE grant applications: Bass Reeves Legacy Loop and the Butterfield Overland Pedestrian/Bicyclist Bridge. Vice Chair Ken Savage stated that Transit, trails and bikeshare compliment each other well.

**II. New Business**

- A. **Resolution 24-01 ArDOT Safety Targets:** Mr. Michael Griffin moved to approve; Mr. Rober Endicott seconded. A unanimous vote was reached.
- B. **Resolution 24-02 ODOT Safety Targets:** Mr. Robert Endicott moved to approve; Ms. Jennifer Petrovich seconded. A unanimous vote was reached.
  
- C. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Update**  
Marcus Rainwater of District IV ArDOT gave an update of various ArDOT Projects throughout the FMPO planning area. No action was taken.
  
- D. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Update**  
Reese Brewer and Devon Westbrook provided a brief update on the statewide long-range transportation plan effort and projects within the FMPO planning area.
  
- E. **Open Discussion/Public Comment Period**  
Vice Chair Ken Savage welcomed Mayor Doug Kinslow to introduce his guests. Mayor Doug Kinslow introduced Ms. Whitnee Bullerwell with VeloCity discussed their services such as procurement and cost savings and introduced her team members: Colby Folber and Mark Jones.

**III. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. The next Policy Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, at noon May 16, 2024, at the Lavaca City Hall.