



FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 31, 2023

Location: Fort Smith Transit Department, 6821 Jenny Lind Rd., Fort Smith, AR 72908

Time: Called to Order at 12:32 PM

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ARDOT
Mr. Jason Hughey	ARDOT
Judge Chris Keith	Crawford County
Judge Steve Hotz	Sebastian County
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Andrew Crow	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst <i>*represented by proxy Wally Bailey</i>	City of Van Buren
Mrs. Ashley Garris <i>*represented by proxy Michael Rosenberg</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola
Robert Endicott	Cherokee Tribal Nation

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
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Voting Members Not Present:

Mayor Jimmy Fincher	City of Alma
Mayor Bill Collins	City of Bonanza
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor George McGill	City of Fort Smith
Daniel Mann	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Dawn Sullivan, P.E.	ODOT
Commissioner Vallard Cambell	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Josh Johnson	Town of Arkoma
Ms. Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Ms. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith

Mrs. Sasha Grist
Mrs. Tonya Sarlls
Mr. Tim Allen
Ms. Ronisha Hodge

WAPDD
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
USDOT - FTA

Others Present: Mrs. Reese Brewer, FMPO, Mrs. Desaray Fuentes, FMPO, Chris Dillaha, ARDOT, Anthony Hunter, ARDOT, Amy Heflin, FHWA, Vivien Hoang, FHWA, Charla Sloan, KATS, and Phillip Patterson, AML

I. Administrative

a. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

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

b. Approval of the June 22, 2023, Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- Ken Savage motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Robert Endicott. A unanimous vote was reached.

c. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the June 22, 2023, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered.

- **Frontier MPO & WAPDD received the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award** – Frontier MPO & WAPDD was selected to receive the NADO 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for their role and efforts in the Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare program in Fort Smith. The University of Arkansas, Civil Engineering Department (Dr. Suman Mitra) partnered with Frontier MPO to implement the bikeshare pilot program funded by the National Science Foundation. We are honored to receive this award. Frontier MPO acted as the Co-Civic Principal Investigator.
- **National Summit on Rural Road Safety:** Reese has been asked to present at the National Center for Rural Road Safety and the NADO National Summit on the Parsons Engineering Smart Intersections prize and project. Also, Reese will speak about the Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare program.
- **The Walking Classroom:** Please share with your schools, teachers. Education podcasts for kids to strengthen physical, mental, and academic health. See: www.thewalkingclassroom.org
- **Project Sidewalk:** Reese attended a webinar on Project Sidewalk and scheduled a virtual meeting with the researchers to discuss how we may use the online resource. Project Sidewalk allows you to label and update your sidewalk inventories using a crowdsourced platform, which is free. We hope to use this for the Fort Smith Active Mobility, Pedestrian, & Bicycle Plan.
- **Utah State University UP Pilot Program:** Through the researchers at the University of Washington and the University of Chicago's Project Sidewalk, we learned of a transit accessibility pilot project at Utah State University. We hope to become a pilot and test this during our work with Fort Smith Transit.

- **Transit Ridership Surveys:** Frontier Staff continues to conduct ridership surveys for Fort Smith Transit along with drafting the summary report.
- **Transit Pilot Project Survey – Chaffee Crossing:** Frontier staff conducted a survey on the pilot project route to Chaffee Crossing in August. Staff will develop a summary report.
- **Transit Access Assessment:** Frontier MPO is conducting a Transit Access Assessment and will draft summary results. This work will be coordinated with Utah State University's transit pilot program.
- **Transit Pocket/Garden Park Plan:** Frontier MPO staff is developing a framework and undertaking research to develop recommendations for Fort Smith Transit Pocket/Garden Parks.
- **Transit:** Frontier MPO staff will assist Fort Smith Transit with validating their fleet condition and formula.
- **Transit:** Frontier MPO staff will assist Fort Smith Transit with their Transit Asset Management Plan.
- **National Cooperative Highway Research Program 17-101 Applying Safe Systems Approach to Transportation Planning, Design, and Operations in the U.S. Focus Group, University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center:** Reese was asked to participate on the NCHRP University of North Carolina's research effort on Safe Systems Approach focus group. The research is focused on the roles that MPO, DOTs, and local governments play and the barriers that are faced with improving safety.
- **GRANTS:** Frontier MPO staff has applied for a PROTECT Grant that would fund a Frontier MPO Regional Resilience Plan to address transportation infrastructure threats from flooding and other risks. Frontier MPO also assisted the Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority with federal grant applications.
- **CASE STUDY, NADO & RURAL TRANSPORTATION:** "Smart Intersections & Signal Timing in Fort Smith, AR.: Reese participated in a study undertaken by NADO & the Rural Transportation Organization regarding the traffic signal deployment that was deployed in Fort Smith through the Parsons Intersection Challenge competition that Frontier MPO won. To view the report, go to: Smart Intersections and Signal Timing in Fort Smith, AR (ruraltransportation.org)
- **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 World Resources Institute (WRI). The goal of this effort is to create an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Frontier MPO. Technical Assistance is being provided by DOE and their partners – the World Resources Institute, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory including Mr. David Frick, Air Quality and Clean Cities Planner II, from the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments. This is a six-month technical assistance program.

d. Public Comment Period

- Phillip Patterson with Arkansas Municipal League introduced himself to the Policy Board. Mayor Doug Kinslow talked about how well the tour went and mentioned his excitement about the upcoming Airport Project.

II. New Business

- a. **Resolution 23-09** – A Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Adopt the Western Arkansas Safety Action Plan as an Element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - **Robert Endicott made a motion to approve, and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- b. **Resolution 23-10** – A Resolution of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization to Adopt the Public Participation Plan
 - **Robert Endicott made a motion to approve, and Judge Steve Hotz seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- c. **Resolution 23-11** – A Resolution Designating a Joint Subcommittee to Review and Prioritize Projects from the Western Arkansas Safety Action Plan
 - **Ken Savage made a motion to approve, and Jason Hughey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- d. **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.
- e. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation**
 - Reese Brewer presented the ODOT Updates. Written updates were provided to each board member.
 - No action required.

III. Open Discussion

During open discussion, several board members stated their appreciation for the tour and the meal that was provided during the meeting.

IV. Next Meeting

- **Technical Committee**
Tentatively: December 14, 2023
- **Policy Board:**
Tentatively: December 14, 2023

V. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 P.M. by Sunny Farmahan and seconded by Robert Endicott. The next Policy Board meeting will tentatively be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023.