



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 15, 2024
Location: Fort Smith Public Library, Main Branch • Fort Smith, AR
Time: Called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Technical Committee Members Present:

Mr. Anthony Hunter	ArDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ArDOT
Mr. Steve Core	Town of Barling
Mr. Don Chavis	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Michael Mings	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mrs. Lorie Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Ms. Teresa Harris	Town of Central City
Ms. Mundi Ross	Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation
Mr. Devon Westbrook	ODOT
Mayor Joshua Johnson	Town of Arkoma
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola
Ms. Ashley Garris *proxy, Sasha Grist	WAIA

Members Not Present:

Mayor Bill Collins	City of Bonanza
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mr. Dustin Willet	Crawford County
Mayor Andrew Crow	Mayor of Kibler
Commissioner Vallard Campbell	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Kathy Luper	Town of Moffett

Non-Voting Members Present

Ms. Tonya Sarlls	FS Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Chris Hoover	City of Fort Smith

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Ms. Julie Murray	Van Buren Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Amy Heflin	FHWA – AR
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA – OK
Ms. Ronisha Hodge	USDOT- FTA

Others Present: Reese M. Brewer, Frontier MPO.

I. Administrative

A. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

With no corrections nor additions, Michael Griffin motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Robert Endicott; a unanimous vote was reached.

B. Approval of the December 14, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Lori Carr motioned to approve the agenda. John Limbocker seconded the motion. 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

Reese M. Brewer 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.

II. New Business

A. Resolution 24-01 ArDOT Safety Targets: Mr. Sonny Bell Moved to approve; Mr. Steve Core seconded. A unanimous vote was reached.

B. Resolution 24-02 ODOT Safety Targets: Mr. Robert Endicott moved to approve; Mr. Steve Core 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.

III. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next Technical Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, at 11:00 a.m. May 16, 2024, at the City of Lavaca, City Hall.