



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

Date: November 18, 2020
Location: Virtual Meeting
Time: Called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Technical Committee Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ArDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ArDOT
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mr. Steve Core	Town of Barling
Mrs. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Mrs. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sen. Mat Pitsch <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation
Mr. Michael Griffin <i>*represented by proxy Richard Rushing</i>	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Braden Cale	ODOT Planning
Mr. Brian Waldrip	City of Fort Smith

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
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Members Not Present:

Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Chuck Wallace	Town of Central City
Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Floyd Lawrence	Town of Arkoma
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Daniel Mann	

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Isaac Aken	FHWA Oklahoma
Ms. Tonya Sarlls	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sasha Grist	WAPDD
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith

Others Present: Sunny Farmahan and Chad Adams, ArDOT; Jessi Solley, Boozman's Office.

I. Administrative

A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

With no corrections nor additions, Chad Adams motioned to approve the agenda. Jerry Martin seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

B. Approval of the August 19, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Chad Adams motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Jerry Martin. A unanimous vote was reached.

C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the August 19, 2020 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- **Parsons Engineering Smart Cities Transforming Intersections Challenge:** The Intelligent Intersections traffic monitoring and optimization solution is in deployment; we expect the solution to be live in November. The system configuration is nearly complete, and the team is focusing on setting up the required communications network. After this, the team will test and verify the system before the solution is live. Once live (~November), Parsons will provide training for Fort Smith staff on how to use the software and key applications of the software for Rogers Avenue. During the course of the project Parsons will work with the Fort Smith team to evaluate and deploy the automated signal timing recommendations for Rogers Avenue and assess impact.
- **Speaker & Panelist at the Smart Cities Connect Conference:** Reese Brewer presented and was a panelist for the virtual conference to discuss the Frontier/Fort Smith Smart Cities Challenge project.
- **Speaker for the United Infrastructure Organization Conference:** Reese Brewer was asked to speak at the United Infrastructure Organization's virtual conference regarding the Frontier/Fort Smith Smart Cities Challenge project.
- **National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Technical Assistance – Public Engagement Strategy:** The draft public engagement strategy and framework and is being reviewed by staff.
- **University of Arkansas Civil Engineering Graduate Student Intern:** Ms. Lizbeth Juarez is a UA graduate student pursuing her Master's in Civil Engineering. As a youngster growing up in rural southwest Arkansas, Lizbeth understood the impacts of rural highways and road fatalities and injuries. Recently, Lizbeth completed an internship with ArDOT working with Crash Data. We are excited to have Lizbeth join us on our Local Roads Safety Plans effort.
- **MTP Update:** The initial sections regarding the MTP update, schedule, socioeconomic, and existing conditions is drafted and available for your review. Project Nominations & Surveys are available on the Public Input platform with the first public meeting to discuss regional transportation needs and priorities scheduled virtually for December 17, 2020. Thank you for your comments and review.
- **National Recreation and Parks Association Grant:** Frontier MPO staff created a

query code park survey for the Diamond Park Complex and obtained several responses. Frontier staff will work with Crawford County and their engineer to draft a preliminary design and park concept drawing.

- **Champions Institute Grant:** Frontier MPO submitted and won a grant on behalf of the City of Alma. Mayor Martin is one of 21 officials from the United States that is attending. These 21 participants from 14 states will become champions for developing and advocating for equitable and effective Complete Streets policies that will make safer street design the rule instead of the exception.
- **Chronic Disease Coordinators, Walkability Institute Grant:** The Frontier Walkability Team is virtually attending the Institute along with developing an Action Plan which Frontier is developing. The team comprises of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education – Health & Wellness Center, 64.6 Downtown, the City of Fort Smith, the City of Van Buren, Crawford County, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, ArDOT Pedestrian & Bicycling Coordinator, UAMS SPAN Coordinator, and Western Arkansas Planning & Development District.
- **USDA Rural Smart Transit Hub Study:** Recently, we held focused work sessions to discuss transportation priorities and potential programs to implement. The Western Arkansas Planning & Development District (WAPDD) and Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are investigating the feasibility of a rural “smart” transit hub for western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. This feasibility study is intended to offer and select a menu of technologies and programs that help connect people experiencing transportation barriers in rural communities surrounding Fort Smith, Arkansas to healthcare, employment, and higher education opportunities. The Western Transportation Institute (WTI) has been hired for this study, which started in September 2019 and is planned for completion in late 2020.
- **Local Roads Safety Plans:** Recent data shows a growing trend of accidents, especially in our more rural sections of the MPO. As a result, Frontier MPO is drafting a local roads safety plan to address these concerns and develop appropriate countermeasures. Ms. Juarez is assisting in this effort and our goal is to develop Local Roads Safety Plans for each jurisdiction.
- **Virtual Traffic Management Center:** Frontier MPO staff assisted the City of Fort Smith with information to draft a grant application to seek funding for a virtual traffic management center.
- **Federal Highway Administration Traffic Operations Technical Assistance – ITS Architecture, Concept of Operations, & Business Plan:** Frontier MPO is working to update the ITS Architecture Plan. In order to pursue regional projects such as a Western Arkansas/Eastern Oklahoma Regional Virtual TMC, a Concept of Operations, & Business Plan need prepared. Strategies to improve traffic operations is the fundamental goal of this effort. Look for future workshop invitations.
- **Walk America Grant:** Frontier MPO submitted a grant to partner with GirlTrek Fort Smith to hold a walking event to promote walking and health.

- **Rogers Ave. Health & Transportation Planning Framework:** The draft final chapters are under review and the document will be completed soon and available for review and submitted to FHWA.
- **Public Input Platform:** Check out our projects on our public input links. The Walkability Action Team, Walk10 Crawford County, and the MTP Update are currently available.
- **Transportation Research Board Urban Freight & Planning Committee:** Reese Brewer contributed to a research request and problem statement regarding the impact of COVID 19 on freight and the need for data and simplified analysis tools. This problem statement was submitted to AASHTO & USDOT for consideration.
- **Nominated to Run as National Executive Board Member for AMPO:** Reese Brewer was nominated by the AMPO National Executive Board to seek a seat on the Executive Board and was elected by the AMPO membership.
- **Please Welcome our Guests: Highway Commissioner Keith Gibson, UA Graduate Student Intern, Lizbeth Juarez**
- **2020 Board Meeting Dates:** The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021. Due to COVID-19, we anticipate a virtual meeting. Usually, we will meet at various locations in 2021 so that jurisdictions can share their projects.
There were no public comments.

II. New Business

- A. Resolution 20-7: To Support the Safety Performance Targets of the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT):** Reese Brewer clarified that the resolution is to adopt the safety performance targets of the state. Lori Carr made a motion to approve with the amended changes of 20-7 and update the resolution to reflect the Arkansas Department of Transportation and Ken Savage seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- B. Resolution 21-8: To Support the Safety Performance Targets of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT).** Reese Brewer clarified that the resolution is to adopt the safety performance targets of the state. Lori Carr motioned to approve, with the amended changes of 21-8 and Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.
- C. Resolution 20-9: To Approve the Establishment of an Ad-Hoc Active Transportation Committee:** Reese Brewer explained that this is an active mobility committee focused on pedestrian and bicyclist facilities. **Sonny Bell made a motion to approve and Lori Carr seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- D. Resolution 20-10: To Approve the Bylaws of the Active Transportation Committee:** Reese Brewer clarified the Bylaws to the board. **Lori Carr motioned to approve based**

on what Reese read and Steve Core seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

E. Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates:

Chad Adams had no updates to provide. **No action was taken.**

F. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates

Reese Brewer gave an update on the Hwy 112 in Pocola. **No action was taken.**

III. Open Discussion

NO ACTION REQUIRED

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

January 13, 2021, Virtual Meeting

Policy Board:

January 13, 2021, Virtual Meeting

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am by Reese Brewer, seconded by Sonny Bell. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on January 13th, 2021 at 10:30 AM virtual.