



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 24, 2021
Location: Virtual Meeting
Time: Called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Policy Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Chad Adams	ARDOT
Mr. Sunny Farmahan	ARDOT
Mr. Daniel Mann	Chaffee Crossing
Mayor Jerry Martin	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mayor George McGill	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Doug Kinslow	City of Greenwood
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Judge Dennis Gilstrap	Crawford County
Mr. Ken Savage	Fort Smith Transit Department
Judge David Hudson	Sebastian County
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Matthew Swift	ODOT
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mayor Roy Walker	Town of Pocola

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA Arkansas
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Members Not Present:

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Le Flore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County

Non-Voting Members Not Present:

Mr. Tim Allen	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA Oklahoma
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith
Mrs. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

Others Present: Chris Dillaha, ARDOT; Joshua Nash, ARDOT; Greg Buckley, B & R CONSULTING; Robert Endicott, Cherokee Nation; Lori Carr, Fort Smith Transit; Sarah McElroy, ODOT; David Kack, Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University; Stacy Willinger, FMPO; Reese Brewer, FMPO.

I. Administrative
A. Approval of the Policy Board Meeting Agenda

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

B. Approval of the March 24, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes

- a. Judge Dennis Gilstrap motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mat Pitsch. A unanimous vote was reached.

C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the March 24, 2021 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- a. **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance Application & Short List Interview:** Frontier MPO and the City of Fort Smith are working together on this effort.
- b. **T-Mobile Hometown Grant:** Frontier and WAPDD staff are assisting the City of Alma with this grant application.
- c. **City of Alma wins technical assistance from the CDC & Smart Growth America:** Some of the projects that the City of Alma proposed for the Champions Institute are being funded for implementation by the CDC & Smart Growth America. Reese wrote and won the Champions Institute grant on behalf of the City of Alma.
- d. **City of Van Buren TAP Grant:** Frontier staff assisted the City of Van Buren with their TAP Grant application and undertook a site visit and field investigation to understand traffic safety issues.
- e. **Bike & Pedestrian Counts:** Frontier staff placed bicycle and pedestrian counters at Ben Geren Park for Sebastian County and provided data reports and information.
- f. **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** Staff assisted the University of Arkansas, Dr. Suman Mitra and Dr. Sarah Hernandez in completing the Stage 2 funding application. Staff also provided the Public Input platform for a virtual meeting with key stakeholders and a survey.
- g. **National Recreation and Parks Association & the Gehl Institute – Inclusive Healthy Places Grant:** The team is starting this work effort and will hold walk audits and focus meetings. The team is comprised of Judge Gilstrap, Elaine Stanfield, Dr. Lisa McClain, Tracee McKenna, Stacy Willinger, and Reese Brewer.
- h. **Chronic Disease Coordinators, Walkability Institute Grant:** The Frontier Walkability Team completed their Walkability Action Plan. Frontier MPO is preparing to release small grant funds to both the City of Van Buren and the City of Fort Smith to undertake pilot projects.
- i. **Micromobility Infrastructure, FTA Requirements:** Frontier MPO convened a discussion with David Johnson, Vice President, Strategy, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, and Fort Smith Transit to understand funding mechanisms and challenges with micromobility options and transit.
- j. **Riverfront Infrastructure Proposal:** Frontier MPO and WAPDD presented a concept for riverfront infrastructure to the cities of Fort Smith and Van Buren.

- k. **Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority:** Staff provided branding and marketing request for proposals along with general goals and strategies for WAIA's objectives.
- l. **FHWA Recognizes Frontier MPO Rogers Avenue Health & Transportation Planning Framework:** Frontier MPO was asked to act as a case study for this framework.
- m. **Presentations:** Ms. Brewer presented on Frontier MPO's work and projects to the Fort Smith Regional Alliance.
- n. **Please Welcome our Guests: Mayor Jerry Martin, City of Alma - Champions Institute; David Kack, Director of the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University**

D. Public Comment Period

- a. There were no public comments.

II. New Business

- A. **Resolution 21-4:** Adopt the Frontier Walkability Action Plan as an element of the Frontier Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Reese Brewer clarified that this is the adoption of the Frontier Walkability Action Plan as an element of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan to help address walkability, pedestrian, and bicycle lanes. **Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Dennis Gilstrap seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

- B. **Resolution 21-5:** Active People, Healthy Nation Proclamation
Reese Brewer explained this proclamation, taken from the Champions Institute, means the MPO will focus our efforts and our many processes on making sure that Frontier MPO includes mobility options that are healthy for all individuals. **Jerry Martin made a motion to approve, and Sunny Farmahan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

- C. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**
Chad Adams gave ArDOT updates:
 - I-40 from Alma through Johnson County is scheduled to be completed in mid-September but may take longer. Contractor is Emery Sapp.
 - Hwy 71 between Mansfield and Greenwood is scheduled next. Contractor is Emery Sapp.
 - Hwy 71 between Greenwood into Fort Smith is underway for construction and is scheduled for completion in the next month.
 - Rogers Avenue / Hwy-22 from I-540 through Central City is scheduled following the Hwy 71 Greenwood – Fort Smith project.
 - The project on Wheeler will likely be after the Rogers Avenue project
 - The widening of Hwy. 255 in the Barling area is making progress after utility and route avoid delays. It is expected to be finished by Christmas 2022.
 - No updates on Greenwood Bypass.

- Projects for Hwy 45 and Towson Ave have both been delayed until 2022 due to utilities relocation.

No action was taken.

D. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates

Matt Swift with ODOT gave updates.

- I-40 access improvements at I-40 and US 64 junction: the right of way and utilities are scheduled to let in FY21, but no date yet. The interchange will take place in 2025.
- US 64 over Garrison Creek: right of way and utilities scheduled for 2024 and bridge & approaches project in 2028.
- State Highway 112 utilities and right of way work is scheduled to let in 2027.
- We are in the process of rebalancing our work plan right now and plan to have it finished by September. This may result in further projects being added to the plan.
- ODOT is developing a mobile active transportation app that will be available through Google for Android and Apple later this year. The application will feature a kind of a map display to provide information about public roadways, biking, suitability, dedicated bike lanes, hiking, other active transportation routes, as well as elevation profiles for the bike trails. Users will be able to record their trips and save information and download maps.

No action was taken.

III. Open Discussion

- b. Steve Core of Barling discussed the Twin City Bus Lines, established 1959, a privately owned enterprise, and how it provided transit around Fort Smith and to and from Fort Chaffee for years before going out of business.

IV. Next Meetings

Technical Committee:

September 15, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

Policy Board:

September 15, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

V. Adjournment

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm by Steve Core and seconded by Sunny Farmahan. The next Policy Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, most likely as a virtual/hybrid meeting.