



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** March 31, 2021  
**Location:** UAFS Small Business Development Center, 70 S 7th St Suite D, Fort Smith, AR 72901  
**Time:** Called to order at 10:36 AM

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**Technical Committee Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater <i>*represented by proxy Sunny Farmahan</i>	ARDOT
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Chaffee Crossing
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mr. Michael Stephens	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mr. Michael Griffin <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Ms. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Ms. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Robert Endicott <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Cherokee Nation

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT Planning

**Non-Voting Members Not Present:**

Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA   Oklahoma
Mr. Tim Allen	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA   Arkansas
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith

**Others Present:** Michael Rosenberg, WAPDD; Stacy Willinger, Frontier MPO

## I. Administrative

### A. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

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

### B. Approval of the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

- a. Steve Core motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mark Yardley. A unanimous vote was reached.

### C. MPO Director's Report

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the December 8, 2021, meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- ❖ **FHWA Assistance for MPO-wide Local Roads Safety Plan:** FHWA and their consultant, and our partner, ArDOT is beginning work on the regional local road(s) safety plan for Frontier MPO.
- ❖ **FHWA Development of Safety and Traffic Data Collection System & Analysis Framework:** Crawford County was selected to participate in the development of a FHWA pilot project to develop a safety and traffic data collection system and analysis framework for more rural highway systems. Frontier MPO and Crawford County are directly working with FHWA on this effort.
- ❖ **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** Staff and Dr. Suman Mitra with the University of Arkansas continued to work with various stakeholders, held workshops, and have established stations in North Fort Smith and Mercy Hospital. The SMILIES bikeshare is expected to deploy in April.
- ❖ **TAP Grant/Site Visit Barling:** Frontier MPO staff coordinated with the ArDOT TAP program staff and the City of Barling to undertake a site visit in Barling. Frontier MPO staff will assist the City of Barling with a TAP grant application.
- ❖ **ArcBest Health & Wellness:** Frontier coordinated meetings with ArcBest, the Arkansas College of Health Education, Chaffee Redevelopment Authority to assist with further trail and bikeshare opportunities to improve community health and wellness.
- ❖ **CDC Walkability Action Institute Grant Funds:** Frontier MPO was able to provide the City of Van Buren with a small grant from the CDC Walkability Action Institute to improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and ADA safety with crosswalk enhancements on Main Street. Crawford County is seeking to provide access and handicap improvements to the Diamond Park Complex.
- ❖ **National Recreation and Parks Association & the Gehl Institute: Inclusive Healthy Places Grant:** Frontier submitted the final grant report on behalf of Crawford County.
- ❖ **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance:** Frontier MPO has been invited to present at the American Society of Civil Engineers conference in May to discuss the micro-freight project in North Fort Smith.
- ❖ **FHWA Health & Transportation Design Framework:** As a result of her efforts on the FHWA Health & Transportation Design Framework technical assistance grant and plan for the Rogers Avenue Corridor, Reese was not only nominated for the FHWA Environmental Excellence Award but also invited to speak at the American Association of State and Highway Officials annual conference regarding this project.
- ❖ **Walking College Fellowship Update – Stacy**  
Walking College Fellowship will continue through mid-May. We've completed 3 modules, each lasting 3 weeks. During week 1 includes a mentor-led discussion, week 2 a fellows-only discussion, and week 3 includes a fellow-mentor 1:1. We've had modules on:



- the history of transportation planning in the U.S. and the role of systemic discrimination in shaping the built and social environments
- Inspiring other advocates to grow a local walking movement through creation of a compelling public narrative and inclusive engagement
- Use strategic communications to organize people and campaigns to create safe, healthy, equitable, and walkable neighborhoods
- Focus thus far has been on creating a story of self, story of community, and the story of now. Community and Now are both in progress.

❖ **Presentations/Appointments:**

- Reese spoke at the CDC Opportunities and Resources for Equitable Active Transportation Meeting and at the FHWA “Talking Freight” Webinar series on Freight Equity.
- Ms. Brewer was invited to serve on the:
- Health Federally Funded Research and Development Center, Technical Expert Panel. This group will help to guide and inform our Physical Activity Data Modernization Initiative (PADMI) that we are supporting for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO).
- Arkansas Department of Transportation State Freight Advisory Committee
- Reese is invited to speak at the annual American Society of Civil Engineers (ACSE) conference, and the American Association of State and Highway Officials (AASHTO) annual conference.
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D. **Public Comment Period**

- a. There were no public comments.

II. **New Business**

- a. **Resolution 22-1:** To Approve the 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period For The Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, “Together:2045”. Reese Brewer clarified that this resolution would approve the release of the MTP draft update for a 30-day public review and comment period from April 4, 2022 through May 5, 2022.  
**Mark Yardley made a motion to approve, and Michael Stephens seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- b. **Resolution 22-2:** To Approve the 10-Day Public Review and Comment Period for the Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Reese Brewer clarified that this resolution would approve the release of the UPWP draft update for a 10-day public review and comment period.  
**Michael Stephens made a motion to approve, and Lori Carr seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

b) **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**

- a. Marcus Rainwater provided written ARDOT updates: See page 3.  
**No action was taken.**
- b. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**  
There were no updates  
**No action was taken.**

III. **Open Discussion**

- a. Greenwood has all easements for sidewalks down North and South 10 Spur to Denver
- b. Deadline for TAP grant applications is June 1, 2022, a webinar will be held through ARDOT on April 6, 2022.

IV. **Next Meetings**

**Technical Committee:**

June 8, 2022, In-Person Meeting expected

**Policy Board:**

June 8, 2022, In-Person Meeting expected

**V. Adjournment**

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM by Michael Stephens and seconded by Lorie Robertson. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

**ArDOT Project Summary in the Fort Smith/Van Burren Metro Area (Marcus Rainwater)**

**Construction Projects**

- 040716, 19.3 million, contract awarded to Forsgren Construction, Highway 255 from Massard to Highway 22. ○ This job consists of the widening and relocation of Highway 255. The utilities contractors continue to work on relocations and are nearing completion. The estimated completion date is Fall 2023.
- 040819, 8.0 million, Mobley Contractors, Highways 64, 96, and 252 ○ The job consists of the replacement of five structures with concrete box culverts on Highway 64 in Van Buren and 4 structures on Highway 96 and 252 in northeast Sebastian County. Project is 84% complete and has an estimated completion date of late spring 2022 for the original portion of the project.
- 012379, 19.2 million, American Contracting and Services, Bridge Hydrodemolition with Latex Modified Overlay. ○ This job will provide bridge rehabilitation including a latex modified overlay of the I-540 river bridges and the Highway 64 river and relief bridge. This multi-District job has started in another District and has an estimated completion date of winter 2022.

**Upcoming Projects**

- 040713 – Highway 45 Widening between Highway 255 and 71 – Scheduled letting late 2023
- 040723 – Highway 71B (Towson) Resurface, Drainage and Sidewalk improvements – Scheduled Spring 2024
- 040714 – I-40/Highway 59 Interchange Improvements – Scheduled letting early 2023
- Pavement Preservation projects for Highway 255 (Riverfront Drive) and Highway 64 between Van Buren and Alma are scheduled for the May 2022 and April 2022 lettings respectively.
- 040748 – The I-49 connector between I-40 and Highway 22 will be divided into four jobs. The clearing work for the southern end of the project will be let later this year. Major construction work is scheduled to start in 2024. A second public hearing will be held the summer of 2022.