

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Minutes of the Joint Executive Board & Technical Committee
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
10:00 A.M. EDT

Attendees

The sign-in sheets of those in attendance are attached to the minutes.

SETD staff included Chad Reese, RPO Coordinator, and assisting with the meeting were Chuck Hammonds, Greg Davis, Ashley Gates, and Garrett Haynes. SETD Executive Director, Beth Jones, was also in attendance as a member of the Technical Committee.

Welcome and Roll Calls

Mr. Chad Reese welcomed attendees and announced Mayor Dwain Land, Vice Chair, will be filling in for Mayor Bill James, who was not feeling well. Chad announced an update on new staff and introduces Chanel Hippix as new RPO Coordinator. Chad passes the meeting over to Chanel.

Mayor Dwain Land calls the Executive Board to order
Chanel Hippix calls roll.

Members Present: Greg Riddley, Bently Thomas (Proxy for Gary Davis), Michael Brady, David Jackson, Mayor Jackson proxy for Paul Evans, Mayor John Gentry, Mayor Lois Preece, Mayor Bill James, C. Seth Sumner proxy for Mayor Chuck Burris, Mayor Dwain Land proxy for Bill James, Laura Smith proxy for Mayor Bivens, Robby Hatcher, Keith Cartwright, Mayor Dwain Land, George Thacker, John Bamber (Proxy for Gary Louallen).

There is a quorum on Executive Board.

Dan Evans requests roll call for Technical Committee.

Members present: Beth Jones, Robby Roberson, Sandra Knight, Jake Battles, James Hawk, David Jackson, Dan Evans, Tom Trotter, George Thacker, Ben Burchfield, Laura Smith, Roy Thomason, Mayor Doug Collins (Ducktown) proxy for James Talley, Mary Cookston proxy for Chris Kleehammer, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, Eric Higgins, Keith Cartwright proxy for Winston Picket, Janis Kyser, and Karen Rennich. There is a quorum on Technical Committee.

Executive & Technical Committee Minutes

On a motion made by Mayor of Dunlap, Dwain Land, seconded by Bledsoe Highway Superintendent, Robby Roberson, the Executive Board minutes from the joint meeting of the Executive Board and Technical Committee held May 27, 2020 were unanimously approved as presented.

On a motion made by Athens Public Works Director, Ben Burchfield, seconded by Sandra Knight, Bradley County Highway Superintendent, the Technical Board minutes from the joint meeting of the Executive Board and Technical Committee held May 27, 2020 were unanimously approved as presented.

Southeast RPO Updates & Projects – Chanel Hippix

Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP): one-on-one meetings with each of the 9 RPO counties to meet to find out and address what the community transportation needs are. The comments and concerns from these meetings will be gathered and represented on an interactive map program, MapSocial. Andrea Barbour will be detailing this program later in the meeting.

Community Transportation Planning Grants: all three that applied were funded. Athens is receiving funds for a city-wide community mobility plan. Dunlap is receiving funds for a bicycle/pedestrian master plan. Tracy City is receiving funds for a community mobility plan centered on their one-mile downtown area.

Multimodal grants were awarded. Monteagle received an award (\$947,000+) for funding on SR 15 to do part of the Mountain Goat Trail that would connect between I40 and Assembly Ave.

Scenic Byways designations for Sequatchie Valley Scenic Byway application submitted. Jenni from SETDD's Travel and Tourism department is creating wayfinding signage through the Sequatchie Valley. SETDD is working with TDOT on the placement of those signs since most will be on a State Route that covers cross-jurisdictional designation in Marion, Bledsoe, and Sequatchie. This project will direct attention to tourist attractions as well as provides a cohesive signage plan for the area.

Rural Planning Initiative Grant (RuPI) has been awarded to Decatur for Resurfacing and Striping Plan, Graysville for Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Rhea County for Transportation Feasibility Study, and Tracy City for a Resurfacing and Striping Plan. We are currently contracting with a consultant to provide the service for the grant awardees.

Local Roads Safety Initiative (LRSI) provides \$250,000 of construction funding to each county to address safety concerns on County-owned roadways. We have met with Marion, McMinn, Grundy, and Bradley about road safety concerns.

Tennessee Aviation System Plan (TASP) – TDOT Aeronautics Division and Economic Impact Study has written new chapters for review and edit, which we reviewed the following chapters: Chapter 1 – Systems and Performance Measures, Chapter 2 – Explore Aviation Issues, Chapter 3 – Review of Environmental Considerations, Chapter 6 – Review of Intermodal Integration and Airport Access, and Chapter 10 – State Goal Review.

Other Updates: Community Transportation Planning Request (CTPR): We are working now on submitting a request by Polk County for US 411 South of Hwy 64 intersection continuing to the Tennessee/Georgia State line. In October, we met with Suburban Manufacturing in Dayton to set up a meeting with TDOT for assistance in planning a pedestrian crossing for their employees.

Presentation of Corridor K – TDOT Deputy Chief Engineer, Paul Degges

US 64, commonly referred to as Corridor K, is part of the Appalachian Regional Commission designated facility. It is part of the Appalachian Development Highway System. It is 127 miles long from I-75 in Bradley County to Dillsboro North Carolina. In Polk County, it stretches 20 miles and needs transportation improvements. Options that were studied involve environmental and cultural challenges. The topography, culture, and environmental concerns create a challenge that increases the expense in these options. In 2018 a targeted approach was chosen to specify specific areas needing attention to

mitigate the need for a 4-lane expansion. These spot improvements allow TDOT to widen some portions of the roadway to 12-foot turn lanes, add a dedicated center turn lane, and 10-foot paved shoulders. Other spot improvements would include 4-foot shoulders and guardrail. Bridges will be built replacing deteriorating structures, and correcting curves improving sight distance. Access points will be improved as well. Potential rock fall locations will be mitigated to reduce likelihood of future rock slides, by adding fences and removing rocks. Potentially a bridge and tunnel option is being proposed near Ocoee River dam 2. This would eliminate existing curves while maintaining and improving access to nearby recreational areas. These spots were chosen by evaluating existing conditions and crash data. Many of these sites are to be combined into single projects to expedite project delivery. This proposal covers the entire 20-mile stretch of Polk County.

The project website can be found at www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-2/us-64-corridor-k

Brief history: it was originally proposed in Appalachian Regional Development Act in 1965. Numerous efforts to develop the project hindered by cost and other constraints. Most recent effort initiated in 2009 included 7 proposed options. Some of these cost estimates totaled 8.5 billion dollars.

The goal is to meet the needs of the community of reliable safe access, reduce environmental impacts, and allow for tourism to continue contributing to the economic health.

What's next: Additional Public outreach in January 2021; Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is meeting early or mid 2021; and seek approval from ARC for the Targeted Approach.

Pending ARC approval: TDOT to group and prioritize projects (immediate needs & available funding; geotechnical & environmental, ROW; and Traffic impacts and construction constraints). Each project developed through standard project delivery process. Construction of first two projects could begin within 2 years and approximately 10-12 years to complete.

Beth Jones asks about the ongoing NEPA process relative to the 7 alternatives that the citizens task force worked on.

Holly Cantrell responds to Beth. The EIS was paused. The current Targeted Approach will look at various improvements along the corridor where they are looking for ARC approval. If ARC approves the Targeted Approach, the paused EIS will not be resumed.

Greg Thomas in Cleveland asks about possible travel times through the corridor and travel time reliability that would be important to commercial traffic.

Joe Deering from TDOT responds to Greg. Dan Pallme will be working with ARC to look at these travel times. This information will be ready as each project becomes more detailed.

Roy Thomason with Polk County is thankful for the Target Approach. Are these projects working toward the long term plan to assist in its completion?

Paul Degges answers Roy's question-This plan will not be putting a 4-lane expansion in the Ocoee River Gorge, but to find areas where there are projected to be problems in the next 20 years and try to resolve them.

Mayor Collins and Mayor Robby Roberson are in favor of the Target Approach. Robby Roberson also states that Hwy 411 south of Corridor K would help if it were 4-lanes and would lead into putting a sewer step system in.

Presentation of Projects for Prioritization by RPO – TDOT Staff, Will Brewer and Chanel Hippix RPO Coordinator

2020 RPO Project Rankings will be publicly available online on an interactive map. Statewide RPO projects are shown. Project and general information can be found here. To download the map, you will need the password “Southeast RPO” which can be found on the site.

The link for the map is:

rpo-project-rankings-dv-prjrankings.hub.arcgis.com/pages/southeast-rpo

Dan Evans calls for Ranking Projects by Technical Committee

Proposal of rankings offered by Southeast RPO. We prioritized each project based on how far along it was in the process. Ben Burchfield asks if there were any deviations proposed from our proposed rankings.

Chad answers: One was proposed that was different in Survey Monkey. What we tried to do was keep the projects moving, as were proposed in the past in combination with how far along others are moving.

Dan Evans calls for a motion to accept the proposal of project rankings. Mayor Jackson calls the motion and Robby Roberson seconds it.

Chanel Hippix calls a role call. In favor are: Robby Roberson, Sandra Knight, Beth Jones, Jake Battles, James Hawk, David Jackson, Dan Evans, Tom Trotter, Ben Burchfield, Laura Smith, Doug Collins for James Talley, Mary Cookston for Chris Kleehammer, Glen Varner, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, Eric Higgins, Keith Cartwright for Winston Pickett, Greg Thomas.

Karen Rennich abstains.

A quorum is reached in the Technical Committee.

Dan Evans calls for Ranking of Projects by Executive Board

Chanel Hippix Calls role for votes. In favor are: Greg Ridley, Bentley Thomas, David Jackson, Mayor Jackson for Paul Evans, John Gentry, C.Seth Sumner for Chuck Burris, Mayor Lois Preece, Mayor Dwain Land for James Tulley, Laura Smith proxy for Jeremy Bivens, Robby Hatcher, George Thacker, John Bamber for Gary Lou Allen, Keith Cartwright, and Mayor Dwain Land.

A quorum is reached.

Presentation on Southeast Freight Study – Amy Kosanovic and Dan Pallme

National Economic Partnership Grant program from FHWA.

A study awarded by FHWA that is concentrated in SE TN region.

The Freight & Logistics Division manages rail connectivity grant and short line railroad rehabilitation grant.

The National Economic Partnership grant is recently added to look at multijurisdictional or mega regions planning and economic competitiveness and projects that would encourage both areas to grow.

Consortium members of the Freight Movement along Freight Alley –the Greater Chattanooga Region include Alabama DOT; Georgia DOT; Atlanta Regional Commission; Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North GA TPO; Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority; Cleveland Urban Area MPO; Covenant Transport; Dalton State College; Greater Dalton MPO; Hamilton County, TN; Lee-Smith, Inc.; McKee Foods; Northwest GA Regional Commission; Ragan Smith Associates, Inc.; Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham; SETDD; SE TN RPO; TN Trucking Association; Thrive Regional Partnership; and UTC, Geospatial Technology Lab.

This group is brought together to study freight flow analysis.

Project purpose is to go beyond boundaries and discover regional advantages; a collaborative economic development through industry clustering analysis.

Industries highlighted in the study are Automotive manufacturing, aerospace and aviation manufacturing, agri-production and food products, wood flooring and forest products, trucking and logistics.

Important parts of the study:

Task 5: In-Depth Freight Flows Analysis

Task 6: Freight Partner Interviews

Task 7: Truck Parking Survey

Task 8: Truck Parking Locator Maps

Task 9: Transferability of Work as Resource

The project began June 2019 and will finish December 2020. CDM Smith is doing the freight flow analysis.

Why is it important to further explore the industry?

Employment base rates Flooring and automobile-related industry as Tier 1 and Tier 2 industries. LTL carriers and logistics companies as well as aerospace and advanced manufacturing are included in the industry analysis.

Truck Parking Locator Map:

12,781 public and private parking spots throughout the region and the amenities at these stops. This will be available on the website and eventually on a mobile app. It will also show areas where parking is needed.

Thrive found out that the 3 top challenges for freight companies are congestion (71% of respondents), parking (51% of respondents), and infrastructure deterioration.

Contacts for the program:

Dan Pallme – Assistant Bureau Chief of Freight Logistics, Co-Project Lead

Dan.pallme@tn.gov

615-741-4031

David Lee—Assistant Dir. Long Range Planning, Co-Project Lead

David.lee@tn.gov

615-906-4555

Amy Kosanovic – Freight Planning Supervisor, Project Coordinator
Amy.kosanovic@tn.gov
615-313-3759

Chanel Hippix thanks Ms. Kosanovic and Dan for their presentation.

Presentation of Rural Regional Transportation Plan – Andrea Barbour

Andrea walks the attendees through how to use MapSocial interactive map for the Rural Regional Transportation Plan. This is a planning document that strategizes the method in which people, goods, and activities in an area designated as rural. This is a 5-10-20 years forecast of regional needs. The description of transportation needs can be expressed in the following categories:

- *Community Asset
- *Development Priority Site
- *Safety
- *Multi-modal Access
- *Freight
- *Other
- *Resurfacing
- *Community Attraction
- *Maintenance

The local input is guides TDOT in prioritizing future projects and better understanding localized transportation needs.

Map Social is mobile friendly.

SE TN Project Status Updates – Robert Rogers, TDOT Region 2

There are 2 projects in the December letting:

I-75, SR-30 and 305 intersections.

Northeast Wood Products in Marion County – SIA project

February letting:

Dekalb SR-26 starting in Liberty City onto an existing 5-lane road

SR-15 in Sevanee

Coming Soon:

ROW plans for Grundy County's SR-108

Dan Evans asks Robert about maintenance list of bids for State Routes. Robert replies that maintenance is not in his office, but he will find out. Joe Deering responds to Robert and Dan, the maintenance contracts--guardrail and on-call are in February letting, some resurfacing are in the December and February lettings. Dan asks what date is the December letting? Robert responds December 11th. Linda Hooper asks about Highway 27 work coming up, is there any? Robert responds that there is none aware of at this time. Joe responds that he will share more information in the next day or so about what's going on with the maintenance and bid lettings. Stacy Morrison rephrases the question Linda Hooper asked and clarifies that it is about the rock slides near Suck Creek Mountain on SR-27. Joe Deering replies that it is in the engineering phase: one is a slide at 26.1, and the other is a box culvert failure. The geotechnical consultant is looking at recommendations. These will come early next year then into the design phase.

Other Business

Mayor Land asks if there is any other new business. No other business is stated.

Mayor Land calls for a motion to adjourn the Executive Board. Wanda Fulmer motions to adjourn. Mayor Lois Preece seconds. All are in favor.

Dan Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the Technical Committee. Ben Burchfield makes the motion. Sandra Knight seconds the motion.

Mr. Reese concludes the meeting and thanks everyone for their presentations.













































Chairman, RPO Executive Board































Chairman, RPO Technical Committee

























Chanel Hippix, RPO Coordinator



























Attendees



Participants (78)



 Chad Reese (Host, me)	  
 Sandra Norton Knight (Guest)	  
 Mayor Doug Collins (Guest)	  
 chippix (Co-host, guest)	 
 Paul Degges (Guest)	 
 Robby Hatcher (Guest)	 
 Jim Hawk (Guest)	 
 Keith Cartwright (Guest)	 
 Tom Trotter (Guest)	
 Amy Kosanovic (Guest)	 
 Andrea Barbour (Guest)	 
 Andrea Noel - TDOT (Guest)	 
 Ashley (Guest)	 
 Ben Burchfield (Guest)	 



BT	Bently Thomas (Guest)	 
BE	Beth Emmons (Guest)	 
BJ	Beth Jones (Guest)	 
B	BJ (Guest)	 
BH	Brian Hurst (Guest)	 
BC	Brooxie Carlton (Guest)	 
CS	C. Seth Sumner - City of Athens (Guest)	 
	Chase Milner (Guest)	 
CM	Chris McPhilamy (Guest)	 
CH	Chuck Hammonds (Guest)	 
CC	Courtney Cotton (Guest)	 
	D. Stacy Morrison (Guest)	 
DE	Dan Evans (Guest)	 
DP	Dan Pallme - Tennessee DOT (Guest)	 



- D** djackson (Guest)  
- EG** Eric Goodwin (Guest) [Ask to Unmute](#) [More >](#)
- EH** Erick Hunt-Hawkins (Guest)  
- GH** Garrett Haynes - SETDD (Guest)  
- GD** Greg Davis (Guest)  
- GR** Gregg Ridley (Guest)  
- G** gthomas (Guest)  
- HC** Holly Cantrell (Guest)  
- J** J (Guest)  
- JB** Jake Battles (Guest)  
-  Janis Kyser (Guest)  
- JF** Jennifer Flynn (Guest)  
- J** JJ00364 (Guest)  
- J** JJ00428 (Guest)  



JD	Joe Deering (Guest)	 
JB	John Bamber (Guest)	 
JG	John Gentry (Guest)	Ask to Unmute More >
K	Karen Rennich (Guest)	 
LS	Laura Smith (Guest)	 
L	Linda (Guest)	 
LC	Lisa C (Guest)	 
LM	Logan McCoy (Guest)	 
LP	Lois Preece (Guest)	 
MC	Mark Cochran (Guest)	 
MC	mary cookston (Guest)	 
MM	Matt Meservy (Guest)	 
MM	MELANIE MAYES (Guest)	 
MB	Michael Brady (Guest)	 

RR R Robby Roberson (Guest)  

RB Rachael Bergmann (Guest)  

RA Rae Anne Bradley (Guest)  


RR Robert Rodgers (Guest)  



RT Roy Thomason (Guest)  



SC S Carlson (Guest)  

SE Sam Evans (Guest)  

S Sam Rogers (Guest)  



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SM Sarah Murray (Guest)  

SI Sharon's iPad (Guest)  

TS Tammy Sellers (Guest)  

 Tom Darden (Guest)  

TE Troy Ebbert - Tennessee DOT (Guest)  

	TSmith@arc.gov (Guest)		
	Veronica Allen (Guest)		
	Wanda Fulmer (Guest)		
	Will Brewer (Guest)		
	14232408683 (Guest)		
	Joe Deering (Guest)		
	thacker (Guest)		
	Tom Trotter (Guest)		