

**SOUTHEAST TN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)  
EXECUTIVE BOARD & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**



**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. Eastern Time**

**TDOT Region 2 Auditorium | 7512 Volkswagen Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416**

- 1) Welcome & Introduction..... Chad Reese, SETD Planning Director
- 2) Executive Board / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Clint Huth, EB Chairman
- 3) Technical Committee / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Roy Thomason, TCC Vice-Chairman
- 4) Approval of Previous Executive Board Meeting Minutes..... Clint Huth, EB Chairman  
December 14, 2022 & May 17, 2023
- 5) Approval of Previous Technical Committee Meeting Minutes..... Roy Thomason, TCC Vice-Chairman  
December 14, 2022 & May 17, 2023
- 6) Regional Project Updates & Coordination..... TDOT Staff
- 7) State Aid Funding Updates.....Chanel Hippix, TDOT Planning Specialist
- 8) Regional Freight & Truck Parking.....Shannon Millsaps, Thrive Director of Programs,  
Transportation & Infrastructure
- 9) Other Properly Presented New Business..... Clint Huth, EB Chairman
- 10) Executive Board Adjournment..... Clint Huth, EB Chairman
- 11) Technical Committee Adjournment..... Roy Thomason, TCC Vice-Chairman

**SOUTHEAST TN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**10:30 a.m. Eastern Time**

**TDOT Region 2 Auditorium, 7512 Volkswagen Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416**

**In Attendance:**

**EB:** Keith Cartwright, John Gentry, Robby Hatcher, Clint Huth, Eddie Jewell, Lois Preece, Steven Sherlin, Bently Thomas (Proxy for D. Gary Davis), Jim Vincent (EB member plus proxy for Ron Travis)

**TCC:** John Bamber, Jake Battles, Ben Burchfield, Shannon Burke, Mary Cookson, Dan Evans, Wanda Fulmer, Andy Morrison, Linda Hixon, Linda Hooper, Chuck Hammonds, Tom Collins, Janis Kyser, Winston Pickett, Karen Rennich, Tobe Smith, Roy Thomason, Tom Trotter, Glen Varner, Bently Thomas

**Guests:** Chanel Hippix, Garrett Haynes, Anya Shalun, Robert Rodgers, Kelly Ware, Michael O'Donnell, Adam Casteel, Kevin Layne, Chad Reese, Andrea Noel

**1) Welcome & Introduction.....Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

Marc Holcomb verified quorum for EB and TCC has been met based on sign-in sheets and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

**2) Executive Board / Call to Order / Roll Call.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Clint Huth called meeting to order at 10:40am. Sign in sheets indicated sufficient attendance EB quorum.

**3) Technical Committee / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Can Evans called meeting to order at 10:40am. Sign in sheets indicated sufficient attendance TCC quorum.

**4) Approval of Previous Minutes EB Meeting.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Motion to approve made by Keith Cartwright, seconded by John Gentry. Motion carried.

**5) Approval of Previous Minutes TCC Meeting.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Motion to approve made by Ben Burchfield, seconded by Tom Collins. Motion carried.

**6) Southeast RPO Updates.....Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

Marc Holcomb reminded attendees of the RPO website at [sede.org/rpo](http://sede.org/rpo) and noted that some content from the TDOT project hub will be accessible via the RPO site. Multi-Modal Access Grant awarded to Spring City. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainable Equity (RAISE) Grants awarded to Dunlap and Chattanooga. MMAGs have 95/5 or 90/10 match depending on applicant's economic status. Next MMAG application opens Spring 2023, exact date TBD. Next RAISE Grant application deadline is 2/28/23.

**7) CTPR “New Start” Requests.....Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

*A copy of the CTPR Request Form is attached to these minutes.*

Marc Holcomb explained that TDOT has a request form for submitting new project requests.

Stacy Morrison with TDOT’s Office of Community Transportation (OCT) recognized TDOT staff present at the meeting: Robert Rodgers, Brian Hurst, Michael O’Donnell, Kevin Layne, Adam Casteel, Chanel Hippix, Joe Deering.

Stacy Morrison explained the need for a report containing high-level information, history, local perspective regarding a site when submitting a New Start request. This process is intended to get projects into the pipeline more quickly. TDOT Commissioner hopes to set up meetings with MPOs and RPOs during 2023. TDOT website updated with new information. New for project rankings this year is the addition of a “committed list” of projects that move to pipeline without being ranked.

**8) TDOT Projects Presentation.....Brian Hurst, TDOT Transportation Manager**

Brian Hurst gave a presentation about TDOT projects and encouraged everyone to look up TDOT i-Trip dashboard. ~\$900M budget reduced by \$90M due to lack of state revenue. ~\$500M is for maintenance and repairs. \$400M is for new projects. Effort to spread funds evenly around the state. Region 2 gets ~18% of funding, almost \$73M. Projects typically take roughly 12-15 years from proposal to completion. Beginning with FY23, any project on the approved list that goes to the governor is moved to the new “committed list.” TDOT’s goal is to complete committed projects within five years. Region 2 had three projects on the committed list. ~\$1.5B of proposed projects in Region 2. New focus on moving projects toward completion rather than phase to phase.

Project rankings count for 11.8% of the overall calculations for committing projects.

Q&A: Partnering with TDEC for concurrent sewer and road improvement projects; Safety and improvements on SR27/Suck Creek Rd and why other roads in better condition receive more attention. Robert Rodgers with TDOT answered briefly and offered more detailed answers later.

**9) TDOT Project Prioritization.....Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

*A copy of the project rankings list is attached to these minutes.*

Marc Holcomb reviewed previous project rankings and explained TDOT updates to the list.

12 projects on the list: 3 Committed, 8 ROW/Construction, and 1 PE.

TCC was instructed to rank all 9 projects together rather than by phase.

Attendees asked for clarification regarding projects in Grundy and Bledsoe listed individually for ranking but are part of one overall large project. TDOT staff explained they are evaluated as multiple small projects. TDOT explained spot improvements on the existing route have replaced plans for a bypass for Corridor K.

There are no wildlife crossings planned for Corridor K at this time, but a bridge installed in recent years was designed to allow wildlife to pass beneath.

**10) Project Prioritization by TCC.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Dan Evans asked members of the TCC to take a moment to complete the project ranking form.

**11) Rural Regional Transportation Plan Presentation.....Chanel Hippix, TDOT Planning Specialist**

*A digital copy of the RRTP is available at [sedev.org/rpo](http://sedev.org/rpo).*

Chanel Hippix presented an overview of the final draft of the Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP). This project officially kicked off in May 2020. The RRTP is a comprehensive document linking transportation and land use. The data in the plan can be used to bolster grant applications.

**12) RRTP TCC Recommendation to EB..... Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Motion to recommend adoption of RRTP made by Ben Burchfield, seconded by John Bamber.  
Motion carried.

**13) RRTP EB Approval of TCC Recommendation.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Motion to adopt RRTP made by Keith Cartwright, seconded by John Gentry. Motion carried.

**14) Project Prioritization TCC Recommendation to EB.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Motion to recommend approval of project rankings made by Linda Hooper, seconded by Ben Burchfield. Motion carried.

**15) Project Prioritization EB Approval of TCC Recommendation.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Motion to accept project rankings made by Lois Preece, seconded by Steven Sherlin.  
Motion carried.

**16) Other Properly Presented New Business.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for EB: Keith Cartwright nominated Clint Huth for Chairman and John Gentry for Vice Chairman. Motion to approve nominations made by Glen Varner, seconded by Jim Vincent. Motion carried.

Election of Vice Chairman for TCC: Dan Evans nominated Roy Thomason for Vice Chairman. Motion to approve nomination made by Dan Evan, seconded by Karen Rennich. Motion carried.

TACIR Bridge Project Updates: Garrett Haynes with SETD requested attendees with updates on bridge projects for TACIR to meet with him before leaving the meeting.

**17) Executive Board Adjournment.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm

**18) Technical Committee Adjournment.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm

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Chairman, RPO Executive Board

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Chairman, RPO Technical Committee

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RPO Coordinator

**December 2022 Project Rankings**

County	PIN	VOTER 1	VOTER 2	VOTER 3	VOTER 4	VOTER 5	VOTER 6	VOTER 7	VOTER 8
Rhea	109410.04	4.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	8.00	1.00	8.00
Marion	124086.00	3	0	8	4	2	7	8	6
Sequatchie	124104.01	2	0	4	2	5	1	2	1
Bledsoe	124104.02	5	0	6	7	6	4	3	2
Bledsoe	124104.03	6	0	7	6	7	3	4	3
Bledsoe	124104.04	7	0	9	8	8	2	5	4
Grundy	124782.00	8	0	5	5	9	6	6	7
Polk	102420.08	1	0	2	1	3	5	9	9
Marion	124785	9	0	1	0	1	9	7	5

County	PIN	VOTER 9	VOTER 10	VOTER 11	VOTER 12	VOTER 13	VOTER 14	VOTER 15	VOTER 16
Rhea	109410.04	2.00	7.00	1.00	4.00	8.00	8.00	2.00	9.00
Marion	124086.00	3	6	6	5	7	7	3	8
Sequatchie	124104.01	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2
Bledsoe	124104.02	5	4	7	6	5	5	5	5
Bledsoe	124104.03	6	5	8	8	4	4	8	4
Bledsoe	124104.04	4	3	9	9	3	3	9	3
Grundy	124782.00	7	8	5	6	9	9	4	7
Polk	102420.08	8	1	4	1	6	6	6	6
Marion	124785	0	9	2	3	1	1	7	1

County	PIN	VOTER 17	VOTER 18	VOTER 19	VOTER 20	VOTER 21	Tally	Rank
Rhea	109410.04	9.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	87.00	4
Marion	124086.00	8		5	4	5	105.00	6
Sequatchie	124104.01	2		1	6	1	42.00	1
Bledsoe	124104.02	5		4	7	4	95.00	5
Bledsoe	124104.03	4		6	8	6	107.00	7
Bledsoe	124104.04	3		7	9	7	112.00	8
Grundy	124782.00	7		8	3	8	127.00	9
Polk	102420.08	6		3	1	3	81.00	3
Marion	124785	1		0	5	9	71.00	2

*\*Voter 18 did not sign the voting card as required and was therefore excluded.*

**SOUTHEAST TN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)  
EXECUTIVE BOARD & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
10:30 a.m. Eastern Time**

**TDOT Region 2 Auditorium, 7512 Volkswagen Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416**

**In Attendance:**

**EB:** John Gentry & Clint Huth

**TCC:** Tobe Smith, Dan Evans, Tom Trotter, Roy Thomason, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, Shannon Burke, Chuck Hammonds, & Linda Hixon

**Others in Attendance:** Rachel Gentry (TDOT), Lisa Dunn (TDOT), Stacy Morrison (TDOT), Kelly Ware (TDOH), Chad Reese (SETD), Garrett Haynes (SETD), Jonathan Rush (SETD), and Ashley Gates (SETD).

- 1) Welcome & Introduction ..... Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**  
Marc Holcomb welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Executive Board / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**  
Clint Huth called the meeting to order at 10:30am. Sign in sheets indicated there were not enough Executive Board members present to constitute a quorum.
- 3) Technical Committee / Call to Order / Roll Call.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**  
Dan Evans called meeting to order at 10:30am. Sign in sheets indicated there were not enough Technical Committee members present to constitute a quorum.
- 4) Approval of Previous Minutes EB Meeting.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**  
Due to there not being enough members present to have a quorum, the minutes from the December 14, 2022, Executive Board meeting were not approved.
- 5) Approval of Previous Minutes TCC Meeting..... Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**  
Due to there not being enough members present to have a quorum, the minutes from the December 14, 2022, Technical Committee meeting were not approved.
- 6) Southeast RPO Updates.....Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**  
Marc Holcomb reminded attendees of the RPO website at [sedev.org/rpo](http://sedev.org/rpo) and noted that some content from the TDOT project hub will be accessible via the RPO site. Mr. Holcomb then went over the list of prioritized regional TDOT projects from the December 2022, joint RPO meeting. He also reminded members of the recently adopted Southeast Rural Transportation Plan, which is also available on SETD’s RPO website. Mr. Holcomb then informed members this would be his last meeting, and Chad Reese would be taking over the RPO in the interim. Grant funding opportunities was then discussed: TDOT Multimodal Access Grants, DOT Safe Streets for All, DOT Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, and the DOT PROTECT Program.

**7) TDOT Updates ..... TDOT Staff**

Kevin Layne, TDOT OCT Planner, discussed the criteria by which TDOT considers the ranking of regional projects. Ranking by the RPO’s typically takes place late November and early December with TDOT developing the Comprehensive 3-year Plan January – March with a public release of the approved Highway Program in April/May. Mr. Layne went over the list of Southeast RPO projects, and showed which ones were moving forward in the 3-Year Plan.

**8) NEVI and Carbon Reduction Updates..... Andrea Noel, TDOT Air Quality**

Andrea Noel, TDOT Air Quality Planning Office Supervisor, discussed 3 funding programs; NEVI Program Funding, Carbon Reduction Program, and the PROTECT Program. NEVI is expected to generate \$88 million in funding over the next 5 years for Tennessee alone with \$7.5 billion being invested nationwide. There are certain areas of the state where TDOT will focus its funding as highlighted on a map shown in the presentation. Most of these areas are along interstates at designated interchanges, and are spaced about 50 miles apart. In Tennessee, at the time of this presentation, there were only 232 electric vehicles registered in 8 of the RPO’s counties. The Carbon Reduction Program will provide \$6.4 billion nationally, with Tennessee’s portion being \$139,172,276. Goals of the Carbon Reduction Program are to identify alternatives to single occupant vehicle trips, identify vehicles mor modes of travel that result in lower transportation emissions, and identify construction practices that result in lower emissions. 65% of these funds are apportioned to areas of the state based on population and 35% of the funds can be allocated anywhere within the state as determined by TDOT. The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program is providing \$8.7 billion nationally from FY2022 – FY2026, with Tennessee expected to receive \$158 million over 5 years. The PROTECT program provides funds for resiliency planning, technical capacity building, and evacuation planning and preparation.

**9) Local Bridge Funding..... Lisa Dunn, TDOT Local Programs**

Lisa Dunn, TDOT State Aid and Bridges, presented on 4 dedicated programs for off-system bridges: 1990 Bridge Grant Program - \$9.5M (98% / 2% match), High Priority Bridge Replacement Program (HPBRP) - \$18.6M, Federal BRZ Program (STBG) - \$12.7M, Federal Bridge Formula Program (in new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) - \$12M.

All these programs follow the same guidelines for selection:

- a. Can only be an off-system bridge
  - i. Rural minor collector or urban/rural local road only
- b. Be on a selection list that is generated by the Department in July
  - i. List 1 weight is less than 10 tons
  - ii. List 2 weight limit is 10-15 tons and overall condition is Critical or Poor
    - 1. Must complete list 1 before going to list 2
  - iii. Other Bridge Needs
    - 1. Scour countermeasures
    - 2. Other off-system bridges
    - 3. On-system bridges less than 150 feet in length and having an ADT of 200 or more
    - 4. Bridge removal
    - 5. Low water crossings (fords)
    - 6. Small drainage structures between 6 and 20 feet in length measured along centerline of the roadway and have a less than 10-ton weight limit
- c. Received a letter from the Department to close the bridge due to weight limit being 3 tons or less (in this instance the bridge does not have to be on a list)

For the 2 federal bridge funded programs

- a. The Department currently has a backlog of \$260M between requests from local agencies and IMPROVE Act projects the Department is completing for local agencies.
- b. These federal funds will not be available until that backlog is complete. Then the Department will put guidelines in place on selection and call for projects

State-Aid Program - \$21M (98/2)

- a. Only County Road Superintendents can use these funds
- b. County Road Superintendent can also elect to move up to ½ of their annual allocation to the Bridge

Grant Program annually  
State-Aid Program is receiving a one-time infusion of \$300M across the state

- a. Must provide a 3-year plan
- b. Must be spent along with any current and regular annual allocations within 5 years

**10) TCHOA Updates..... Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

Mr. Holcomb shared some updates from TCHOA including the \$300 Million in one-time funding being given to the State Aid program, declining state gasoline and motor fuel revenue collections in FY2022, and considerations for the registrations of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. TACIR estimates County transportation needs in TDOT Region 2 to be in excess of \$208,303,872 with only \$70,890,013 being available in State Aid Funding.

**11) Wildlife Crossing Discussion..... Marc Holcomb, RPO Coordinator**

Mr. Holcomb briefly covered the \$350M in Wildlife Crossing funding that is available as part of and FHWA pilot program. Goals of this program are to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat connectivity. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2023, and there is approximately \$111,850,000 available this round.

**12) Other Properly Presented New Business.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

There was no other properly presented new business.

**13) Executive Board Adjournment.....Clint Huth, EB Vice-Chairman**

Meeting adjourned around 12:00pm

**14) Technical Committee Adjournment.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman**

Meeting adjourned around 12:00pm

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Chairman, RPO Executive Board

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Chairman, RPO Technical Committee

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RPO Coordinator