

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Minutes of the Joint Executive Board and Technical Committee

In Person | Zoom

Thursday, November 18th, 2021, 10:00 AM EST

Attendees

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

SETD staff included Sarah Murray (RPO Coordinator), Chuck Hammonds, Chad Reese, Garrett Haynes, Ashley Gates, Staci Willoughby, Annya Shalun, and Alex Moore.

Welcome and Roll Calls

Sarah Murray welcomed all attendees, virtually and in person, to the Fall RPO Meeting. Sarah Murray introduced herself as the new RPO Coordinator for the Southeast RPO. Sarah asked Mayor Bill James to call the Executive Board to order.

Chairman Mayor Bill James calls the Executive Board to order. Sarah Murray calls roll.

Members Present In Person: John Gentry, Seth Sumner (Proxy for Bo Perkinson), Bill James, Keith Cartwright, and Clint Huth.

Members Present Virtually: Gregg Ridley, Gary Davis, Donna McDermott, Michael Brady, Daniel Crabtree, Lois Preece, and George Thacker.

There is a quorum for the Executive Board.

Chairman Dan Evans requests a roll call for the Technical Committee. Chanel Hippix calls roll.

Members Present In Person: Kim Rippetoe (Proxy for Sandra Knight), Andy Morrison (Proxy for James Hawk), Dan Evans, Ben Burchfield, Roy Thomason, Doug Collins (Proxy for James Talley), Glen Varner, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, Eric Higgins, Shannon Burke, Chad Reese (Proxy for Beth Jones), Jake Battles, Mary Cookston (Proxy for Chris Kleehammer), and Greg Thomas.

Members Present Virtually: Conda Hysell (Proxy for Robby Roberson), Michael Brady (Proxy for Johnny Ray Fults and Ralph Rieben), Tom Trotter, and Linda Hixon.

There is a quorum for the Technical Committee.

Executive and Technical Committee Minutes

Chairman Bill James asked the Executive Board if there were any corrections for the minutes from May 12th, 2021. A motion was made by Clint Huth to approve the minutes of May 12th, 2021, and it was seconded by Seth Sumner. There was no discussion or opposition. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Dan Evans asked the Technical Committee if there were any corrections for the minutes from May 12th, 2021. A motion was made by Ben Burchfield to approve the minutes of May 12th, 2021, and it was seconded by Roy Thomason. There was no discussion or opposition. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Southeast RPO Updates & Projects

Sarah Murray gave an update on the following in the Southeast Region:

Rural Regional Transportation Plan: The draft for the Southeast Rural Regional Transportation Plan is in progress. We are working on gathering photos throughout the region to feature in the plan and are hoping to review the plan in the upcoming year. For an example, of other RRTP's in the State, please follow this link: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/longrange-oct/rural-regional-transportation-plans.html>

Grants: Southeast RPO has completed 4 RuPI (Rural Planning Initiative) Grants through TDOT with Mattern and Craig as the engineer. Graysville received a Bike/Pedestrian Plan, Rhea County received a Transportation Feasibility Study, and Decatur and Tracy City received Resurfacing and Restriping Plans. For SIA (State Industrial Access) Roads, the Southeast has one in Bledsoe County connecting to SR 28 | US 127, and the Jasper Industrial Park with Phase 1 of Industrial Boulevard being paved, and Phase 2 towards Kimball as a Future Phase 2. There are 3 active MMAG with Jasper working on a contract with Croy Engineering, Decatur in the NEPA Phase and Monteagle was awarded in 2019. Graysville and Dayton have submitted applications for the 2021 MMAG and we are hoping to know in the next couple of months the award status. The Traffic Signal Modernization Program Application is due on December 1st, 2021. If you have any questions, please reach out for more information on this program. The TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Application has been extended to Wednesday December 1st, 2021. TDOT is only accepting applications through the eGrants system so please be sure you have your account established if interested in applying. The Southeast had 3 CTPG's (Community Transportation Planning Grant) that were finished in 2020. Athens and Tracy City received a Community

Mobility Plan, Dunlap Received a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The 2021 Application is Due December 30th via email. Please reach out if you may have any questions.

Other Updates: Please send in your TACIR updates if you haven't already. SETD Staff will be reaching out if we haven't received that information from you. TDOT iTrip is an online map that tracks projects throughout the State (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e14888bce2954050a10df5e949a1bc1d>.) and coming soon we will have a Southeast RPO Website.

Project Ranking 101

Andrea Noel, TDOT Region 2 OCT Supervisor, gave a short presentation over the reasoning behind project rankings with the RPO. She discussed the timeline, criteria weight, process, and the Comprehensive Multimodal Program. The PowerPoint is available to all members.

Southeast RPO Project Prioritization

Sarah presented the results from the survey sent to the TCC for Project Rankings. Sarah showed the previous rankings with the new proposed rankings. Sarah asked if the TCC had any questions before making any motion towards the Project Rankings. There was discussion between TDOT, Glen Varner, George Thacker, and Roy Thomason about projects in Rhea and Polk County. Dan Evans asked if we had a motion to approve or deny TCC's Project Ranking Recommendation to the Executive Board. A motion was made by Wanda Fulmer to approve the TCC's Project Ranking Recommendation to the Executive Board. It was seconded by Roy Thomason. The motion was passed with no further discussion or opposition. Bill James asked for a motion to accept or deny the TCC Project Ranking Recommendation. A motion was made by Clint Huth and there was a second from John Gentry. The motion was passed with no further discussion or opposition. The Southeast Project Rankings that were approved are below.

County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase	Est.	Notes	2019 Rank	2020 Rank	2021 Rank	2021 Region 2 Comments	2021 RPO Comments
Construction & ROW												
Rhea	109410.03	SR-30	(Old Washington Hwy.) From Near SR-29 (US-27) to West of New Union Rd. / White Oak Rd.(IA)	3.3	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	3.3		5	5	1	Region suggest moving this priority up to #3	#1 ranking - Rhea SR-30 to SR-27 this is imperative for safety, as this area is growing, and needs this infrastructure to allow growth.
Rhea	109410.04	SR-30	(Old Washington Hwy.) From Near Sky Dr. to West of the Tennessee River Bridge (IA)	4.4	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	3.3		8	7	3	Agree with ranking	
Marion	124086.00	SR-2 US-64	From Near Hillcrest Lane in Kimball to near Magnolia Ave. in Jasper (IA)	3.2	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	18.0		3	4	4	Agree with ranking	There are several alternate routes for people to take between Jasper & Kimball without spending money on the projected widening. In contrast, Hwy 27 from Powell's Crossroads to Signal Mtn. Rd is a lifeline for people in the north end of Marion county who work and need access to Medical care in Hamilton. This road is dire need of upgrade and repairs. It is frequently blocked due to fallen trees or sunken pavement.
Sequatchie	124104.01	SR-28 US-127	From 5-Lane North of Dunlap to South of Brea Road (IA)	3.8	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	4.6	Arceological sites on corridor could delay environmental document which could delay ROW funding.	1	1	2	Agree with ranking	
Bledsoe	124104.02	SR-28 US-127	From South of Brea Road to South of Mariah Farm Lane (IA)	3.4	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	4.5	Arceological sites on corridor could delay environmental document which could delay ROW funding.	6	6	6	Agree with ranking	
Bledsoe	124104.03	SR-28 US-127	From South of Mariah Farm Lane to North of Herman Smith Road (IA)	3.5	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	3.2	Arceological sites on corridor could delay environmental document which could delay ROW funding.	9	8	7	Agree with ranking	
Bledsoe	124104.04	SR-28 US-127	From North of Herman Smith Road to South of Humble Cemetery Road (IA)	3.3	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	3.3	Arceological sites on corridor could delay environmental document which could delay ROW funding.	7	3	9	Region suggest moving this priority up to #5	
Bledsoe	124104.05	SR-28 US-127	From South of Humble Cemetery Road to 5-Lane in Pikeville (IA)	3.2	Right-of-Way (same as previous year)	2.8	Arceological sites on corridor could delay environmental document which could delay ROW funding.	2	2	8	Agree with Ranking	
Grundy	124782.00	SR-50	(Pelham Rd.) From LM 8.0, 7.5 miles East of I-24 (Exit 127), to LM 11.0 (IA)	3.0	Right-of-Way (previously in preliminary engineering phase)	1.0	This project was funded for PE in FY2022, voting will be on ROW moving forward.	PE 2	PE 2	5	Region suggest early in design stage to add a rank.	

County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase	Est.	Notes	2019 Rank	2020 Rank	2021 Rank	2021 Region 2 Comments	2021 RPO Comments
Preliminary Engineering												
Marion	124785.00	SR-156	From East of Patton School Road to West of First Street (Approx 1 Mile West of Cedar Ave. in South Pittsburg to Approximately 1.7 Miles West) (IA)	1.7	PE (same as previous year)	0.6		PE 1	PE 1	2	Region agrees with rank	
Polk	102420.08	SR-40 US-64	Baseline Geotechnical Investigation for the proposed Bridges & Tunnels on US-64 (SR-40) near Ocoee Dam No. 2 (CMGC)	0.5	PE (same as previous year)	15.0	Working with ARC to get targeted approach approved. Projects will move forward as individual projects with ARC funding. No need to rank as there is no competition for funds.	PE 3	PE 3	1	Region suggest early in design stage to add a rank.	East/West corridor highly needed for traffic flow, also to move heavier traffic away from highly used outdoor tourism area

RPO Program Survey Results

Rachael Bergmann, TDOT Region 2 Community Transportation Planner, presented Statewide RPO Program Survey Results. The reason for presenting statewide data is because if there is a change in the program, it would be applied to all RPO's in Tennessee, and not individual RPO's. The PowerPoint is available to all members.

Other Business

Chairman Bill James asked the board if there was any other new business. Sarah stated that the Executive Board needs a Vice-Chairman elected. She asked if there is any volunteers or recommendations from members to fill this position. Clint Huth, Mayor of Dunlap, volunteered to fulfill the position of Vice-Chairman. A motion was made by Keith Cartwright to nominate Clint Huth as the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board and it was seconded by John Gentry. Clint Huth was approved unanimously as the new Vice-Chairman. No other new business was presented.

Adjournment

Chairman Bill James calls for a motion to adjourn the Executive Board. John Gentry made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Keith Cartwright. All are in favor.

Chairman Dan Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the Technical Committee. Greg Thomas made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Wanda Fulmer. All are in favor.

Chairman, RPO Executive Board

Chairman, RPO Technical Committee

Sarah Murray, RPO Coordinator