

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



AGENDA

Thursday, November 18th, 2021

10:00 A.M. Eastern Time

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

and Via Zoom

- 1) Welcome & Introduction.....Sarah Murray, RPO Coordinator
- 2) Executive Board / Call to Order / Roll Call.....Bill James, EB Chairman
- 3) Technical Committee / Call to Order / Roll Call.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman
- 4) Approval of Previous Minutes EB Meeting.....Bill James, EB Chairman
- 5) Approval of Previous Minutes TCC Meeting.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman
- 6) Southeast RPO Updates.....Sarah Murray, RPO Coordinator
- 7) Project Prioritization 101.....Andrea Noel, TDOT, Region 2 Supervisor
- 8) TDOT Project Prioritization.....Andrea Noel, TDOT, Region 2 Supervisor,
and Sarah Murray, RPO Coordinator
- 9) Project Prioritization *TCC Recommendation to EB*.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman
- 10) Project Prioritization *EB Approval of TCC Recommendation*.....Bill James, EB Chairman
- 11) RPO Program Survey Results.....Rachael Bergmann, TDOT, Region 2 Community
Transportation Planner
- 12) Other Properly Presented New Business.....Bill James, EB Chairman
- 13) Executive Board Adjournment.....Bill James, EB Chairman
- 14) Technical Committee Adjournment.....Dan Evans, TCC Chairman

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Minutes of the Joint Executive Board and Technical Committee

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 10:00 AM EST

Attendees

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

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

Welcome and Roll Calls

Chanel Hippix welcomed attendees to the Virtual Spring Southeast RPO Meeting.

Chairman Mayor Bill James calls the Executive Board to order. Chanel Hippix calls roll.

Members Present: D. Gary Davis, Michael Brady, Daniel Crabtree, John Gentry, Lois Preece, William Bo" Perkinson, Bill James, Laura Smith (Proxy for Jeremy Bivens), George Thacker, and Hurley Marsh. 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: Sandra Knight, Michael Brady (Proxy for Johnny Ray Fults), Renea Hall (Proxy for James Hawk), Lonnie Cleek (Proxy for Linda Hooper), Dan Evans, Tom Trotter, Ben Burchfield, Laura Smith, Roy Thomason, Glen Varner, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, Shannon Burke, Beth Jones, Linda Hixon, Jake Battles, Patti Pettit, Chris Kleehammer, Byron Clinton, Greg Thomas, and Karen Rennich. 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 December 2nd, 2020. A motion was made by Bill James to approve the minutes of December 2nd, 2020, and it was seconded by John Gentry. 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 December 2nd, 2020. A motion was made by Sandra Knight to approve the minutes of December 2nd, 2020, and it was seconded by Beth Jones. There was no discussion or opposition. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Southeast RPO Updates & Projects

Chanel Hippix gave an update on the following in the Southeast Region:

Rural Regional Transportation Plan: All of the information from the 1:1's is now represented on MapSocial. Andrea Barbour is here to lead breakout sessions later in the meeting.

Grants: We are working on three Community Transportation Planning Grants (CTPG) in our region, and they are Athens (Community Mobility Study), Dunlap (Bike and Pedestrian Plan), and Tracy City (Community Mobility Plan). All three grants are in the stakeholder process and moving towards reviewing draft copies of each plan/study. We are working on four Rural Initiative Planning Grants (RuPI) in our region, and they are Decatur (Resurfacing and Restriping Plan), Tracy City (Resurfacing and Restriping Plan), Graysville (Bike and Pedestrian Plan), and Rhea County (Feasibility Study). Mattern and Craig were the selected engineering firm working on these projects. They have completed their site visits and are in the process of drafting each plan/study. There was no update on the Multimodal Access Grant (MMAG) Applications. USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grants, formerly the BUILD Grant, is open. All counties within our RPO are on the approved list to apply.

The Sequatchie Valley Scenic Byway has been named as a Nation Scenic Byway. This is a cross-jurisdiction designation in Marion, Bledsoe, and Sequatchie County. Tennessee has one All-American Road, four National Scenic Byways, and six State Scenic Byways. The State Scenic Byways program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. All six State Byways have committees of local leaders and volunteers that plan promotional events and activities for their communities. The byways provide an alternative to nearby highly travelled roads; unique historical, scenic and natural qualities; and furnish visitors with a safe and relaxing experience where they can experience the natural beauty of Tennessee. The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads, all of which promote economic development and tourism in communities around the U.S.

Community Transportation Planning Request (CTPR) in Polk County has been submitted. It is a request for study of a lane expansion on US 411 and HWY 64 to the Tennessee/Georgia state line.

Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian Workshop with FHWA and VHB was successful, and we received great feedback on how to improve pedestrian safety. The Appalachian Regional Council (ARC) is seeking a corridor management plan for Old Copper Road that traverses Polk County into Bradley County. That wraps up the RPO updates and there were no further questions from the RPO members.

TDOT Resurfacing Presentation

Andrea Noel, TDOT Region 2 OCT Supervisor, reviewed the upcoming TDOT Resurfacing Program with the proposed list. If you have a project on the list, you will receive a letter containing all the information and important dates. Andrea shared her screen and walked through the website to find out more

information. Andrea stated that we need to know any major events, utilities, etc. along these state routes so TDOT and the community can work together on coordinating the resurfacing projects.

Old Copper Road Corridor Management Plan Presentation

Dana Teasley with the Old Copper Road Preservation Alliance is here to present the Old Copper Road Corridor Management Plan. The Old Copper Road was built with a purpose of hauling copper from the Basin to the nearest railroad in Cleveland, TN. The project took two years to complete. The two established landmarks serve as the “bookends” for the route which are the Ducktown Basin Museum and the Museum Center at Five Points. The Alliance’s objectives are to preserve and protect the rich history of the Old Copper Road from its earliest existence to the most modern-day advancements, to promote and market the route for its historical and cultural significance, to support beautification and signage along the route, and to encourage mindful commercial development along 64 between Cleveland and Ducktown. Dana went over the various events and landmarks along the route including Ocoee Dam’s #1, 2, and 3, Lake Ocoee, and the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Dana discussed how a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) would be extremely beneficial in protecting and maintaining the history of the Old Copper Road. Benefits to having a CMP would devise a plan of action, allow for community input and involvement in future development, will strengthen future grant proposals, and a requirement for a National Scenic Byway Designation. For more information on the TDOT Byways Program, please follow this link <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/environmental-home/environmental-highway-beautification-office/beautification-national-scenic-byways.html>. For an overview of a CMP please follow this link <https://www.scenic.org/visual-pollution-issues/scenic-byways/management-plans/>. Dana offered to share the presentation with anyone who may be interested in more information.

Southeast Rural Regional Transportation Plan Workshop

Andrea Barbour with TDOT was present to lead the Rural Regional Transportation Plan (RRTP) Workshop. Andrea went over what she has done so far for the RRTP. The reason for the second meeting and breakout rooms is to verify the data that’s been gathered by those who live in the communities. RPO Members were placed in breakout rooms based on their county. The breakout rooms went over the Southeast’s demographics, economic profiles, land use, safety, commute, traffic volumes, and volume capacity. All the comments, questions, and concerns presented in the breakout rooms will be discussed and addressed before the RRTP is finalized. If anyone would like the presentations and data from today, it can be requested and sent out.

Other Business

Chairman Bill James asked the board if there was any other new business. No new business was presented.

Adjournment

Chairman Bill James calls for a motion to adjourn the Executive Board. George Thacker made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Daniel Crabtree. All are in favor.





























Chairman Dan Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the Technical Committee. Glen Varner made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by George Thacker. All are in favor.



























Chairman, RPO Executive Board



























Chairman, RPO Technical Committee

Sarah Murray, RPO Coordinator

▼ In this meeting (54)

-  **Conference Room**
External 
-  **D. Gary Davis (Guest)** 
-  **Dan Evans**
External 
-  **Dan Fry (Guest)** 
-  **Dana Teasley (Guest)** 
-  **Daniel Crabtree (Guest)** 
-  **Deborah Walker**
External 
-  **Eric Goodwin**
External 
-  **Glen Varner**
External 
-  **Greg Thomas (Guest)** 
-  **John Bamber - Rhea Economi...** 
-  **John Gentry**
External 
-  **Karen Rennich- Chattanooga ...** 
-  **Kelly Ware**
External 

-  **Kevin Layne**
External 
-  **Kwabena Aboagye (Guest)**
External 
-  **Laura Smith - Decatur (Guest)** 
-  **Linda Hixon (Guest)** 
-  **Lois Preece (Guest)** 
-  **Lonnie Cleek (Guest)** 
-  **Mareike Ortmann**
External 
-  **Matt Meservy**
External 
-  **Michael Brady (Guest)** 
-  **Michael McClanahan**
External 
-  **Rachael Bergmann**
External 
-  **Renea Hall for Jim Hawk (Gue...** 
-  **Robert Rodgers**
External 

-  Roy Thomason (Guest) 
-  Sam Evans (Guest) 
-  Sam Saieed 
-  Sandra Knight - Bradley Coun... 
-  Sarah Murray 
-  Shannon Burke (Guest) 
-  Stacy Morrison
External 
-  thacker (Guest) 
-  Tom Trotter (Guest) 
-  Tom Trotter Phone (Guest) 
-  Veronica Allen
External 
-  Wanda Fulmer (Guest) 
-  Yonna (Guest) 

Others invited (14)



David Jackson
No response



Greg Thomas
No response



Jake Battles
No response



jrfults@blomand.net
No response



Nancy Sutherland
No response



Patti Petitt
No response



riebenre@blomand.net
No response



Claxton, Theresa (FHWA)
No response



Daniel Crabtree
No response



mbrady@blomand.net
No response



Don Brown
No response



C. Seth Sumner



Bo Perkinson



Ortmann, Mareike
No response