

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



AGENDA

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
10:00 A.M. Eastern Time
Zoom Virtual Meeting



1. Welcome & Introduction of
Chanel Hippix, SE RPO Coordinator.....Chad Reese, SETD Planning Director
2. Executive Board / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Bill James, Executive Board Chair
Technical Committee / Call to Order / Roll Call..... Dan Evans, Technical Committee Chair
3. Approval of Minutes from the Previous
EB Meeting on May 27, 2020.....Bill James, Executive Board Chair
4. Approval of Minutes from the Previous
TC Meeting on May 27, 2020.....Dan Evans, Technical Committee Chair
5. Southeast RPO Updates & Projects.....Chanel Hippix, RPO Coordinator
6. Corridor K Presentation.....Paul Degges, TDOT Deputy
Commissioner / Chief Engineer
7. Presentation of Projects for Prioritization by RPO..... Will Brewer & TDOT Staff
(Input comments on projects in Chat box).....Chanel Hippix, RPO Coordinator
8. Call for Ranking of Projects by the Technical Committee
Roll Call Vote.....Dan Evans, Technical Committee Chair
9. Southeast Freight Study.....Dan Pallme & Amy Kosanovic,
TDOT Freight & Logistics
10. Southeast Rural Regional Transportation PlanAndrea Barbour, Long Range Planning
11. Executive Board Affirmation of TC Ranking
Roll Call Vote.....Bill James, Executive Board Chair
12. SE TN Project Status Updates.....Robert Rogers, TDOT Region 2
13. Other Properly Presented New Business.....Bill James, Executive Board Chair
14. Executive Board Adjournment.....Bill James, Executive Board Chair
Technical Committee Adjournment.....Dan Evans, Technical Committee Chair

Sequ.	Region	15 Distressed Counties	29 At-Risk Counties	RPO	County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase	Est.	Notes	2018 Rank	2019 Rank	2020 Rank	2020 Region 2 Comments	2020 Proposed Rankings	2020 RPO Comments	
403	2		1	SE	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	3.3		3	5		Early in design	5		
405	2		1	SE	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	3.3		4	8		Early in design	7		
335	2			SE	Marion	124086.00	SR-2 US-64/72	From Near Hillcrest Lane in Kimball to Magnolia Ave. in Jasper (IA)	3.2	Right-of-Way	18.0		2	3		Early in design	4		
431	2	1		SE	Sequatchie	124104.01	SR-28	From 5-Lane North of Dunlap to Sequatchie-Bledsoe County Line (IA)	3.8	Right-of-Way	4.6		1B	1			1		
433	2	1		SE	Bledsoe	124104.02	SR-28	From Sequatchie-Bledsoe County Line to South of Mariah Farm Lane (IA)	3.4	Right-of-Way	4.5		N/A	6		Early in design	6		
435	2	1		SE	Bledsoe	124104.03	SR-28	From South of Mariah Farm Lane to North of Herman Smith Road (IA)	3.6	Right-of-Way	3.2		N/A	9		Early in design	8		
437	2	1		SE	Bledsoe	124104.04	SR-28	From North of Herman Smith Road to South of Humble Cemetery Road (IA)	3.3	Right-of-Way	3.3		N/A	7			3		
439	2	1		SE	Bledsoe	124104.05	SR-28	From South of Humble Cemetery Road to 5-Lane in Pikeville (IA)	3.2	Right-of-Way	2.8		N/A	2			2		
PE																			
197	2	1		SE	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	PE	0.2		PE-2	PE-2		Currently in FY2022	2		
337	2			SE	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	0.6		PE-1	PE-1		Currently in FY2022	1		
396	2		1	SE	Polk	N/A	SR-40, US-64	Ocoee River Gorge Bypass, Appalachia Corridor "K" West of Ocoee River to SR-68 in Ducktown (IA)	32.4	PE	320.0	*Voted as 1 & 1A in 2018, voted as PE-3 in 2019. Both projects were combined into 1; previous piNS 102420 & 102420.08.	1 & 1A	PE-3		There will be a presentation update at the RPO meeting	3		
Funded for Construction - Not being voted on																			
346	2			SE	McMinn	124087.00	I-75	Interchange Improvements at SR-30 and SR-305 (IA)	0.1	Construction	1.5	Funded for Construction	5	4	n/a				

NOTE Yellow notes same phase/project ranked last year

BLUE Blue notes new project to the list including an existing project broken into phases

GREEN Green notes project movement to a new phase

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Minutes of the Joint Executive Board & Technical Committee
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
10:30 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

Executive Committee Chair, Bill James, welcomed those present and called the meeting of the Executive Board and Technical Committee to order at 10:37 a.m. RPO Coordinator, Chad Reese, welcomes members.

Members Present: Bently Thomas (Proxy for Gary Davis), David Jackson, Paul Evans, John Gentry, Lois Preece, Bill James, John Bamber (Proxy for Gary Louallen), Keith Cartwright
There is a quorum on executive board. No need for official proxy forms due to no official votes.

Dan Evans requests roll call for Technical Committee.

Members present: Beth Jones, Shannon Burke, Linda Hixon, David Jackson, Linda Hooper, Dan Evans, Tom Trotter, Ben Burchfield, Laura Smith, Roy Thomason, Chris Kleehammer, Wanda Fulmer, John Bamber, and Karen Rennich.
There is a quorum on Technical Committee

Executive & Technical Committee Minutes

On a motion made by Athens Public Works Director, Ben Burchfield, seconded by Beth Jones, SETD Executive Director, 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 – Chad Reese

Mr. Reese is scheduling one-on-one meetings with each of the 9 RPO counties to prepare for the first Rural Regional Transportation Plan. The goal with these meetings is to find out and address what the community transportation needs are.

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. Another recipient (not in RPO but in CARCOG), Calhoun for SR 163 from Church St. to Main St. for pedestrian improvement.

Announcement for next round of multimodal grants happening soon.

Polk County: Mr. Hatcher reached out regarding Copper Basin School Zone lights and requested assistance. Mr. Reese and Allan Wolf (TDOT) with Ducktown Mayor Doug Collins is going to sign the agreement to take over the school zone flashing lights.

SETDD Participated in Road Safety audit of Blueberry Hill Road in Dayton. This program is of no cost to the local governments. It provides guardrails, signage, new roadway striping, and sometimes new surfacing.

Mr. Reese completed two State Industrial Access Road Applications. One is in Jasper and Kimball for Mueller Water Products and the expansion of Valmont Industries. TDOT has agreed to repave Industrial Boulevard from Main Street in Kimball to Godsey Drive (Phase 1), part of 2 separate SIAs. There is another SIA that cannot be formally announced yet, but we have secured it for a brand-new industry coming to an area within one of the Southeast region's communities.

FHWA's BUILD Grants- Dunlap is applying for a \$10 million grant and SETDD is providing letter of support to make pedestrian improvements like roundabouts on Highway 127 and SR 28. TDOT is also applying for a Build Grant for rockfall mitigation on Highway 64 through the Ocoee River Gorge, and SETDD will write a letter of support for this as well.

National Scenic Byway application is open to apply again. Sequatchie Valley Highway is hoped to be designated as a new National Scenic Byway.

UDSA Community Facilities is an option for funding for some highway departments – Bledsoe county requested assistance for new equipment. Sam Saieed is working to put that application together. Requirements for application include letters of credit from banks.

Jenny in the SETDD 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 (Marion, Sequatchie, and Bledsoe Counties). This project will direct attention to tourist attractions as well as provides a cohesive signage plan for the area. This complements the Scenic Byway program as well.

Mr. Reese referred to Matthew Cushing for additional information on multimodal access grant.

Mr. Cushing elaborates on the multimodal grant high-level spectrum of approved projects that fill in the gaps for users of the State Route network. These include sidewalks, bike infrastructure/bike lanes, shared use paths to connect transit stops. The eligibility for the program is for towns, cities, municipalities, or counties in Tennessee on a State Route. The most recent cycle just finished but the next cycle is ramping up in early June. Simultaneously, the notice of intent to apply is opening. The full application will be tentatively opening in August.

Questions for Mr. Cushing: John Bamber wants to reapply with knowledge of why it was not accepted before.

Mr. Cushing answers that it must be for multimodal infrastructure, not recreational as well as on or within a quarter mile of a State Route.

Mr. Reese adds that this is only a 5% match requirement for communities, unlike the Transportation Alternatives grant, which requires a 20% match. The Multimodal Access Grant also includes engineering expenses. It is a \$950,000 max request for a million-dollar project. He adds that if interested, each community should reach out and SETDD will be happy to put together the letter of intent and application. This information will be sent out via email.

Another program is the RuPI – Rural Planning Initiative. Grants can be up to \$25,000 dollars for distressed and at-risk communities. Only Meigs, Bledsoe, Rhea, and Grundy and their local municipalities can apply. Applications due June 10th. A five-person review committee will have recommendations by mid-July and TDOT will have to approve these recommendations by the end of July. This is for a planning document only (access management studies, corridor studies, road diet analysis, resurfacing and striping plans for local roads, transportation facility inventories, transportation feasibility studies, all CTPG eligible planning documents (complete streets, bike/ped plans, transportations systems management and operations).

Presentation of Rural Regional Transportation Plan Kick-Off – Andrea Barbour

25-year Policy Plan (updated every 5 years) revealed the RPOs and rural communities needed more focus on transportation planning.

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. Where are we now? Where do we want to go? What will guide us? How will we get there?

The plan's document sections are:

- *Introduction and Purpose;
- *Overview of the Region (description and function of the RPO, summary of the current transportation network, and goals and objectives identified by RPO for the communities);
- *Demographic, Socio Economic & Land Use Trends (relationship of land use to the development of transportation, population trends, transportation implications, and demographic trends);
- *Regional Transportation (roadways, public transportation, condition of the airports, freight movement, and travel demand management);
- *Transportation System Performance Recommendations (public transit, biking and pedestrian facilities, goods movement, land use and future growth, travel demand management and public involvement);
- *Objectives, Strategies & Goals; and
- *Plan Adoption; and References (reference any plan that the communities have already done).

These documents are averaging 150 pages.

Due to COVID, the needs of the community have been moved to a digital platform, "MapSocial" to show where each community needs multimodal access, freight solutions, repaving and resurfacing needs, maintenance needs, concerns for safety, etc.

Map Social is mobile friendly.

National Economic Partnership Freight Study – Amy Kosanovic

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.

Beth Jones notes that the consortium excludes one of SETDD's communities, Grundy County.

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

Mr. Reese thanks Ms. Kosanovic for her presentation.

Multimodal Corridor Study I-55/75/26 Presentation—Rachael Bergman TDOT OCT

The Corridor Planning overview assesses the ability of transportation corridor to manage travel needs for next 20 years; studies each interstate corridor in the state every 10 years on I-55/75/26. Corridor Planning Purpose is to evaluate existing and future conditions; identify potential improvements and management strategies; and provide guidance for decision-makers regarding further study or project progress.

AECOM began in Fall 2018 and finished end of May 2020.

The report is published on TDOT website.

I-75 = 162 miles and is the longest in the study.

First phase

Existing deficiencies look at 4 main categories:

- *Traffic Operations

- Congestion issues on US 64, SR 320, and I24 to GA State line

- *Freight and Economic Development

- Insufficient truck parking, projected employment and population growth around Chattanooga and Cleveland

- *Safety

- Higher crash rates during peak hour congestion and limited visibility in McMinn due to fog

- *Multimodal (transit, bike, pedestrian)

- Lack of regional connectivity between Chattanooga and Cleveland; lack of sidewalks at interchange crossings where they intersect with US or State Routes.

Solutions for improvements

- *Traffic Operations

- Road widening in highly congested areas

- *Freight and Economic Development

- Additional truck parking, studying the need for additional interchanges in some population centers

- *Safety

- Install lighting, signage, and extending deceleration lanes

- *Multimodal

- Extending existing CARTA routes, further studying feasibility of commuter rail between Chattanooga and Cleveland

This is only a sample of the I-75 study. 3 technical reports have been published on the TDOT website.

Congratulations to Andrea Noel on the new position as Planning Supervisor of Region 2

TDOT Repaving Schedule-Andrea Noel

Resurfacing Coordination will be published on the website.

Possibilities include:

- *Bike lanes and buffers (delineators)

- Efficient to do at time of repaving but only for high potential for bike traffic. A Bike/Ped plan is encouraged to supplement this request

- *Crosswalk enhancements

- *Road Reconfigurations and Road Diets

- Road reconfig: Same number of lanes, just reducing width of lanes to add bike lane

Road diet: reduces number of lanes

- *Rumble Stripes and strips

- *Coordination on Utilities

Some requests require cost sharing and/or stamped engineering drawings

All change requests need to be approved by Regional Traffic Engineers at least 21 weeks prior to letting dates.

Changes are only made "curb to curb" (TDOT will update existing curb ramps to make them PROWAG* compliant) *Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines

Additional Coordination:

- *Sidewalk Projects

- *Adjacent Roadway Projects

- *Utility Projects requiring Pavement Cuts

Notify TDOT of major events to be expected (Festivals, parades, etc.) and if your community has had a TAP grant and are working on the sidewalks already.

Outreach Process:

If chosen, TDOT will send a letter to the jurisdiction containing pertinent information.

- *the State Route

- *type of resurfacing

- *beginning and ending termini

- *Map

- *deadline to make changes

Needed from the jurisdiction:

- *Send the letter to all who need to know about the paving project (Utilities, maintenance, planning, bike/ped coordinators, etc.)

Mr. Reese concludes that portion of the meeting.

Mr. Reese opens discussion for questions to TDOT. No questions presented.

Other Business

No other business.




Mr. Reese concludes. Dan Evans calls for a motion to the adjournment of the meeting. Paul Evans makes the motion. Mayor Bill James calls for a motion for board adjournment. Keith Cartwright makes a motion to adjourn.

Chairman, RPO Executive Board

Chairman, RPO Technical Committee


Chad Reese, RPO Coordinator

Attendees


 Chad Reese (Host, me)  

 Andrea Barbour (Guest)  



 JJ00453 (Guest)  



 Paul Evans (Guest)  

 bill james (Guest)  

 Keith Cartwright (Guest)  




 Linda Hooper (Guest)  




 matthew cushing (Guest)  

 Tonya Roberson (Guest)  




 Linda Hixon (Guest) 




 Rob Howard (Guest) 


 Amy Kosanovic (Guest)  

 Andrea Noel - TDOT (Guest)  

 Ashley (Guest)  

 Ben Burchfield (Guest)  

 Bently Thomas (Guest)  


 Beth Jones (Guest)  

 Chammonds (Guest)  

 Chris Kleehammer (Guest)  



 cmilner (Guest)  


 D. Stacy Morrison (Guest)  




 Dan (Guest) [Unmute](#) [More >](#)







































 djackson (Guest)  

 ETDD (Guest)  

 Garrett Haynes (Guest)  

 geemo (Guest)  

 Ian Preston (Guest)  

IP	Ian Preston (Guest)	 
J	JJ09398 (Guest)	 
J	John (Guest)	 
JG	John Gentry (Guest)	 
JR	Josh R (Guest)	 
KR	Karen Rennich (Guest)	 
LS	Laura Smith (Guest)	 
LC	Lisa C (Guest)	 
LP	Lois Preece (Guest)	 
M	markd (Guest)	 
RB	Rachael Bergmann- TDOT R2 (Guest)	 
RS	Rachel Swafford (Guest)	 
RR	Robert Rodgers (Guest)	 
RT	Roy Thomason (Guest)	 
SS	Sam Saieed (Guest)	
SI	SANDRA's iPad (Guest)	Unmute More >
S	sedev (Guest)	 
SB	Shannon Burke (Guest)	 
TE	Troy Ebbert (Guest)	 
WF	Wanda Fulmer (Guest)	 
	18657421774 (Guest)	