

**ETDD North Rural Planning Organization
Joint Executive Board & Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium
May 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Knoxville, TN**

MINUTES

Voting Members Present

Executive Board: Mayor Terry Frank, Mayor Jack Lynch (by proxy Randy Brown), Mayor Mike Byrd (by proxy Charlie McNally), Mayor Joe Brooks, County Executive Brian Langley, Mayor Jason Bailey State Senator Ken Yager (by proxy Brian Langley, Mayor Ben Waller (by proxy Harold Edwards), State Representative Kelly Keisling, Phil Vespie (by proxy Mark Keck)

Technical Committee: Ron Pittman, Charles McAnally, Joe Miller, Kelvin King, David Cox (by proxy Jason Bailey), Mayor Joe Brooks, Marilyn Toppins (by proxy Jerry Lawson), Rick Yakubic (by proxy Tim Hendrick), Mike Patterson, Stacy Crawford

TDOT and Support Agencies Present

Steve Borden (TDOT), Dexter Justis (TDOT), Mark Nagi (TDOT), Michelle Christian (TDOT), Stacy Morrison (TDOT), Nick Barnard (TDOT) Drew Rutherford (TDOT), Tracy Widner (TDOT), Christie Brown (TDOT), Nick Barnard (TDOT), Leah Everett (TDOT), Ryan Traverse (TDOT), Jake Bennett (TDOT), Tim Hendrick (ETDD), Laura Smith (ETDD), Ekem Amonoo-Lartson (ETDD), Harold Edwards (ETDD), Miranda Cummings (ETDD),

Others Present

Leah Brown (Morgan County Hwy. Dept.) Stacey Crawford (Claiborne County Hwy.)

Welcome / Call to Order

The meeting began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Executive Board Chairman Joe Brooks called the joint meeting of the Executive Board and Technical Committee to order.

Determination of Quorum / Roll Call

A quorum was confirmed and the roll call was waived.

Approval of the May 30, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Technical Committee, Jerry Lawson, proxy for the Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2024 meeting. Ron Pittman made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Joe Miller and approved unanimously.

Approval of the May 30, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Chairman, Joe Brooks called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2024 meeting. Jason Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Brian Langley and approved unanimously.

Amendment to Bylaws, combining the Executive Board & Tech. Committee into one board, North RPO Committee

There was a discussion of combining the Executive Board and Technical Committee into one board in November 2024. The membership would remain the same as members of the executive board and technical committee but combined so that there would be one set of minutes, one chair and one vice chair. The chair would be elected from the mayors the Vice Chair elected from the road superintendents. Elections would be every two years with the Chair a road superintendent and the Vice Chair from the mayors. Joe Miller made a motion to elect County Executive Brian Langley as the Chair which was seconded by Jason Langley and approved unanimously. Joe Miller made a motion to elect Charlie McAnally as Vice Chair which was seconded by Jason Bailey and approved unanimously.

Update of 10 Year Plan and TDOT Project Updates and State Aid Projects

The TDOT's Dexter Justis showed the video of the 10 Year Plan update and went through projects and funding. Of the total, 55% of the funds go to the projects with the other 45% going to road paving, maintenance, and others. He discussed the Statewide Partnership Plan and that Blount County in Region 1 had been moved up with improvements to Pellissippi Parkway and right-of-way widening. The only new project in Region 1 was the widening of Hwy. 62 in Wartburg in Morgan County. The 449 Project in Sevier County should be completed this year. The Governor requested another \$1.1 billion in recovery.

Drones & Advances Air Mobility for Rural Tennessee

Ryan Traversa, from the TDOT, Aeronautics Division gave a presentation on what the division could provide. He gave a slide presentation and discussed the advances in drones and the impacts on Rural Tennessee. As growth occurs, more entities are using drones and eventually will use them as taxis. There is a company in Knoxville, Whisper Aero developing quieter propulsion systems. Mr. Traversa also gave information on airspace and what to do if you see a drone overheard. Several questions were asked at the end of the presentation and Ryan can share the slides at the conclusion of the presentation.

Update Transportation Plan for Cocke County

Ekem Amonoo-Lartson gave a presentation on the Transportation Plan for Cocke County and how the plan would differ from some previous plans in that it would incorporate requested corridors and areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. Working with TDOT Planning Division/Forecasting Office, data will be incorporated as it affects Gatlinburg, Sevier County and parts of North Carolina.

Coordinators Report

Ekem Amonoo-Lartson, ETDD, presented the Coordinators Report covering tasks completed during the previous year, including the previous RPO meetings in the Fall, Local Officials Meetings, assistance with transportation grants, attendance at the NADO Transportation Conference in July, and RPO Conference in March. At the conclusion of the Cocke County

Transportation Plan, work will begin on the Roane County Transportation Plan. It was noted that the Transportation Planning Grant application will open in late summer and the Statewide Partnership Plan in late summer too.

TDOT/FHWA Updates

No other updates.

Questions / Discussion / Other Business

Public Comment

Adjourn

There being no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

DRAFT