

**ETDD North Rural Planning Organization  
Joint Executive Board & Technical Committee Meeting Minutes  
TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium  
November 16, 2023, 1:00 p.m.  
Knoxville, TN**

**MINUTES**

**Voting Members Present**

Executive Board: Mayor Mike Byrd, Senator Ken Yager (by proxy Monica Rymer), County Executive Brian Langley, Mayor Joe Brooks, Mayor Jack Lynch (by proxy Randy Brown), Mayor Jason Bailey, Mayor Terry Frank, Troy Poore (by proxy Debra England), Chris Mitchell (by proxy Charles Ledford)

Technical Committee: Joe Miller, Ron Pittman, David Cox, Randy Brown, David Lietzke, Roger Long, Mike Patterson, Rick Yakubic, Mike Conger, Mayor Fred Sykes (by proxy Harold Edwards), Charlie McAnally, Greg Corum, Marilyn Toppins, Charles Faulkner, E.L. Morton

**TDOT and Agencies Support Present**

Troy Ebbert (TDOT), Stacy Weaver (TDOT), Don Brown (ETDD), Rich DesGroselliers (LAMTPO), Christie Brown (TDOT), Laura Smith (ETDD), Kevin Lynch (TDOT), Harold Edwards (ETDD), Ronda Sawyer (TDOT), Mike McClanahan (TDOT), Kristin Qualls (TDOT), Dexter Justis (TDOT), Andy Padgett (TDOT), Steve Borden (TDOT)

**Others Present**

Jeff Mize (CDM Smith), Jeff Lewis (New Tazewell)

**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**

Quorums were present for both the Technical Committee and Executive Board. The roll call was waived, and introductions made.

**Approval of May 18, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Long asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023, Technical Committee meeting. Joe Miller made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Charlie McAnally. Members of the Technical Committee approved the minutes.

### **Approval of May 18, 2023, Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Brooks asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023, Executive Board meeting. Brian Langley made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Mike Byrd. Members of the Executive Board approved the minutes.

### **TDOT's Region 1 New Organization Chart and Staff-TDOT Staff**

A handout of Region 1 Staff organization chart was provided. Steve Borden discussed reorganization and staffing changes in TDOT during the past year affecting Region I included: Dexter Justis, Director of Project Management, Christie Brown, Director of Pre-Construction, Stacy Weaver, Manager of Design, Jason Shultz, Alternative Delivery, Josh Metz, Project Manager for District 19, Kristin Qualls for District 18, and Andy Padgett, Region Traffic Manager who will also be picking up permitting.

### **TDOT Project Updates and Project Prioritization-TDOT Staff**

TDOT staff in attendance introduced themselves. Troy Ebbert, TDOT, Office of Community Transportation, gave update on the prioritizing of the TMA funding which was part of Modernization Act passed. TDOT looking at projects that were submitted under the Statewide Partnership Program. There is \$350 million coming in for projects but \$2.6 billion worth of needs based on those projects. TDOT working on a 10-year plan instead of usual 3-year plan to be presented to State Legislature. Project updates will be provided and if anyone has any concerns or questions, let Troy know. Mr. Justis went over the ranked projects from last year that were carried forward. There was discussion from attendees regarding the timing of projects which had been on the list for several years.

### **County Wide Transportation Plans-Don Brown**

ETDD Transportation Planner, Don Brown, presented the Morgan County Transportation Plan that was completed in September 2023, and items included in the plan. Previously completed plans have been for the Campbell County, Grainger County, and Scott County, with Monroe County's plan underway. Included in the plan are state routes, commuting patterns and local roads. Any of the communities interested in having a plan prepared may contact Mr. Brown. There was a discussion of routes labeled as bike routes but may not be considered safe for bikers. There are different groups that have designated bike routes, but they are not under one umbrella.

### **TDOT's Transportation Funding Data Base-TDOT OCT Staff**

Mr. Ebbert discussed the new Transportation Funding Database which lists all transportation grant funding opportunities in one place. Topics such as project type or agency can be searched using the database. Any grants not on the database can be forwarded to TDOT and they will update it.

### **Grant for Helm's Ferry Bridge Project, Union County-Mayor Jason Bailey**

Mayor Bailey presented a project proposal for building a new bridge across Norris Lake connecting portions of Union County. Speedwell residents must drive an hour or more to get to the County Courthouse for car tags, pay taxes, and other functions. Currently, Union County has a contract with Claiborne County to provide school services. It would be a project of approximately \$65 million dollars. Mr. Brown recommended applying for a TDOT Transportation Planning Grant. If awarded, it would provide funding for a transportation planning study. Mayor Bailey requested TDOT's assistance in advancing this project.

### **Transportation Planning Grant, Morgan County Road & Bridge Inventory-TDOT OCT Staff**

Ronda Sawyer, TDOT, Office of Community Transportation presented the Morgan County Road & Bridge Inventory which was funded by a TDOT Transportation Planning Grant with a zero-dollar match as the county is on the At Risk or Distressed communities list. Consultants identified road termini, condition, construction materials, signs, poles and cross drains. The inventory was mapped in GIS for Morgan County and they will be able to utilize the data for a wide range of projects.

### **Discussion of New Urbanized Areas Per 2020 Census Data**

Mr. Ebbert summarized the results of the 2020 Census which changed urbanized areas. There is a smoothing process that is currently in progress for these urbanized areas boundaries. Erwin, Greeneville, Harrogate, Kingston, LaFollette, Madisonville, Newport, Rockwood, Rogersville, Sevierville, and Sweetwater have been designated as Small Urban Areas. Meetings will be scheduled in March for the communities affected by the new boundaries.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Laura Smith, ETDD, provided the RPO Coordinators report including local official's meetings since last Nov. TSMP grants in process, MMAG NOI's completed this summer, and examples of road data information that could be compiled using Etrims. More information can be found on the ETDD website.

### **Questions/Discussion/Other Business-Chairman Brooks**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT