

**ETDD South Rural Planning Organization
Joint Executive Board and Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium
May 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Knoxville, TN**

MINUTES

Voting Members Present

Executive Board: County Executive Wade Creswell (by proxy Glen Cofer), Mayor Mark Potts, Mayor Jeff Harris (by proxy Jack Qualls), State Representative Lowell Russell, Mayor Don Prater (by proxy Joe Barrett), Mayor Doyle Lowe, Mayor Robert Mathis, Mayor Tim Neal (by proxy Tim Clark), Mayor Mike Werner (by proxy Larry Henderson), Mayor Larry Waters (by proxy Stacey Whaley), Mayor Ed Mitchell (by proxy Don Walker), Mayor Trey Dykes (by proxy Gary Carver)

Technical Committee: Mike Patterson, Stacey Whaley, Rick Yakubic, Ty Ross (by proxy Jack Qualls), Rene'e Crowe, Jon Campbell, Billy Pickel, Becky Headrick, Mike Conger, Becky Ruppe (by proxy Brian Mathews), Dennis Ferguson (by proxy Terri Broyles), Jack Qualls, Jeff Headrick (by proxy Don Walker), Gary Carver, Dustin Smith, Jonas Smelcer

TDOT and Agencies Support Present

Troy Ebbert (TDOT), Don Brown (ETDD), Christie Burt (ETDD), Randy Busler (TDOT), Laura Smith (ETDD), Josh Metz (TDOT), Christie Brown (TDOT), Rich DesGroseilliers (LAMTPO), Kristin Qualls (TDOT), Stacy Weaver (TDOT), Todd Sexton (TDOT), Steve Borden (TDOT)

Others Present

Jake Ottinger (Cocke County Partnership), Doug Tarwater (City of Sevierville), Donnie Adams (Sevier County Highway Department), Roger Sims (City of Gatlinburg), Tammy Watts (Pittman Center), Jeff Mize (CDM Smith)

Welcome / Call to Order

The meeting began at approximately 10:00 a.m. Executive Board Chairman Mark Potts 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.

Approval of November 15, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Yakubic asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Stacey Whaley to approve the minutes and seconded by Gary Carver. Members of the Technical Committee approved the minutes.

Approval of November 15, 2022, Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Chairman Mark Potts asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 Executive Board Meeting. A motion was made by Jack Qualls to approve the minutes and seconded by Larry Henderson. Members of the Executive Board approved the minutes.

Tennessee Transportation Legislative Update

TDOT Region 1 Director, Steve Borden gave an overview of the Transportation Modernization Act and a short video was shown. All the Improve Act projects will be evaluated and strategies for interstates. Truck traffic is extremely high at the I40 / I75. Ranking and prioritization of projects will be done between now and December.

Brett Howell, TCHOA, Executive Director discussed the 2023 TMA benefits for county highway departments. The state aid program in the short term will receive an additional \$300 million on July 1, 2023. This is in addition to the annual allocation of \$21 million of the usual state aid money. Mr. Howell discussed some decreases in revenues from the sale of gasoline and diesel fuels partially due to the increase in the number of electric vehicles. The TMA includes a new tax on electric vehicles to provide additional revenues. Mr. Howell noted that counties maintain 61,000 miles of local roads with approximately 20% of this mileage on the state aid system.

TDOT's FY 2024-2026 Multimodal Program

Troy Ebbert, TDOT, discussed the criteria considered in selecting projects to be included in TDOT's Three Year Plan and the timeline for the project selection process.

TDOT Project Updates

Christie Brown, TDOT, discussed the three SRPO projects included in the most recent Three Year Plan. The fiscal years in the Three Year Plan align with the federal fiscal year.

Protect 1 – Resiliency Plans, Carbon Reduction & NEVI Funding

Troy Ebbert made a presentation on the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. Mr. Ebbert discussed the amount of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding, \$88 million dollars, for electrical charging stations in the state. Grant opportunities for these funds should become available late spring of 2023. Mr. Ebbert stated that another \$139 million is available to the State of Tennessee for carbon reduction. There are obligated amounts for the urbanized areas. There are grant opportunities available and communities should think about applying as these are funds available. Mr. Ebbert also discussed the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation.

Tennessee’s allocation under this program is \$158 million over five years. This funding will be used to review transportation assets, assess their vulnerability, and to provide resilience building solutions.

Coordinator's Report

Laura Smith provided the RPO Coordinators report including status of USDOT RAISE grant applications, Multi Modal Access grants and transportation planning grants awarded in 2022 and 2023 MMAG notices of intent to apply that were submitted.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT