ETDD South Rural Planning Organization
Joint Executive Board and Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium
November 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Knoxville, TN

MINUTES

Voting Members Present

Executive Board: Mayor Mark Potts, State Representative Lowell Russell, Mayor Don Prater (by proxy Joe Barrett), Mayor Doyle Lowe, State Senator Randy McNally (by proxy David Bradshaw), Mayor Larry Waters (by proxy Bryan McCarter), Mayor Ed Mitchell (by proxy Don Walker), County Executive Wade Creswell (by proxy Glen Cofer), Mayor Mike Werner (by proxy Larry Henderson), Mayor Trey Dykes, Mayor Rob Mathis (by proxy Trey Dykes), Mayor Tim Neal

Technical Committee: Mike Patterson, Rick Yakubic, Rene'e Crowe, Jon Campbell, Billy Pickel, Becky Headrick, Mike Conger, Becky Ruppe, E. L. Morton, Gary Carver (by proxy Trey Dykes), Jonas Smelcer (by proxy Donnie Adams), Lauren Emert (by proxy Jennifer Wilson), Stacey Whaley, Dustin Smith, Lucas Graham, Donald Whaley

TDOT and Agencies Support Present

Troy Ebbert (TDOT), Ronda Sawyer (TDOT), Don Brown (ETDD), Laura Smith (ETDD), Josh Metz (TDOT), Christie Brown (TDOT), Rich DesGroseilliers, Kristin Qualls (TDOT), Kevin Layne (TDOT), Mike McClanahan (TDOT), Joe Barrett (ETDD), Dexter Justis (TDOT), Stacy Weaver (TDOT), Andy Padgett (TDOT), Steve Borden (TDOT)

Others Present

Doug Tarwater, Jeff Mize, Roger Sims, Tammy Watts, Rich DesGroseilliers (LAMTPO), Holly Jones

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. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of May 18, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairman Yakubic asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Billy Pickel to approve the minutes and seconded by Rene'e Crowe. Members of the Technical Committee approved the minutes.

Approval of May 18, 2023, Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Chairman Mark Potts asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023 Executive Board Meeting. A motion was made by Trey Dykes to approve the minutes and seconded by Larry Henderson. Members of the Executive Board approved the minutes.

TDOT's Region 1 New Organization Chart and Staff

Dexter Justis discussed reorganization and staffing changes in TDOT during the past year affecting Region I included: Christie Brown now Manager of Pre-Construction, Stacy Weaver, Director of Roadway Improvements, Josh Metz, Project Manager for District 19, Kristin Qualls for District 18, and Andy Padgett, Region Traffic Manager.

TDOT Project Updates

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 were over 100 projects submitted out of which 66 were eligible with remaining being better fits for the Multimodal Transportation access division. 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. Mr. Justis went over the top nine ranked projects last year. There was no formal motion or vote, and no objections brought up.

County Wide Transportation Plans

ETDD Transportation Planner, Don Brown, presented the Morgan County Transportation Plan that was completed in September 2023, and what was included in the plan. Previously, plans have been prepared for Campbell County, Grainger County, and Scott County, with Monroe County's plan underway. Included in the plan were state routes and local roads. Any of the communities interested in having a plan prepared can contact Mr. Brown.

TDOT's Transportation Funding Data Base

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.

Transportation Planning Grant, Morgan County Road & Bridge Inventory

Ronda Sawyer, TDOT, Office of Community Transportation presented the Morgan County Road & Bridge Inventory which was funded by a TDOT Transportation Planning Grant. There was no local match required for this study since Morgan County is on the At Risk or Distressed communities list. Consultants identified road termini, conditions, construction type, signs, and cross drains. Everything was mapped in GIS for Morgan County, and the County will be able to utilize the data for a wide range of projects.

Cherohala Skyway Corridor Management Plan Update

Mike McClanahan, Tennessee Scenic Roadways Coordinator, discussed the Cherohala Skyway Corridor Management Plan. He explained that there was a National Scenic Byway Program and an All-American Roads Program and criteria for a byway. The Cherohala Skyway is 26 miles from Tellico Plains to Robbinsville, NC with original Corridor Management Plan completed in 1993. The plan included an update of natural features. This is the first plan update done with 12-13 more to follow. The Monroe County Tourism Board approved the plan on October 25, 2023.

Resolution to Amend the SRPO Rural Regional Transportation Plan to Add Proposed Projects in Sevier County

Jeff Mize appeared on behalf of Sevier County to request the SRPO Rural Regional Transportation Plan be amended to include two projects as follows: 1. Exit 408, a proposed interchange on I-40 east of Exit 407 including a connection to SR 139 and 2. The proposed Intra-County Parkway from SR 139 to Veterans Boulevard. Mr. Mize presented a history of the Sevier County Transportation Board and transportation planning in the County. The two proposed projects are needed due to increasing traffic volumes in the area. A resolution was presented regarding amending the SRPO Rural Regional Transportation Plan to include these two projects. A motion to approve the resolution was made by David Bradshaw seconded by Lucas Graham and approved unanimously. The resolution is attached.

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. Meetings will be scheduled in March for affected cities.

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.

Other Business

Troy noted new system in the conference room and thanked attendees for their patience. He also pointed out TDOT staff who were in attendance if anyone needed to reach out to them.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.