

Dale Hollow RPO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Millard Oakley Public Library, Livingston, TN  
December 12, 2017

Members Present: Dale Reagan, Joey Rich, Michael Cross, Darlene Davis, Steve Jones via proxy Chris Ballou, Richard Driver, Ben Danner, Curtis Hayes via proxy Ben Danner, Michael Nesbitt, Carroll Carmen

Others Present: Donovan Chumbley, Sara Elmore, Jon Zirkle, Aaron Stevens, Meredith Hoos, Kurt Heischmidt, Virginia Solimine, Stacy Morrison, Andrea Barbour

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Mark Dudney called the meeting to order and welcomed the Dale Hollow RPO Executive Board Members and guests to the fall meeting of the RPO. A roll call for attendance was conducted and Mr. Dudney determined a quorum was met.

**Approval of February 2, 2017 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Michael Nesbitt, chairman, proceeded to lead the meeting by entertaining a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 2, 2017 meeting of the Executive Board. Dale Reagan made a motion to approve the minutes, Ben Danner seconded and the motion passed with a vote of all ayes.

**Dale Hollow Project Prioritization**

At this time Stacy Morrison of TDOT discussed the project priority ranking criteria and discussed the projects in a bit more detail. Morrison then discussed the initial rankings done by the Technical Committee that was recommended to the Executive Board.

The rankings were as follows:

Next Step: Construction and Right of Way

- |  |                |   |
|--|----------------|---|
| 1. Cumberland-Fentress<br>Near Little Road Clarkrange (IA) | SR 28 (US-127) | (S York Hwy.) From near Lowe Road in Cumberland County to   |
| 2. Fentress<br>Kilby Road (IA)                             | SR-28 (US-127) | (S. York Hwy.) From Near Little Road in Clarkrange to North |
| 3. Trousdale   | SR-141         | SR-141 Cedar Bluff Road to SR 25.                           |
| 4. Fentress-Pickett<br>Improvements                        | SR-28 (US-127) | (S. York Hwy.) From North of Jamestown to SR-111 (Spot      |
| 5. Overton<br>Pickett County line (IA)                     | SR-52          | (Jamestown Hwy.) From SR-52/85, West of Alpine to West of   |

Next Step: Preliminary Engineering Phase

- |   |                |   |
|---|----------------|---|
| 1. Trousdale-Macon                        | SR-10          | (Hartsville Rd.) Safety Improvements from Lafayette to Hartsville   |
| 2. Jackson-Putnam<br>Safety Improvements) | SR-96          | (Martin Creek Rd.) From SR-52 to US 70N (SR-24) (Spot Improvements- |
| 3. Smith                                  | SR-24 (US 70N) | Rock Fall Mitigation (near Cordell Hull Bridge)                     |
| 4. Macon                                  | SR-56          | Various Safety Projects   |

**Roll Call Vote on Technical Committee's Prioritized Project List Recommendation**

Mayor Michael Nesbitt opened the floor for any discussion and entertained a motion on the recommendations from the Technical Committee. Mayor Dale Reagan made a motion to approve the Project Prioritization as recommended by the Technical Committee. Mayor Michael Cross seconded. Mr. Dudney conducted a roll call vote for the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Update on DH RPO Rural Regional Transportation Plan**

Ms. Andrea Barbour presented a brief update on the rural regional transportation plan discussing the key points of the study: land use, traffic volume analysis, volume capacity ratio, commuting analysis, commute by industry, and freight traffic analysis.

**Community Transportation Planning Grants**

Mr. Dudney discussed the Community Transportation Planning grant cycle that is currently open. Communities must apply by December 31, 2017 to the RPO through a letter of intent.

**Healthy Community Development**

Mr. Dudney introduced Mr. Kurt Heischmidt from the Tennessee Department of Health Regional office. Mr. Heischmidt discussed his new role as the Healthy Development Coordinator for the Upper Cumberland offering his services for community health planning including more walkable and multi-modal friendly communities.

**TDOT Updates**

There were no TDOT updates at this time.

**Other Business**

Mayor Nesbitt questioned the purpose of the by-laws in the agenda packet asking if there was any action to be taken. No action was required. Document was there for reference.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjourn**

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Ben Danner made a motion to adjourn seconded by Curtis Hayes via proxy Ben Danner. The motion passed with a vote of all ayes.

A call for discussion or questions was made and with none, James Mills made a motion, seconded by Randy Porter, to adopt the Project Priority Rankings as recommended by the Technical Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Becky Harris of UCHRA gave a presentation to the Committee concerning an IMPROVE Act Competitive Capital Grant Program. She advised that there is \$13M available across the State in year one of this program and indicated that UCHRA is requesting a Resolution on behalf of the Committee to make application for two projects under this program. The first is a \$4M project to construct a Transit Hub with an Administrative Office and facility. The grant requires a 25% match which UCHRA has secured. If funded, this project would save UCHRA approximately \$600,000 annually in lease fees thereby providing greater funding for its transit program. The second project, which would be \$2.5M, involves placing transit shelters across all counties in the Upper Cumberland which would be located near senior housing facilities. This project would create "livable communities" for the elderly and would allow them access to transit without making a 48-hour reservation.

Following Ms. Harris' presentation, Denny Wayne Robinson made a motion, seconded by Randy Porter, to approve a Resolution allowing UCHRA to pursue an application for the IMPROVE Act Competitive Capital Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the Committee received the recommendation from the Technical Committee to approve the Bylaws as presented. With no further discussion, James Mills made a motion, seconded by Terri Lynn Weaver, to approve the Bylaws as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Several speakers addressed the Committee. First was Kurt Heischmidt from the Regional Department of Health; he mentioned their promotion of physical activity and healthy food campaigns and indicated he would appreciate making connections regionally as he is relatively new to his position. Next, Sarah Elmore of TDOT addressed the Committee regarding the upcoming round of Community Transportation Planning Grants. Letters of Intent are due in December and the grant maximum will be \$125,000 with a 10% match. Donovan Chumbley of TDOT spoke briefly about FAST Act Projects which is an online project management system that provides greater transparency and encouraged members to reach out with questions. Shane Cordileone of TDOT Long Range Planning encouraged members to contact them for data or mapping needs. And lastly, Tom Every of the TDOT Safety Office reminded members of safety audit information.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Jeanne Stevens of WSP. Ms. Stevens gave the Committee an overview of the Crossville and Cookeville Community Transportation Planning Grant projects that just wrapped up. Crossville's goal was to provide better signal control and improve downtown walk ability. They were able to inventory and map all signals and planning officials indicated that traffic patterns have changed and they didn't realize the full impact of the project until they saw the results.

The Cookeville grant focused on corridor analysis of three high-traffic areas. The outcomes of the project recommended focusing on new signal timing plans and combining their current master street

plan with the corridor analysis results and creating an updated master street plan. Mr. Mills indicated the City was very pleased with the project and thanked TDOT for the opportunity.

At this time Ms. Solimine asked if there was any other business to discuss and allowed for public comments. Mark Farley stated that although it didn't involve the RPO specifically, the UCDD Board meeting is scheduled for November 21, and it will vote on the building design for the new UCDD facility. He also noted that former Senator Jim Tracy has been recently appointed as State Director for USDA-RD.

With no further business to discuss, Randy Porter made a motion, seconded by Tim Stribling, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50PM.

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Members Present: Steve McCoy, Dwight Jewell, Rick Gregory, Mark Farley, Donnie Dennis, Barbara Powell, Tommy Lee, Scott Norris, LeeAnn Smith via proxy Amanda Hicks, Frank Hardegree, Chris Ballou, Evan White via proxy Chris Ballou, Bill Scruggs, Sonya King, Ray Evans, Kevin Donaldson, Scott Sandman, Billy Robbins, James Norrod

Others Present: Donovan Chumbley, Sara Elmore, Jon Zirkle, Aaron Stevens, Meredith Hoos, Kurt Heischmidt, Virginia Solimine, Stacy Morrison, Andrea Barbour, Ben Danner, Michael Cross, Jonathan Russell.

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Mark Dudney called the meeting to order and welcomed the Dale Hollow RPO Technical Committee Members and guests to the fall meeting of the RPO. Mr. Dudney introduced the new members to the technical committee: Donnie Dennis, Ray Evans, Frank Hardegree, LeeAnn Smith, Steve McCoy, Kevin Donaldson, and Dwight Jewell. A roll call for attendance was conducted and Mr. Dudney determined a quorum was met.

### **Approval of December 15, 2016 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Dudney requested a motion to approve the December 15, 2016 meeting of the Technical Committee. Scott Sandman made a motion to approve the minutes. Donnie Dennis seconded the motion passed with a vote of all ayes.

### **Dale Hollow Project Prioritization**

At this time Stacy Morrison and Jonathan Russell of TDOT discussed the project priority ranking criteria and discussed the projects in more detail. Mr. Russell discussed the Hartsville SR 141 project termini corrections.

Mayor Michael Cross discussed the importance of the SR 28 project. This area leads to an industrial park and would be a huge economic impact to the county. Scott Sandman added more information regarding this route's safety concerns. This project is broken into phases, and there was discussion of the proper right of way. It was determined this would be a 3 lane road with a 5 lane ROW.

Tommy Lee mentioned the SR 52 project in Overton County would address safety issues.

Mr. Russell discussed the SR 141 project in more detail showing the proper termini. Mr. Dudney discussed support letters from Smith, Macon, and Trousdale Counties regarding this project. Mayor Carmen discussed the location and overpass required. It was confirmed the ROW and homes have been purchased along this route. NEPA is completed and environmental permits are being obtained. Mayor Driver commented that this will give a north/south corridor for this region benefiting Macon County and into Clay County. Mayor Nesbitt is also in support of this project in order to support agribusiness in the

western part of Smith County. This project would heavily impact economic development in this part of the region. This project should let in December of 2018.

Scott Sandman further discussed the 127 project being split between two RPO's. Mr. Morrison discussed the Center Hill rankings, and Mark Farley emphasized a focus on regional connectivity. This particular route would benefit a county that is often secluded.

As the new start projects were discussed, Mr. Frank Hardegree spoke to the SR 96 project in Jackson County. This road leads to Granville, a destination town. The road is currently dangerous. These improvements would lead to greater development and safety for Jackson County.

Chris Ballou discussed the SR 10 project. Currently, nearly two miles have been completed. The additional 10 miles would lead to a safer corridor.

Mayor Michael Nesbitt addressed the rockfall mitigation for US70N and the safety concerns for this road due to proximity to the river.

After all discussion regarding the projects concluded, members of the technical committee completed their scoring sheets and turned them in for tallying.

#### **Update on DH RPO Rural Regional Transportation Plan**

Ms. Andrea Barbour presented a brief update on the rural regional transportation plan discussing the key points of the study: land use, traffic volume analysis, volume capacity ratio, commuting analysis, commute by industry, and freight traffic analysis.

#### **Community Transportation Planning Grants**

Mr. Russell discussed the upcoming round of Community Transportation Planning Grants. Projects in the Dale Hollow region have included Lafayette, Hartsville, Gordonsville. Letters of intent are due to the RPO coordinator by December 31, 2017, and the maximum request is \$125,000 with a 10% match.

#### **TDOT Updates**

Mr. Morrison introduced Donovan Chumbley with TDOT project management and Jon Zirkle with project development in design and technical.

#### **Presentation of Project Prioritization Ranking Results**

Mr. Russell presented the rankings as voted on by the technical committee. The rankings were as follows:

##### Next Step: Construction and Right of Way

1. Cumberland-Fentress SR 28 (US-127) (S York Hwy.) From near Lowe Road in Cumberland County to Near Little Road Clarkrange (IA)
2. Fentress SR-28 (US-127) (S. York Hwy.) From Near Little Road in Clarkrange to North Kilby Road (IA)

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|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 3. Trousdale                        | SR-141         | SR-141 Cedar Bluff Road to SR 25.                         |
| 4. Fentress-Pickett Improvements    | SR-28 (US-127) | (S. York Hwy.) From North of Jamestown to SR-111 (Spot    |
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| 4. Macon                               | SR-56          | Various Safety Projects   |
| 5. Smith                               | I-40           | "Caney Fork River" Welcome Center renovation                        |

Mr. Dudney opened the floor for any discussion and entertained a motion to recommend this ranking to the Executive Board. LeeAnn Smith via proxy Amanda Hicks made a motion to approve the Project Prioritization and recommend to the Executive Board. Ray Evans seconded, and Mr. Dudney conducted a roll call vote for the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Other Business**

No other business.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjourn**

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Donnie Dennis made a motion to adjourn seconded by ChrisBallou. The motion passed with a vote of all ayes.

A call for discussion or questions was made and with none, James Mills made a motion, seconded by Randy Porter, to adopt the Project Priority Rankings as recommended by the Technical Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

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