

Center Hill RPO Technical & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN
December 17, 2020
Held virtually due to COVID-19

Technical Members Present: Denny Wayne Robinson – Chair; Tim Begley, Mark Farley, Allen Foster, Kurt Heischmidt, Tommy Lee, Chad Marcum via Proxy, James Mills, Tara Wohlgemuth, Shane Gannon, Rebecca Harris via Proxy, Nolan Ming, Kevin Rush, Dean Selby, Tim Stribling via Proxy

Executive Members Present: Denny Robinson, Tim Stribling via Proxy, Allen Foster Jimmy Haley, James Mayberry, Kyle Chastain, Randy Porter via Proxy, Ricky Shelton via Proxy

Others Present: Rachael Bergmann, TDOT; Andrea Noel, TDOT; Ashley Hunter Mason, TDOT; Andrea Barbour, TDOT; Virginia Alexander, UCDD – Center Hill RPO Coordinator; Lloyd Williams, UCHRA; Mark Dudney, UCDD; Marcie Ackerman, UCDD

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these committee meetings were held simultaneously.

Welcome & Introduction:

Virginia Alexander welcomed the Center Hill RPO Committee members to the joint Zoom call at 1:00 p.m. She explained the virtual nature of this meeting and let everyone know their lines were muted and they would have to unmute themselves for roll call, etc. Mrs. Alexander then asked Technical Committee Chair, James Mills, to call the meeting to order and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Technical Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 1:01 p.m. Chairman Mills called the Technical Committee to order. Mrs. Alexander conducted a roll call of the Technical Committed and announced that a quorum was present.

Approval of May 28, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Chairman Mills opened the floor for the approval of the May 28, 2020, meeting minutes. Kevin Rush made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Kurt Heischmidt. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

Executive Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 1:06 p.m., Denny Robinson, the Executive Committee Chair, called the Executive Committee to order. Mrs. Alexander conducted a roll call of the Executive Committed and announced that a quorum was present.

Approval of May 28, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Chairman Robinson opened the floor for the approval of the May 28, 2020, meeting minutes. Chairman Robinson, made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by James Mayberry. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

Center Hill RPO Updates:

Mrs. Alexander provided a brief overview of how many meetings were switched to Zoom – or similar – platforms due to the pandemic.

This year the City of McMinnville was awarded a Community Transportation Planning Grant for a Bike and Pedestrian Plan to connect five city parks on or near SR 55, SR 56, and SR 380. McMinnville will be working with CDM Smith for the completion of this plan.

The City of Smithville and the City of Sparta were both asked to submit full applications for the recent round of the Multimodal Access Grant. Smithville has submitted a project to rehabilitate the intersections along Highway 70 at SR 56 and SR 146. Sparta has submitted to extend sidewalks along Spring Street to connect to the hospital. Both projects include development for the transit system within the region by incorporating concrete pads for bus shelters.

The Rural Planning Initiative was released this year through TDOT and the RPO. These funding was directly contracted through the RPO, and is a new program designed to assist distressed or at-risk communities develop planning for their communities. This is a smaller version of the Community Transportation Planning Grant. Center Hill submitted three applications, two of which were awarded.

The purpose of the McMinnville and Spencer Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans is to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian improvements in portions of each city over the next 20 years. The City of McMinnville plan will focus on connectivity among centrally located schools and local neighborhoods while the City of Spencer plan will focus on bike and pedestrian needs within the downtown square, along State Route 30, Sparta Street, Spring Street, Billingsley Street, and Taft Drive. Both communities will work with KCI Technologies to complete these plans.

We are hoping to see applications for the Community Transportation Planning Grant available this spring for those of you interested in transportation planning documents for your community.

Mrs. Alexander then announced she will be leaving the Development District next Spring to open a coffee shop with her family. The building is currently undergoing renovations, but she plans to be a part of next year's Spring call to assist the new RPO Coordinator.

Project Prioritization

Project Prioritization Presentation—Rachael Bergmann, TDOT RPO Project Ranking

TDOT evaluates projects on an annual basis to determine funding priority for the next 3 fiscal years. For this cycle, TDOT is planning for the fiscal years 22-24. This draft list comes to you from Brian Hurst, he is the Assistant Director of TDOT's Programming and Administration Division. Brian oversees a database of all TDOT projects. He works with the Departments Executive Management Team in developing the Comprehensive Multimodal Program (better known as the Governors Highway Program or the 3-year Plan). In other words, that is the list of project phases with dedicated funding to move forward during that time period.

Every year in November/December, TDOT gives the draft list of projects to the MPO's and RPO's and

they rank and prioritize the project phases. From January through April, TDOT develops the Highway Program which gets approved by the Governor of Tennessee and the Legislators of Tennessee. Then sometime in April, TDOT provides the approved Highway Program to the public. Show the % criteria: On the screen you can see a graph called TDOT Project Weight. During the development of the Comprehensive Multimodal Program, the Executive Management Team considers several criteria. They consider Traffic Operations (22.7%), Multimodal and Functional Classification (4.2%), Economic Development (16.7%), Roadway Safety (26.3), Regional and MPO Ranks (23.6%), and Environmental Impacts (3.4%). Each project is scored for each criteria with these weights applied, which provides an overall Technical Rank. You can see that the RPO rank is 11% of the total score. The team looks at the technical rank and also considers the distribution of projects by region and by MPO/RPO to ensure the program is equitable across the state.

The link <https://rpo-project-rankings-dv-prjrankings.hub.arcgis.com/> was provided to see updates.

Other Business

Jon Ward requested information on the CTPR updates for the projects they submitted. Andrea Noel and Stacy Morrison said they would follow up with him regarding this.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn Technical Committee:

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Mills called for a motion to adjourn. Chad Marcum made a motion to adjourn the Technical Committee meeting and was seconded by Kurt Heischmidt. The Technical Committee meeting was adjourned.

Adjourn Executive Board

Chairman Robinson called for a motion to adjourn the Executive Board. James Mills, proxy for Ricky Shelton, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Board meeting and was seconded by Kevin Rush. The Executive Board Meeting was adjourned. Both meetings adjourned at 1:37 p.m.