

Center Hill RPO Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Leslie Town Centre, Cookeville, TN
February 2, 2017

Commissioner John Schroer - IMPROVE Act Update

The Board welcomed TDOT Commissioner John Schroer who provided an update on Governor Haslam's recently unveiled IMPROVE (Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads, and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy) Act. The proposal aims to cut taxes on food and manufacturing while providing for safer and more reliable transportation networks which will support future job growth. Commissioner Schroer reminded those present that Tennessee's flat gas tax of 21.4 cents per gallon has not been updated since 1989 and in today's dollars that equates to roughly 11 cents per gallon.

Key takeaways from the IMPROVE Act are:

- Cuts \$270 million annually in taxes, bringing the total number of cuts made and proposed since 2011 to \$540 million annually, roughly nine times more than any other administration.
- Keeps the state's transportation network debt-free for the next generation at a cost to the average Tennessee roaduser of \$4.17 a month while delivering 962 projects across all 95 counties.
- Cities receive an additional \$39 million, and counties receive an additional \$78 million for local projects, allowing them to keep property and other local taxes low.

Welcome and Introductions:

Center Hill RPO Coordinator Virginia Solimine welcomed Board Members and guests to the meeting and asked for the Roll Call.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Kenneth Carey - Chairperson, Denny Wayne Robinson, Herschel Wells, Jeff Young, Jimmy Haley, Ricky Shelton via Proxy, Terri Lynn Weaver, and Tim Stribling.

Others in Attendance:

Wes Hughen - TDOT, Stacy Morrison - TDOT, Kelley Garrett - TDOT, Jeremy Sims - TDOT, Tom Every - TDOT, Byron Head - TDOT, Tammy O'Dell - UCDD, Mark Farley - UCDD, Mark Dudney - UCDD, Neil Hansen - TDOT, Whitney Davis - TDOT, and Sara Elmore - TDOT.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Following review of the January 12, 2016, minutes, Herschel Wells made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with Denny Wayne Robinson seconding. The motion carried unanimously.

Bylaws Amendment

Ms. Solimine directed the Board member's attention to the meeting packet which contained the proposed changes to the Center Hill RPO Bylaws. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed addition of new positions and equality among representatives, **Jimmy Haley made a motion to delay approval of the Bylaws as amended with Jeff Young seconding. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Morrison advised the Board to form a Sub-Committee to meet to discuss concerns related to the Bylaws and to provide recommendations at the next Executive Board meeting in the fall.

James Mills made a motion to remove the word "Transportation" from the Center Hill Rural Transportation Planning Organization's name thus becoming Center Hill Rural Planning Organization. Mr. Haley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADA Compliance

Margaret Mahler of TDOT discussed ADA Compliance matters and advised the Board that cities and counties should begin creating a Transition Plan as required by the Federal Highway Administration by December of 2019. Transition Plans are required for all municipalities with 50 or more employees and clarified that employees include part-time/temporary staff as well as elected officials including Mayors, Council, and Commission members. In addition to having a Transition Plan in place, each municipality must also appoint an ADA Coordinator. ADA Compliance extends to all public buildings or facilities whether owned or rented.

Ms. Mahler indicated that she has boiler plate language available for those interested and serves as the ADA Compliance expert for TDOT. She encouraged Board Members to contact her with questions or for directive regarding their ADA Compliance requirements.

Transportation Alternatives

Neil Hansen of TDOT spoke to the Board about the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and provided a few guidelines for applications. TAP grants are competitive and reimbursable with a 20% cash match required. He indicated that these grants can be used for ADA Compliance and upgrade projects as well as sidewalks so long as they are not terminus in nature.

Center Hill RPO and TDOT Updates:

Mr. Morrison stated that the Crossville project is about to wrap up and the Cookeville traffic flow study is currently underway. He briefly mentioned TDOT's on-going outreach efforts with both the UCDD and local communities.

Other Business:

There was no other business to discuss.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.