

Center Hill RPO Technical & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN
May 28, 2020
Held virtually due to COVID-19

Technical Members Present: Tim Begley, Mark Farley, Allen Foster, Kurt Heischmidt, Tommy Lee, Chad Marcum, James Mills, Clay Parker via Proxy, Kevin Rush, Tim Stribling via Proxy, Tara Wohlgemuth

Executive Members Present: Allen Foster, Jimmy Haley, Ben Newman, Randy Porter via Proxy, Denny Robinson, Ricky Shelton via Proxy, Tim Stribling via Proxy, Jeff Young via Proxy

Others Present: Rachael Bergmann, TDOT; Andrea Noel, TDOT; Virginia Alexander, UCDD – Center Hill RPO Coordinator; Mark Dudney, UCDD; Chuck Sutherland, 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, outlined the contents of the packet provided and explained the virtual nature of this meeting and gave a brief tutorial on the Zoom features. 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 1:03 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 December 12, 2019 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Chairman Mills opened the floor for the approval of the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Chad Marcum made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Kevin Rush. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

Executive Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 1:10 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 December 12, 2019 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Chairman Robinson opened the floor for the approval of the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes. James Mills, proxy for Ricky Shelton, made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Brad Hennessee, proxy for Jeff Young. The motion passes unanimously by roll call.

Center Hill RPO Updates:

Mrs. Alexander covered updates from the last six months for the Center Hill RPO. In January the Center Hill RPO submitted two Community Transportation Planning Grants. The City of Woodbury and the City of McMinnville both applied. Unfortunately, the City of Woodbury was not awarded; however, the City of McMinnville was awarded the grant to complete a Bike and Pedestrian Plan. They will be choosing a consultant soon.

The draft of the Rural Regional Plan for the Center Hill region will roll out later this summer and we will schedule a meeting, possibly virtually, regarding this plan.

Mrs. Alexander reminded the RPO that the Transportation Alternatives grant is available and due in October of each year. A community can request up to \$1 million with only a 20% match on construction funds. These are federally funded, so we encourage any interested applicants to begin the process now. Please let me know if this grant is something you are interested in. Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safe routes for non-drivers, conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails, scenic turnouts and overlooks, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, and archaeological activities.

TDOT updates

TDOT staff was available to answer any questions regarding TDOT project updates. No questions were posed.

I-40 Corridor Study Update

Rachael Bergmann, TDOT Region 2, spoke on Interstate 40/I81 Corridor Study being performed. Currently examining all 455 miles of Interstate 40. TDOT is holding public meetings and stressed importance of public feedback. She addressed possible truck climbing lanes like in Cumberland County as options due to the freight concerns.

Resurfacing Coordination

Andrea Noel, TDOT Region 2, mentioned TDOTs will work on being more transparent with notification of projects. Ms. Noel also stressed desire for public feedback.

Multimodal Access Grant

Mrs. Alexander announced that McMinnville was awarded a grant and will initiate that process soon. The Notice to Intent phase should open late June for those looking to participate this year and requested interested communities contact her.

Rural Planning Initiatives (RuPI)

Mrs. Alexander spoke on a pilot program for distressed and at-risk communities through TDOT for grants with a maximum for \$25,000 with no match. Funds can be used for the following: Access Management Study, Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, Corridor Study, Road Diet Analysis, Resurfacing/Striping Plan for roads, Transportation Facility Inventory, Transportation Feasibility Study, Transportation Systems Management

and Operations or Other Transportation-Related Planning Studies. This grant only applies to counties/municipalities considered distressed by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

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.