

Center Hill RPO Technical & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN
May 20, 2021
Held virtually due to COVID-19

Technical Members Present: James Mills (Chair), Tim Begley, Rodney Boyd via proxy Debbie Sain, Mark Farley, Allen Foster, Shane Gannon, Kurt Heischmidt, Tommy Lee, Chad Marcum, Nolan Ming, Clay Parker via proxy Chad Marcum, Kevin Rush, Dean Selby, Tim Stribling via proxy Tommy Lee, Lloyd Williams, Tara Wohlgemuth

Executive Members Present: Denny Wayne Robinson (Chair), Tim Stribling via proxy Tommy Lee, Allen Foster, Jimmy Haley, Randy Porter via proxy Kevin Rush, Rickey Shelton via proxy James Mills

Others Present: Virginia Alexander, Rachael Bergmann, Matt Billings, Megan Templeton, Mark Dudney, Marcie Ackerman, Benjamin Armstrong, Katie Kemezis, Don Brown, John Brock, Lisa Cross, Matt Givens, Liesel Goethert, J.J. Reels

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

Welcome & Introduction:

Virginia Alexander welcomed the Center Hill RPO Committee members at 1:01 p.m. Ms. Alexander outlined the contents of the packet provided via email, and 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. Virginia Alexander, on behalf of Chairman Mills, the Technical Committee Chair, called the Technical Committee to order. Ms. Alexander conducted a roll call of the Technical Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

Approval of December 17, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Virginia Alexander opened the floor for the approval of the December 17 2020, meeting minutes. Chad Marcum made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Tommy Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

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

Approval of December 17, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Chairman Robinson opened the floor for the approval of the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Debbie Sain, proxy for Randy Porter, made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by Jimmy Haley. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Center Hill RPO updates: Community Transportation Planning Grants (CTPG)

Ms. Alexander presented updates for the Center Hill RPO.

Smithville and Sparta were both asked to submit full applications in the recent round of multimodal grant applications. Smithville's focus will be working primarily on intersections of Highway 70. Sparta's area of concern is extended sidewalks in the community. This most recent cycle of awards has not been announced yet.

Tennessee Historical Development Grant Program

TN Economic and Community Development announced in April the General Assembly will provide \$4.8 million to renovate and preserve the state's historical buildings. Buildings must be on the historic register and help with job creation and commercial opportunities. Ms. Alexander advised anyone interested to contact Mark Dudney at (931) 432-4111.

Rural Planning Initiative (RuPI – Pilot Project)

Two of these applications were funded – McMinnville and Spencer. Both communities are working on a bicycle/pedestrian plan. McMinnville is working on "Safe streets to school" and Spencer is focusing on the town square. Phase 2 of these plans will be conducted soon. These meetings will be in-person public meetings and both are scheduled to be completed in July.

UCHRA Updates

Lloyd Williams and John Brock spoke on the importance of an inter-city bus survey. TDOT conducts the survey every three years and the results help determine how funds will be allocated.

Resurfacing List, Rachael Bergmann

Rachael Bergmann from TDOT presented the fiscal year 2022 proposed resurfacing list and provided the following link to participants. <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/maintenance/pavement-office/future-paving-projects.html>. Resurfacing can include bike lanes, road diets, rumble strips, etc. She mentioned Governor Lee's Three Year Transportation Plan is now called the Comprehensive Multimodal Program and was announced in April. This plan covers fiscal year 2022 – 2024.

National Scenic Byway Applications

Last summer Mark Dudney, Mike McClanahan and Rachael Bergmann, both of TDOT, worked on two applications for National Scenic Byways in the region. In February it was announced one of those was successful. The Cumberland Historic Byway has been designated a National Scenic Byway now known as Cumberland National Scenic Byway. The byway is roughly 156 miles and has the new tagline of "From the Cumberland Gap to the Cumberland River." Mark Dudney will be working on creating committees and organizing projects around this designation.

Resolution to adopt the Rural Regional Transportation Plan

In the fall of 2020, the completed Rural Regional Transportation Plan was presented to the Center Hill RPO. Virginia Alexander presented the resolution to officially adopt this plan within the Center Hill RPO. Chairman Mills of the Technical Committee entertained a motion to recommend adoption. Shane Gannon made the motion to approve, James Mills seconded the motion and the Technical Committee passed with a vote of all ayes. Executive Board Chairman Denny Wayne Robinson entertained a motion to officially adopt the Rural Regional Transportation Plan. Kevin Rush, proxy for Randy Porter, made the motion to adopt which was followed by a second from James Mills who was serving as Ricky Shelton's proxy. The motion passed with a vote of all ayes.

Other Business and Public Comment

Ms. Alexander asked if anyone had additional business to discuss. James Mills asked for an update on the CTPRs that were submitted for Putnam County and Cookeville. Rachael Bergmann verified there was no update but that the submissions were under review.

Denny Wayne Robinson asked if the next meeting would be in-person and Ms. Alexander confirmed it would be offered both virtually and in person.

Tommy Lee made mention this was Virginia's final RPO meeting as she will be leaving the Upper Cumberland Development District soon.

Adjournment:

With no other business to discuss both the Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings were adjourned at 1:40 p.m.