

**Center Hill RPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Joint Meeting Minutes**  
**Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN**  
**May 11, 2023**

**Technical Members Present:** Dean Selby (Chair), James Mills, Tim Begley, Stanley Hall, Rodney Boyd, Mark Farley, Shane Gannon, Wayne Hancock (via proxy Shane Gannon), Chad Marcum, Kevin Robinson, Jerry Sawyer (via proxy Chad Marcum), Kevin Robinson, Alisa Farmer, Kevin Rush, Holly Montooth, Robert Becker, and Sammy Talent.

**Executive Members Present:** Denny Wayne Robinson (via proxy Chad Marcum), Matt Adcock, Greg Mitchell, Andy Duggin (via proxy Shane Gannon), Terry Bell, Josh Miller (via proxy Kevin Robinson), Randy Porter (via proxy Kevin Rush), Alisa Farmer, and Laurin Wheaton (James Mills).

**Others Present:** Betsy Scarisbrick, StoneCom; Megan Reagan, UCDD; Jessica Duke, UCDD; Jon Ward, City of Cookeville; Mark Dudney, UCDD; Jim Herrin, *Herald-Citizen*; Kimery Grant, TDOT; and Marcie Ackerman.

**Welcome & Introduction:**

Jenna McKenzie, the new Center Hill RPO Coordinator introduced herself and asked Dean Selby, Technical Committee Chair, to call the Technical Committee meeting to order.

**Technical Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:**

At 1:05 p.m. Ms. McKenzie conducted a roll call of the Technical Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

**Approval of November 17, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:**

Ms. McKenzie opened the floor for the approval of the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes. James Mills asked the minutes be amended to show he was present. Tommy Lee made a motion the minutes be approved pending those changes and Mr. Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:**

At 1:06 p.m. Mark Dudney, the Dale Hollow RPO Coordinator, called the Executive Committee to order. Ms. McKenzie conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

**Approval of November 17, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:**

Mr. Dudney opened the floor for the approval of the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes. James Mills made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by Kevin Rush. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCHRA Updates:**

Holly Montooth, UCHRA Transportation Director, provided statistics related to the Public Transportation Department. Ms. Montooth stressed that public transportation was open to anyone. It is expected that numbers will be back to pre-COVID numbers soon as the first quarter numbers were very high. Ms. Montooth alluded to some grant opportunities they were exploring.

**Grant Updates:**

Ms. McKenzie gave brief updates on two ARC grants she is working on as well as a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project with Monterey. Finally, she briefly touched on the Multimodal Access Grant TDOT is administering in Smithville.

**Center Hill RPO Updates:**

Ms. McKenzie shared an update on many of the training and conferences she has attended this year at Paris Landing, Fall Creek Falls, and Murfreesboro. She has had meetings with the majority of the mayors and Road Superintendents and mentioned the UCDD has Summer Strategy Sessions scheduled for the fourteen counties they serve.

**Electric Vehicle:**

Ms. McKenzie is working with Dr. Ping Chen at Tennessee Tech with the Rural Reimagined EV Project. She has met with Jonathan Overly, Director of East Tennessee Clean Fuels, and several others from East Tennessee and Knoxville-area Electric Vehicle Association to learn about electric vehicles from their perspective.

**TDOT Updates:**

A video from the state explaining funding streams was played to educate the members of both committees.

TDOT's Kevin Layne and Stacy Morrison explained the criteria weight matrix and how projects are scored. Mr. Layne stressed the value of feedback in helping score projects. Highlights of the Transportation Modernization Project were discussed.

**Legislative Updates:**

Ms. McKenzie then welcomed Brett Howell from TDOT explained the Transportation Modernization Project. With gas and diesel revenues being way down, the state is looking for ways to offset that. Starting January 1, 2024, electric vehicle owners will be paying \$200 in registration fees and hybrid vehicles will pay \$100. This will be a yearly fee that is expected to stay in effect until 2027 when the prices will increase again. These fees will be when the registration is renewed – not at the time of purchase.

**NEVI, Carbon Reduction and PROTECT Program Updates:**

Andrea Noel of TDOT provided updates on a few new programs.

**NEVI:**

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) is creating a network of EV charging stations. In order to make for a competitive grant application, the state will be applying as a whole for these federal funds under one application – TEVI (Tennessee Electric Vehicle Infrastructure). There was some brief discussion on how the grid will be able to handle charging all these new vehicles with it already straining

to provide enough electricity to heat homes in the winter. Ms. Noel said she felt that was more of a TVA issue.

**Carbon Reduction Program:**

A survey was sent out to get feedback on how the \$139,000,000 over the next five years should be spent. Unfortunately, no rural community submitted the survey. Bike lanes were discussed in the meeting briefly. Ms. Noel said she thought the program would be broken into three categories: Population under 5,000, Population from 5,000 – 50,000, and Population 50,000+.

**Other Business and Public Comment**

James Mills asked about widening Interstate 40, specifically around Monterey. Mr. Morrison stated he would like to wait and see what was all in the Transportation Modernization Project.

With no other business to discuss both the Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings were adjourned by Ms. McKenzie at 2:15 p.m.