

Center Hill RPO Technical & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN  
November 17, 2022

**Technical Members Present:** Dean Selby (Chair), Tim Begley, Stanley Hall, Rodney Boyd (via proxy David Baird), Mark Farley, Allen Foster, Shane Gannon, Wayne Hancock (via proxy Shane Gannon), Charlie Lyons, Chad Marcum, Kevin Robinson, and Sammy Talent.

**Executive Members Present:** Denny Wayne Robinson (Chair), Greg Mitchell, Ryle Chastain (via proxy Nolan Ming), Andy Duggin (via proxy Shane Duggin), Allen Foster, Terry Bell, Josh Miller (via proxy Kevin Robinson), Laurin Wheaton, and Jerry Lowery (via proxy Megan Choate).

**Others Present:** Silas Stoddart, Kevin Layne, Robert Rodgers, Bryan Collins, and Marcie Ackerman.

**Welcome & Introduction:**

Silas Stoddart welcomed the Center Hill RPO Committee members at 1:01 p.m. Dean Selby called the meeting to order and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

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

At 1:02 p.m. Mr. Stoddart, conducted a roll call of the Technical Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

**Approval of June 3, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:**

Mr. Stoddart opened the floor for the approval of the June 3, 2022, meeting minutes. Rodney Boyd made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by James Mills. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 1:03 p.m. Denny Wayne Robinson, the Executive Committee Vice-Chair, called the Executive Committee to order. Mr. Stoddart conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

**Approval of June 3, 2022, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:**

Chairman Robinson opened the floor for the approval of the June 3, 2022, meeting minutes. Greg Mitchell made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by Shane Gannon. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCHRA Updates:**

Holly Montooth, UCHRA Transportation Director, provided statistics for the Public Transportation Department. Ms. Montooth stressed that public transportation was open to anyone. It is expected from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, there will be approximately 36,000 trips for the Dale Hollow region. Ms. Montooth said the ridership was up over all 32%, 8.8% in the Center Hill RPO region specifically.

There will be a soft launch of Pickup UC in Crossville starting in December.

Ms. Montooth discussed the software that was installed in the vehicles that aided in the “Where’s My Bus?” feature in the app and the scrolling announcements in the vehicles to help with those who are hearing impaired.

#### **Vacant Slots:**

There are vacancies on the committees. Mr. Stoddart asked the member to think of someone to appoint to the Bike/Pedestrian/Greenways/Trails and the Rail positions. Robert Becker will serve as the Environmental Representative.

With so many new faces to the committees, Mr. Stoddart provided a brief overview of what an RPO is.

#### **Grant Updates:**

Mr. Stoddart announced two new Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants were recently funded – Upper Cumberland Regional Airport and the Jackson County Airport.

#### **Multimodal Access Grant (MMAG)**

The only application that was submitted this year was for Smithville. An announcement is expected soon.

#### **Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG)**

Warren County was awarded a CTRG for a mobility plan in unincorporated Rock Island and Putnam County was awarded a CTPG to address the flow of traffic from the western portion of the county in to Cookeville, the County Seat.

#### **Traffic Signal Modernization Program**

The Traffic Signal Modernization Program (TSMP) is a TDOT pilot program designed to help communities and their local traffic signal maintaining agencies modernize existing traffic signal equipment and operations. The grant is currently 100% state-funded (Total grant funds are capped at \$250,000.00) and state-contracted, with a goal to begin traffic signal upgrades within 12 months of project selection. Applications are due December 21, 2022.

#### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

Mr. Stoddart discussed using the Safe Streets for All opportunity for a planning grant. Reminded the RPO members it was a five-year funding opportunity.

#### **ADA-Compliance**

A few of our communities have been flagged by TDOT about not having publicly accessible grievance procedures for your communities’ ADA Transition Plans. Entities with more than 50 employees\* (full-time and part-time totaled together) are required to complete and maintain an ADA Transition plan.

#### **EV Charging Community Workshop**

In partnership with Dr. Chen at Tennessee Tech University, the Center Hill RPO be looking for places to install electric vehicle charging stations. If you are interested in having one installed, let Mr. Stoddart.

**Project Rankings and “New Start”:**

This year, we have decided to vote electronically via an emailed survey that will be sent out in the next few days.

Stacy Morrison, TDOT, explained the criteria weight matrix and the new project hub. He explained the federal government gives TDOT almost \$1,000,000 annually. Roughly half of that goes to repairs and regular maintenance and the other half goes toward new projects. There will be seven projects to vote on this year.

Next, Mr. Morrison explained the “New Start” portal. This will be a new way for mayors to consult with their RPO Coordinators and express issues in their community. The RPO Coordinator will relay the messages to TDOT. This will solely be for projects that are conceptual – no PER, no funding tied to them.

There was a discussion about I-40 needing a truck route in Putnam County going up the hill to Monterey. Mr. Morrison mentioned using the “New Start” portal to start. Mr. Mills mentioned a new retailer coming to Cookeville, but is sure it will cause traffic issues. Mr. Morrison again mentioned that “New Start” would be the place to document that information.

Mr. Farley made mention of a road plan Putnam County created a couple of years ago. Each city examined the roads in their community and together they made a plan for the future. Mr. Farley said he would send that out

**Other Business and Public Comment**

With no other business to discuss both the Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings were adjourned by Mr. Stoddart at 1:47 p.m.