

**Center Hill RPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Joint Meeting Minutes
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN
December 5, 2023**

Technical Members Present: Jenna McKenzie, Dean Selby (Chair), James Mills (via proxy Jon Ward), Tim Begley, Rodney Boyd, Mark Farley, Andy Duggin (via proxy Shane Gannon), Wayne Hancock (via proxy Shane Gannon), Tommy Lee, Chad Marcum, Nolan Ming, Jerry Sawyer (via proxy Chad Marcum), Kevin Robinson (via proxy Josh Hawkins), Kevin Rush, Matt Adcock, Holly Montooth, David Sullivan, and Jerry Lowery.

Executive Members Present: Denny Wayne Robinson, Andy Duggin (via proxy Shane Gannon), David Sullivan, Greg Mitchell, Jerry Lowery, Josh Miller, Laurin Wheaton, Randy Porter (via proxy Kevin Rush), and Ryle Chastain (via proxy Nolan Ming).

Others Present: Kevin Layne, TDOT; Rachel Gentry, TDOT; Chanel Hippix, TDOT; Jon Ward, Christopher Smith, TDOT; Bently Thomas, TDOT; Michael O' Donnell TDOT; Stacy Morrison, TDOT; Alexis Morris, Jim Herrin, Ty Walker, Landon Castleberry, TDOT; Danny Oliver, TDOT; Holy Montooth, 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 1:02 p.m. Ms. McKenzie conducted a roll call of the Technical Committee and announced that a quorum was obtained.

Approval of May 11, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Ms. McKenzie opened the floor for the approval of the May 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Shane Gannon made a motion the minutes be approved and Mark Farley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 1:06 p.m. Ms. McKenzie 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 May 11, 2023, Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Ms. McKenzie opened the floor for the approval of the May 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Greg Mitchell made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded by David Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously.

UCHRA Updates:

Holly Montooth, UCHRA Transportation Director, provided statistics related to the Public Transportation Department. Ms. Montooth said the organization had performed over 306,000 trips last year and the numbers were settling back to what they were pre-COVID. Ms. Montooth let the RPO know TDOT had negotiated the state contract and there were now three vendors. While that led to more vendors being available, the cost was essentially double what it was a few years ago. Ms. Montooth explained the recent software switch to Ecolane and asked for patience as everyone, including the drivers, were still learning this new software.

Finally, Ms. Montooth let the RPO know they were awarded a grant recently from TDOT of \$875,000 to create a new transportation hub in Warren County. They were currently in the preliminary stages of that process.

Grant Updates:

Ms. McKenzie gave brief updates on three ARC grants she is working on as well as recent trainings she had attended in Memphis, Knoxville, Kentucky and Georgia.

Electric Vehicle:

Ms. McKenzie serves as Co-Chair of Drive Electric and meets regularly with Jonathan Overly, Director of East Tennessee Clean Fuels on this project. The committee's first meeting was recently held and discussions are underway of next steps. Ms. McKenzie is also working with Dr. Pinggen Chen at Tennessee Tech with the Rural EV Infrastructure for Sustainable Economy (RISE)

A "Save the Date" for a Federal Highway Administration grant workshop. That event will be held at the UCDD offices on February 13, 2024.

TDOT Updates:

Kevin Layne from TDOT introduced new Region 2 Director Danny Oliver and asked him to come up and provide some insight to the new Region 2 and Region 3 organizational chart. Mr. Oliver explained Project Development was not split between Rachel Gentry who would be over Pre-Construction and Michael O'Donnell will be handling the Project Management aspect. Mr. Oliver let the RPO know the prioritized project list should be out in a few weeks.

Stacy Morrison and Michael O'Donnell, TDOT, then came up and provided updates on existing projects. Chanel Hippix, TDOT, then came up and walked the RPO through funding obligations and county resurfacing miles. Finally, Ms. Hippix showed the State-Aid Dashboard (<https://tdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/fd3e077870ce4dd9a1722d9b69e099f2>).

Finally, Mr. Morrison provided information about the Transportation Planning Grant. These grants typically range from \$125,000 to \$200,000 with a 10% match. These applications are due January 19, 2024.

Adjourn Technical Committee:

With no other business to discuss, both the Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings were adjourned at 1:51 p.m.