

**Dale Hollow RPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Joint Meeting Minutes
Upper Cumberland Development District, Cookeville, TN
November 17, 2022**

Technical Committee Members Present: Mark Dudney, Ryan Reed, Hope Vargas, Evan White, Jared Claiborne, Ray Evans (Chair), Dr. Doug Young, Bill Robbins, Steve McCoy, Sam Edwards, Jim Young, Mark Farley, Tommy Lee, Robert Rodgers, Kealan Millies-Lucke and Sammy Talent

Executive Board Members Present: Randy Heady (Chair), Dale Reagan, Jimmy Johnson, Jeff Mason, John Potts, Jack McCall, Luke Collins, and Stephen Bilbrey (via proxy Bill Robbins).

Others Present: Stacy Morrison, TDOT; Holly Montooth, UCHRA; Bryan Collins, UCHRA; Marcie Ackerman, UCDD

Welcome & Introduction:

At 11:05 a.m., Mark Dudney requested Technical Committee Vice Chair Ray Evans to call the meeting to order and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Technical Committee Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mr. Evans, the Technical Committee Co-Chair, calls the Technical Committee to order. Mark Dudney conducts a roll call of the Technical Committee and announces that a quorum has been obtained.

Approval of June 3, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting minutes:

Mr. Evans opens the floor for the approval of the June 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Dr. Doug Young makes a motion to approve; the motion is seconded by Evan White. The motion passes unanimously.

Executive Board Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 11:07 a.m. Mark Dudney asked Randy Heady, the Executive Board Chair, to call the Executive Board meeting to order. Mark Dudney conducts a roll call of the Executive Board and announces that a quorum has been obtained.

Approval of June 3, 2022 Executive Board Meeting minutes:

Mark Dudney opens the floor for the approval of the June 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Jimmy Johnson makes a motion to approve; the motion is seconded by Jeff Mason. The motion passes 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, 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 overall 32%, and 18% in the Dale Hollow RPO region specifically. Mayor Luke Collins asked if the number had ever been that high and Ms. Montooth said no. She does have a goal of expanding the project to cover those working second and third shifts. She mentioned a

vanpool pilot. Currently, there is one currently that takes people to Livingston, and Wise Staffing partners with the department on this effort.

Dale Hollow RPO Updates:

With so many new faces in the meeting, Mr. Dudney provided a brief overview of the RPO and introduced the new members to the attendees.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Mr. Dudney discussed using the Safe Streets for All opportunity for a planning grant; and reminded the RPO members it was a five-year funding opportunity.

Multimodal Access Grant (MMAG)

Two applications were submitted this year: Hartsville/Trousdale County and Gainesboro. The announcements are expected in the next few days.

Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG)

Gordonsville was awarded a CTPG for an ADA-compliant community mobility plan to connect the businesses around the Gordonsville exit on I-40.

Cumberland National Scenic Byway

The 156-mile stretch formerly known as the Cumberland Historic Byway, will be known as the Cumberland National Scenic Byway. Its tagline is “From the Cumberland Gap to the Cumberland River”.

ADA-Compliance

A few of our communities have been flagged by TDOT about not having publicly accessible grievance procedures for 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.

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.

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.

TDOT’s Stacy Morrison 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 PE, no funding tied to them.

Holly Montooth expressed that portal would also help public transportation, to see if park and rides or bus stops were needed in certain areas.

Adjourn Technical Committee:

With no other business to discuss, both the Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings were adjourned at 11:49 a.m.