



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** June 24, 2021  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting  
**Time:** Called to order at 10:35 a.m.

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**Technical Committee Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Mark Yardley <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	City of Alma
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mrs. Lorie Robertson	Chaffee Crossing
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mrs. Lori Carr <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Fort Smith Transit
Mrs. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sen. Mat Pitsch	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT Planning
Mr. Robert Endicott	Cherokee Nation

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mrs. Valera McDaniel	FHWA   Arkansas
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**Members Not Present:**

Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ARDOT
Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Mr. Brian Waldrip	City of Fort Smith
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mr. Michael Griffin	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County

**Non-Voting Members Not Present:**

Mr. Tim Allen	Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Isaac Akem	FHWA   Oklahoma
Mr. Carl Geffken	City of Fort Smith
Mrs. Sasha Grist	WAPDD

**Others Present:** Greg Buckley, B & R CONSULTING; David Kack, Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University; Sunny Farmahan, ARDOT; Joshua Nash, ARDOT; Stacy Willinger, FMPO

**I. Administrative**

**A. Approval of the Technical Committee Meeting Agenda**

- a. With no corrections nor additions, Steve Core motioned to approve the agenda. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

**B. Approval of the March 24, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

- a. Lorie Robertson motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mat Pitsch. A unanimous vote was reached.

**C. MPO Director's Report**

Reese Brewer reviewed the MPO activities which occurred since the March 24, 2021 meeting. Activities related to the following topics were covered:

- a. **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance Application & Short List Interview:** Frontier MPO and the City of Fort Smith are working together on this effort.
- b. **T-Mobile Hometown Grant:** Frontier and WAPDD staff are assisting the City of Alma with this grant application.
- c. **City of Alma wins technical assistance from the CDC & Smart Growth America:** Some of the projects that the City of Alma proposed for the Champions Institute are being funded for implementation by the CDC & Smart Growth America. Reese wrote and won the Champions Institute grant on behalf of the City of Alma.
- d. **City of Van Buren TAP Grant:** Frontier staff assisted the City of Van Buren with their TAP Grant application and undertook a site visit and field investigation to understand traffic safety issues.
- e. **Bike & Pedestrian Counts:** Frontier staff placed bicycle and pedestrian counters at Ben Geren Park for Sebastian County and provided data reports and information.
- f. **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** Staff assisted the University of Arkansas, Dr. Suman Mitra and Dr. Sarah Hernandez in completing the Stage 2 funding application. Staff also provided the Public Input platform for a virtual meeting with key stakeholders and a survey.
- g. **National Recreation and Parks Association & the Gehl Institute – Inclusive Healthy Places Grant:** The team is starting this work effort and will hold walk audits and focus meetings. The team is comprised of Judge Gilstrap, Elaine Stanfield, Dr. Lisa McClain, Tracee McKenna, Stacy Willinger, and Reese Brewer.
- h. **Chronic Disease Coordinators, Walkability Institute Grant:** The Frontier Walkability Team completed their Walkability Action Plan. Frontier MPO is preparing to release small grant funds to both the City of Van Buren and the City of Fort Smith to undertake pilot projects.
- i. **Micromobility Infrastructure, FTA Requirements:** Frontier MPO convened a discussion with David Johnson, Vice President, Strategy, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, and Fort Smith Transit to understand funding mechanisms and challenges with micromobility options and transit.

- j. **Riverfront Infrastructure Proposal:** Frontier MPO and WAPDD presented a concept for riverfront infrastructure to the cities of Fort Smith and Van Buren.
- k. **Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority:** Staff provided branding and marketing request for proposals along with general goals and strategies for WAIA's objectives.
- l. **FHWA Recognizes Frontier MPO Rogers Avenue Health & Transportation Planning Framework:** Frontier MPO was asked to act as a case study for this framework.
- m. **Presentations:** Ms. Brewer presented on Frontier MPO's work and projects to the Fort Smith Regional Alliance.
- n. **Please Welcome our Guests: Mayor Jerry Martin, City of Alma - Champions Institute; David Kack, Director of the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University**

**D. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**II. New Business**

- A. **Resolution 21-4:** Adopt the Frontier Walkability Action Plan as an element of the Frontier Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Reese Brewer clarified that this is the adoption of the Frontier Walkability Action Plan as an element of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan to help address walkability, pedestrian, and bicycle lanes. **Steve Core made a motion to approve, and Chris Dillaha seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- B. **Resolution 21-5:** Active People, Healthy Nation Proclamation  
Reese Brewer explained this proclamation, taken from the Champions Institute, means the MPO will focus our efforts and our many processes on making sure that Frontier MPO includes mobility options that are healthy for all individuals. **Mat Pitsch made a motion to approve, and Lorie Robertson seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**
- C. **Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**  
Chad Adams was not in attendance to provide the ArDOT update. Updates were given based on ArDOT's District 4 website (<https://www.ardot.gov/districts/district-4/>). **No action was taken.**
- D. **Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**  
Sarah McElroy with ODOT had no updates. **No action was taken.**

**III. Open Discussion**

- a. Arkoma would like to coordinate with the City of Fort Smith, ArDOT, and ODOT, to improve Stateline Road.
- b. Steve Core of Barling discussed the long-standing need for sidewalks and pedestrian safety along AR-22 in Barling.

- c. Mat Pitsch discussed the need for the I-49 project through Y City to be included in the 2023-2026 STIP.
- d. Lorie Robertson discussed how the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority and Arkansas Colleges of Health Education are collaborating on bike and trail projects.

**IV. Next Meetings**

**Technical Committee:**

September 15, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

**Policy Board:**

September 15, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

**V. Adjournment**

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM by Steve Core and seconded by Lorie Robertson. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, most likely as a virtual/hybrid meeting.