



Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** September 23, 2021  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting  
**Time:** Called to order at 10:30 AM

**Technical Committee Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Chris Dillaha	ARDOT
Mr. Marcus Rainwater	ARDOT
Ms. Lorie Robertson	Chaffee Crossing
Mr. Mark Yardley	City of Alma
Mr. Steve Core	City of Barling
Mr. Brian Waldrip	City of Fort Smith
Mr. Sonny Bell	City of Greenwood
Mr. Wally Bailey	City of Van Buren
Mr. Michael Griffin <i>*represented by proxy Richard Rushing</i>	Fort Smith Regional Airport Commission
Ms. Lori Carr	Fort Smith Transit
Ms. Reese Brewer	Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sen. Mat Pitsch <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority
Mr. Robert Endicott <i>*represented by proxy Reese Brewer</i>	Cherokee Nation
Ms. Sarah McElroy	ODOT Planning

**Members Not Present:**

Mayor Elmer Nelson	City of Bonanza
Mayor Gary O'Kelley	City of Kibler
Mayor Hugh Hardgrave	City of Lavaca
Mayor Joe Hurst	City of Van Buren
Mr. Chris Keith	Crawford County
Mr. Jim Carter	Sebastian County
Mayor Terry Wallace	Town of Central City
Commissioner Derwin Gist	Leflore County
Commissioner Ray Watts	Sequoyah County
Mayor Rick Harvey	Town of Arkoma
Mr. John Limbocker	Town of Pocola

**Non-Voting Members Not Present:**

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

**Others Present:** Cody Schindler, City of Alma; Matthew Pierce, City of Barling; Stacy Willinger, Frontier MPO

**I. Administrative**

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

- a. With no corrections nor additions, Lori Carr motioned to approve the agenda. Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.

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

- a. Wally Bailey motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sonny Bell. A unanimous vote was reached.

**C. MPO Director's Report**

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

- a. **University of Washington Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance Awarded to Frontier MPO:** Frontier MPO was awarded University of Washington's Urban Freight Lab Technical Grant Assistance program. The project focuses on creating micro-freight hubs in Fort Smith. Frontier MPO and the City of Fort Smith are working together on this effort. Staff presented project information to the City of Fort Smith, is developing a survey, and is beginning to conduct community outreach.
- b. **National RTAP Community Rides Grant Program Application:** Frontier MPO on behalf of Western Transportation Services (Area Agency on Aging) applied for the Federal Transit Administration's RTAP Community Rides Grant Program. While not selected for funding, we will work toward improving transit connections from Fort Smith to rural areas.
- c. **United States Bike Routes (USBR) 51 and 80:** Frontier staff are assisting with the designation of USBR 51 from the Missouri state line to the terminus in Alma. Staff are working with ARDOT and Adventure Cycling to have this route extended to Van Buren and Fort Smith, but the exact timing of the route designation not yet known.
  - i. USBR 80 is planned to span the state from Memphis to Fort Smith. ARDOT has completed the plan from Memphis to Little Rock and plan to draft the plan for the Little Rock to Fort Smith leg soon.
  - ii. Per Kim Sanders, ArDOT Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator, the goal is to submit both routes to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) at their spring meeting.
- d. **National Science Foundation CIVIC Innovation Challenges Grant (SMILIES):** Staff assisted the University of Arkansas, Dr. Suman Mitra and Dr. Sarah Hernandez to complete the Stage 2 funding application. *Award Notice for Stage 2 Funding (Deployment of SMILIES project) was received on September 21, 2021.*
- e. **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' Board of Directors and Impact Awards Committee:** Dr. Lisa McClain was nominated for the 2021 Health Equity Champion Award by Reese Brewer, for her leadership of the Our Voice Initiative, and its development of citizen scientists.
- f. **National Recreation and Parks Association & the Gehl Institute – Inclusive Healthy Places Grant:** The team has started this work effort and will hold walk audits and focus meetings. A survey has been created on Public Input and flyers were distributed at the library and information shared by Van Buren Library, the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce, Frontier MPO, and signs have been posted in Van Buren in the neighborhood around the Diamond Center Park.
  - i. A major part of this effort includes the Stanford Medical University's Our Voice

Approach.

- ii. The team is comprised of Judge Gilstrap, Elaine Stanfield, Dr. Lisa McClain, Tracee McKenna, Stacy Willinger, and Reese Brewer.

**g. Presentations:** Ms. Brewer provided presentations on Frontier MPO's work and projects to the Chronic Disease Coordinators Association and articles regarding the Micro Freight Hub Study, the MTP update, the USBR 51 Route are found at:

- i. <https://www.swtimes.com/story/news/2021/08/03/north-fort-smith-undergo-study-micro-freight-hubs-new-business/8063551002/>
- ii. <https://www.swtimes.com/story/news/2021/08/25/cross-country-bike-route-portion-designated-van-buren/8201437002/>
- iii. <https://amp.pressargus.com/amp/5391671001>

#### **D. Public Comment Period**

- a. There were no public comments.

### **II. New Business**

**A. Resolution 21-7:** Support the safety performance targets of the Arkansas Department Of Transportation (ARDOT). Reese Brewer clarified that this resolution would approve the adoption of the Arkansas Department of Transportation safety targets for Frontier MPO. **Mark Yardley made a motion to approve, and Lori Carr seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

**B. Resolution 21-8:** Adopt the Rogers Avenue Health & Transportation Planning Framework as an element of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Reese Brewer explained the framework document was created in coordination with FWHA and can be used as a planning document. **Lori Carr made a motion to approve, and Chris Dillaha seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

**C. Resolution 21-9:** Approval of the proposed United States Bicycle Route to be designated as a portion of the USBR 51. Reese Brewer clarified that there are approximately 18,000 miles United States Bike Routes adopted across the county. **Sonny Bell made a motion to approve, and Wally Bailey seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was reached.**

#### **D. Arkansas Department of Transportation Updates**

Marcus Rainwater gave ARDOT updates: See table 1.

**No action was taken.**

#### **E. Oklahoma Department of Transportation Updates**

There were no updates.

**No action was taken.**

### **III. Open Discussion**

There was no open discussion.

### **IV. Next Meetings**

#### **Technical Committee:**

December 8, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

#### **Policy Board:**

December 8, 2021, Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

**V. Adjournment**

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM by Reese Brewer and seconded by Mark Yardley The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, most likely as a virtual/hybrid meeting.

ARDOT Current Pavement Preservation Projects.					
Job Number	Budget (in millions)	Contractor	Description	Est. Completion Date	Notes
040772	8.7	Forsgren Construction	Highway 22 from I-540 – East of Highway 96.	10/29/2021	Project is 80% complete
040771	9.6	Forsgren Construction	Highway 71 & 71 B from Highway 10 to South Zero at Mill Creek.	7/29/2021	
040765	5.3	Emery Sap and Sons	Highway 71 from Scott Co. to Highway 10	11/30/2021	
040794	4.8	Forsgren Construction	Highway 255 and 71B from South Zero at Mill Creek to Highway 64	TBD	Project is scheduled to start after the completion of 040772
A40004	4.7	APAC – Central	Highway 59 from Highway 64 to 22	Nearly done	Project complete except for some punch list items

ARDOT Construction Projects					
Job Number	Budget (in millions)	Contractor	Description	Est. Completion Date	Notes
040716	19.3	Forsgren Construction	Highway 255 from Massard to Highway 22	3/31/2023	This job consists of the widening and relocation of Highway 255. The Contractor is waiting on the relocation of utilities which are nearing completion. The estimated completion date is 3/31/23.
040819	8	Mobley Contractors	Highways 64, 96, and 252	12/31/2021	The job consists of the replacement of five structures with concrete box culverts on Highway 64 in Van Buren and 4 structures on Highway 96 and 252 in northeast Sebastian County. Project is 74% complete
012372	44.2	Koss Construction	I-40 - LM 17-47	11/30/2021	This job is milling and inlaying 30 miles of interstate and performing bridge preservation work on 18 structures. This project is 73 percent complete
012379	19.2	American Contracting and Services	Bridge Hydrodemolition with Latex Modified Overlay	12/30/2022	This job will provide bridge rehabilitation including a latex modified overlay of the I-540 river bridges and the Highway 64 river and relief bridge. This multi-District job has started in another District

Job Number	Description	Est. Letting Date
040713	Highway 45 Widening between Highway 255 and 71	mid 2022
040723	Highway 71B (Towson) Resurface, Drainage and Sidewalk improvements	Late 2022
040714	I-40/Highway 59 Interchange Improvements	mid 2022
TBD	Pavement Preservation projects for Highway 255 (Riverfront Drive) and Highway 64 between Van Buren and Alma are scheduled for 2022.	2022