

**FIRST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
December 18, 2018 1:30 p.m.
Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The First Tennessee Rural Planning Organization Executive Board met on December 18, 2018 1:30 p.m. at the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union in Gray, TN.

Voting Members Present

Mayor Rusty Barnett (Carter County)
Mayor Joe Grandy (Washington County) via proxy Johnny Deakins, Jr.
Mayor DeLisa LaFleur (Watauga)
Mayor Kevin Morrison (Greene County)
Mayor Mike Taylor (Johnson County)
Mayor Tommy Gregg (Mosheim) via proxy Jesse Lowery
Michelle Christian (Tennessee Department of Transportation)

Members Absent

Mayor Thomas Harrison, Chair (Hancock County)
Mayor Jim Lee (Hawkins County)
Mayor Johnny Lynch (Unicoi)
Mayor Greg Lynch (Unicoi County)
Mayor Kevin Parsons (Mountain City)
Representative Timothy Hill (3rd House District)
Mayor Richard Venable (Sullivan County)
Mayor Chris Jones (Mount Carmel)
Senator Rusty Crowe
Mayor William Riley (Sneedville)

Other Attendees

Randy Busler, Troy Ebbert, Ashley Davies, Bill Forrester, Glenn Rosenoff, Rex Montgomery, Ashley Davies, Terry Hayne, Troy Ebbert, David Metzger, Gary Mabrey, Ronda Sawyer, Cameron Taylor, and Kevin Rieg.

Welcome/Roll Call

Technical Committee Chairman Johnny Deakins, Jr., serving as proxy for the Executive Board Vice-Chair (Washington County Mayor), welcomed those in attendance to the First Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Executive Board meeting and called the meeting to order, and served as Vice Chair for the meeting. The RPO Coordinator called the roll and a quorum (6) was present.

Approval of the September 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Morrison and seconded by Mayor Mike Taylor to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 Executive Board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

RPO Project Prioritization Process

Chase Milner, FTDD's new RPO coordinator gave an informative overview of the TDOT 2018 Overview of Projects for Prioritization, informing the members that TDOT had requested the RPO to rank eight projects in order of priority to the RPO. He indicated that all eight projects requested for ranking were IMPROVE Act projects and that projects ready for construction and right-of-way would be ranked separately from projects ready for preliminary engineering. The RPO Coordinator provided an overview of the ranking process beginning with the Technical Committee (workshop) meeting, and provided to the Executive Board the recommendations to retain the 2017 priority rankings.

TDOT Overview of Projects for Prioritization

Troy Ebbert, TDOT Region 1 OCT Planning Supervisor discussed where each road project was in its development phase. Executive Board members were provided with detailed overviews of the projects developed by TDOT's Office of Data Visualization. Troy Ebbert answered questions from members on specific projects.

Presentation of Technical Committee Prioritized Project List

Chase Milner, RPO Coordinator, displayed the project rankings that had been adopted by the RPO Technical Committee and recommended on to the Executive Board for approval. The rankings as recommended by the Technical Committee (unofficial working group) were:

Projects remained ranked in the following order during the Technical Committee workshop (same as 2017 Ranking Order):

Construction and Right-of-Way Projects (2017)

Rank	County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase
1	Greene	100230.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From South of SR-349 (Warrensburg Rd.) near Pates Lane to Near SR-34 (US-11E) (***)(Re-budgeted-ROW)(IA)	4.7	Right-of-Way
2	Greene	100228.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From North of Cocke County Line to North of Nolichucky River	3.2	Construction

				(Bright Hope Road) (**)(IA)		
3	Greene	100229.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From North of Nolichucky River (Bright Hope Road) to South of SR-349 (Warrensburg Rd.) near Pate Lane (**)(Re-Budgeted-ROW)(IA)	6.1	Right-of-Way
4	Hawkins	107579.00	SR-66	From SR-34 in Bulls Gap to South of Speedwell Road/Old Highway 66 (IA)	5.3	Right-of-Way
5	Hawkins	101394.00	SR-31	(Flat Gap Rd.) From Mooresburg to Adams Lane (**)(Re-Budgeted-ROW)(IA)	4.3	Right-of-Way

Preliminary Engineering Projects (2017)

Rank	County	PIN	Route	Description	Phase
1	Johnson	124433.00	SR-91	From Near Cold Springs Rd. to the Virginia State Line	PE
2	Greene	124345.00	I-81	Greene County Rest Area Renovation	PE

Vote on Technical Committee Prioritized Project List

An interested party, Bulls Gap City Administrator Mike Solomon, expressed his concern of the absence of certain projects from the list for ranking for preliminary engineering, including a Hamblen project identified as “US-11E (SR-34) near Steadman Rd.”*

TDOT staff provided information as to how the list was formulated and the nature of the three-year work program. Lengthy discussion on the Technical Committee’s rankings, TDOT priorities, and specific projects followed.

A motion was made by Mayor DeLisa LaFleur to include the “US-11E (SR-34) near Steadman Rd” in the P.E. ranking list, seconded by Jesse Lowery. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Rusty Barnett to re-rank the project listing as follows:

Construction and Right-of-Way Projects

Rank	County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase
1	Greene	100228.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From North of Cocke County Line to North of Nolichucky River (Bright Hope Road) (***)(IA)	3.2	Construction
2	Hawkins	101394.00	SR-31	(Flat Gap Rd.) From Mooresburg to Adams Lane (***)(Re-Budgeted-ROW)(IA)	4.3	Right-of-Way
3	Greene	100229.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From North of Nolichucky River (Bright Hope Road) to South of SR-349 (Warrensburg Rd.) near Pate Lane (***)(Re-Budgeted-ROW)(IA)	6.1	Right-of-Way
4	Hawkins	107579.00	SR-66	From SR-34 in Bulls Gap to South of Speedwell Road/Old Highway 66 (IA)	5.3	Right-of-Way
5	Greene	100230.00	SR-35	(Newport Hwy.) From South of SR-349 (Warrensburg Rd.) near Pates Lane to Near SR-34 (US-11E) (***)(Re-budgeted-ROW)(IA)	4.7	Right-of-Way

Mayor Rusty Barnett made a motion to rank the project listing in the following order as identified above. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mike Taylor. All votes were favor of approving the rankings in the above order. The motion passed unanimously.

Preliminary Engineering/Pending Projects

Rank	County	PIN	Route	Description	Phase
1	Johnson	124433.00	SR-91	From Near Cold Springs Rd. to the Virginia State Line	PE
2	Hamblin, Hawkins, Greene	101419.00	US- 11E, SR-34	(ANDREW JOHNSON HWY.) FROM STEADMAN RD TO I- 81	Pending
3	Greene	107461.00	SR- 34/US 11E	(Greeneville Bypass) From US-11E, West of Greeneville to US-11E, East of Greeneville (IA)	PE
4	Greene	124345.00	I-81	Greene County Rest Area Renovation	PE

Mayor Kevin Morrison made a motion to rank the preliminary engineering/pending project listings in the following order as identified above. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mike Taylor. All votes were favor of approving the rankings in the above order. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Transportation Planning Requests (CTPR)

TDOT's Troy Ebbert, provided an in depth presentation on the Community Transportation Planning Requests, a procedure for new project requests. The CTPR presentation covered the following: Identify Project, CTPR Official Request, and OCT Review, CTPR Assessment Information, STID Determination, and Site Visits.

I-26 Interstate Corridor Study

Michelle Christian, TDOT Office of Community Transportation, presented an update on the I-55/75/26 Multimodal Corridor Study. Public outreach will begin in the I-26 corridor region starting in early 2019, and initiated by KCI, AECOM, TDOT, and RPO staff.

Public Comment

Ashely Davies, Healthy Development Coordinator with the Tennessee Department of Health's Northeast Regional Health Office, spoke about her role in the Department's new healthy development initiative. She briefly spoke about a recent round of \$10,000 grants to rural counties and gave information about new grant funds becoming available in the near future. Ms. Davies also informed the Technical Committee workshop that there are upcoming grant opportunities arising as associated with pedestrian trail development through new monies becoming available via a diabetes grant, more details to arise in 2019.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.