

**FIRST TENNESSEE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
November 21, 2019**

**MINUTES**

The First Tennessee Rural Planning Organization Executive Board met on November 21, 2019 1:30 p.m. at the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union in Gray, TN.

**Call to Order - Welcome**

Executive Board Chairman Thomas Harrison and Vice Chairman Joe Grandy were absent at the day's meeting, so the Executive Board nominated Technical Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman Grandy's proxy, John Deakins, to serve as the Executive Board Chairman for the day. Garland Evely made a motion to allow Mr. Deakins to serve as the meeting's Chair. Kevin Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Deakins welcomed those in attendance to the First Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Executive Board meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. The RPO Coordinator called the roll and a quorum (13) were present for a quorum.

**Roll Call – Executive Board Attendees (13 Voting Members)**

Johnny Deakins	Washington County Highway Superintendent (Proxy Chair)
Fernando Amon	Mayor, Town of Unicoi (proxy)
Glenn Rosenoff	Mayor, Town of Erwin (proxy)
W.T. Daniels	Mayor, Town of Greeneville
Tommy Gregg	Mayor, Town of Mosheim
Betsy Shipley	Mayor, Bulls Gap
Mike Solomon	Hawkins Municipal County - City Administrator Bulls Gap
Garland Evely	Mayor, Unicoi County
Kevin Morrison	Mayor, Greene County
Delisa LaFleur	Mayor, Watauga
Bill Albright	Kingsport MTPO
Rusty Barnett	Mayor, Carter County
Michelle Christian	TDOT Long Range Planning Representative

**Other Attendees**

Troy Ebbert, Jason Farmer, Dexter Justis, Eric Wilson, Randy Busler, Jamie Lowery, Robert Purgason, Mike Musick, David Metzger, Elizabeth Poczobut, Erica Malpass, Ronda Sawyer, Brian Hurst and Chase Milner.

**Approval of the December 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Tommy Gregg made a motion to accept the December 18, 2018 Minutes as written. Garland Evely seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## TDOT Project Programming

Brian Hurst, TDOT Transportation Manager 2, Program Development and Scheduling Office (PDSO), representative from Nashville, and Dexter Justis P.E., Director TDOT- Region One Project Development Region 1 from Knoxville provided a 'Cliffs Notes' presentation on how including the Department prioritizes roadway projects that are ready to proceed to the right-of-way, construction, and preliminary engineering phases. Brian provided a brief PPRM overview, how RPO/MPO ranking is weighted 11.8% each, with crash and V/C ratio data being the only higher ranking categories. Mr. Hurst also commented on FY2021 58.25 M in the black, FY2022 approx. \$51.8 in red, and in year 3 (FY2023) the projects are approx. 2 billion over budget, taking into consideration 3% cost growth rate. 962 projects approved in total statewide. FT RPO has approx. 22% in RPO statewide road projects (total count 18 projects), making up the most in both projects and cost per RPO in TN.

## TDOT/RPO Project Prioritization Process

Chase Milner (RPO Coordinator), Troy Ebbert (TDOT Region 1 OCT Planning Supervisor) gave an overview of the TDOT 2019 Overview of Projects for Prioritization. Dexter Justis, Region 1 Project Development discussed in further detail where each road project was in its development phase. Opportunity to comment on individual projects was made possible for any Executive Board attendees to speak up about. With a quorum present to vote, the Executive Board reviewed the rankings of the 2019 RPO Project Prioritization as ranked by the Technical Committee earlier in the morning's meeting.

*Spreadsheet attached.*

FTRPO Project Ranking List as Ratified on November 21, 2019								
County	PIN	Route	Description	Length	Phase	Is Project ready to move to this phase?	Ranking 2018	Ranking November 2019
<b>Right of Way or Construction</b>								
Greene	100228	SR-35 US-321	(Newport Hwy.) From North of Cocke County Line to North of Nolichucky River (Bright Hope Road) (***) (IA)	3.2	Construction	Yes	1	1
Greene	100229	SR-35 US-321	(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	Yes	3	2
Greene	100230	SR-35 US-321	(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	Yes	5	4
Hawkins	101394	SR-31	(Flat Gap Rd.) From Mooresburg to Adams Lane (***) (Re-budgeted-ROW) (IA)	4.3	Construction	No	2	5
Hawkins	107579	SR-66	From SR-34 in Bulls Gap to South of Speedwell Road/Old Highway 66 (IA)	5.3	Right-of-Way	Yes	4	3
<b>Preliminary Engineering</b>								
Johnson	124433	SR-91	From Near Cold Springs Road to the Virginia State Line (IA)	6.8	PE	Yes	1 (PE)	4
Greene	124345	I-81	Greene County Rest Area Renovation (IA)	0.5	PE	Yes	4 (PE)	3
Greene	107461	SR-34 US-11E	(Greeneville Bypass) From US-11E, West of Greeneville to US-11E, East of Greeneville (***) (IA)	11	PE	Yes	3 (PE)	2
Hamblen, Hawkins	124360	SR-34 US-11E	(Andrew Johnson Highway) From Steadman Road to I-81		PE	Yes	2 (PE)	1

### **Opportunity to Comment on Individual Projects**

Chairman Deakins opened the floor for comments on the road projects as presented in the rankings.

TDOT's Brian Hurst informed the Executive Board on the importance of the communications that they're facilitating on Hamblen/Hawkins County (PIN 124360) with the Lakeway MPO. Lakeway has ranked (PIN 124360) #1 in their most recent ranking. He also told the audience that TDOT wants to know where new, new starts projects may lie so that he can add them to the preliminary engineering listing 'needs wish list', a running list that TDOT will continue to update based on feedback and needs assessments collected.

### **Presentation of Technical Committee Prioritized Project List**

OCT Staff collected Technical Committee Members ranking sheets at the day's 10:30 am meeting. 17 voting member rankings were collected. RPO staff also collected their comments on each individual project, added them to spreadsheet, and provided them to OCT and Project Development staff.

**Kevin Morrison made a motion to ratify the 2019 priority projects as ranked by the Technical Committee. Michael Solomon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **TDOT Grants Update**

Michelle Christian (TDOT Region I Staff) provided an overview of the TDOT grants that are available, including the recently applied for multimodal grants, the 2018-2019 CTPG's currently underway in Sneedville, Unicoi & Erwin, and Greenville (ITS). Michelle informed the Exec. Board that upcoming CTPG applications are due to Chase by Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as well as HSIP grants remain available on a rolling basis. Glenn Rosenoff inquired about an overpass concern in Erwin, which Ms. Christian referred him to Brandon Darks, TDOT Maintenance. Grants brochure were provided to the Board electronically via RPO staff.

### **Interstate 26 Corridor Study Update**

Michelle Christian (TDOT Region I Staff) provided an update on the I-26 study currently underway, including notification on the next and final open house/public meeting, to be held January 7, 2020 Kingsport at the V.O. Dodd Community Center Complex, 300 Louis Street, Kingsport 37664. The meeting will be held in the Eastman Foundation Conference Room. The meeting is scheduled 5:00 – 6:00PM. OCT staff also disseminated the I-26 survey card to the audience, to help garner more feedback for the Corridor Study.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were made nor received during this point in meeting.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Michael Solomon to adjourn the Executive Board. Seconded by Kevin Morrison. Meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

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### FTRPO Project Ranking List November 21, 2019

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