



**Southwest Rural Planning Organization
Joint Executive Board and Technical Committees Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024**

Call to Order

Executive Committee Chair Mike Creasy called the May 15, 2024, Joint Executive Board and Technical Committee Southwest RPO meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. without a quorum being established. Mayor Creasy subsequently asked the coordinator to render the opening prayer and Mayor Greg Billings the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

RPO Coordinator Chris Pate provided a roll call with the following members present:

Executive Board members – Mayor Mike Creasy, Mayor Jeff Griggs

Technical Board members – Shelton Merrell, Brownsville Planner

Others in attendance were Chris Pate, RPO Coordinator, Stacy Morrison, TDOT, OCT; Ashley Owens, TDOT OCT; Thiera Taylor, TDOT OCT; Gary Scruggs, TDOT; Cody Roberts, TDOT, Brandon Akins, TDOT; Bryan Collins, RPO (remotely) and John Malone (remotely)

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2023, meeting were approved.

Tennessee Department of Transportation Updates

Brandon Akins, TDOT provided a presentation concerning the 10 Year Plan which is a new approach from the Department of Transportation about implementing projects rather than performing phases over decades. He explained that Region 4 and even Memphis did not lend itself to Choice Lanes which were being considered to the other Regions. There will be a 3-year plan of deliverable projects. The plans will be reviewed to make sure that the assumptions are still true and funding sources are still available. Many of the timber bridges in Region 4 are slated for replacement.

Ashley Owens, TDOT OCT provided a presentation on the Boundary Smoothing for small urban areas based on the 2020 Census. The 2020 process focused on population and housing units rather than simply population. Savannah was an example of an urban area that needed adjustment. Urban areas determine the roadway functional classification and federal funding eligibility. Ms. Owens provided contact information for the Region 4 traffic employees pertaining to driveways on State Routes.

Following the presentation, A Resolution Adopting and Establishing the Adjusted Urban Area Boundaries For The Southwest Rural Planning Organization's (RPO) Urban Areas Based On The 2020 Census Bureau Designation Of Qualifying Urban Areas was adopted based on a motion by Mr. Merrell, seconded by Mayor Griggs. The Resolution was signed and dated by Chairman Creasy.

2025 and 2026 Work Program

Chris Pate, the RPO Coordinator, provided an overview of the 2025 and 2026 Work Program which included a change related to Task 5 Status of Planning in Tennessee's Counties and Cities. The goal of this reference update is to inform RPO Coordinators of the role of Planning Commissions in providing feedback and possibly implementing Transportation plans.

Following the presentation, the 2025 and 2026 Work Program was approved following a motion by Mayor Griggs, second by Mr. Merrell, and approved by the members present.

Election of Officers (on Working Agenda)

Chris Pate, the RPO Coordinator confirmed that the election had been held in December 2023 based on minutes from that meeting. No action needed.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Following the call for public comment by the Chair, the meeting adjourned around 11:45 AM.