

**EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE & TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE for the SOUTHERN DISTRICT
January 28, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.
ALDOT Division 4 Office – Alexander City**

Policy Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Barbara Young, City of Alexander City
Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, ALDOT 4th Division

Technical Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. Henry Hawkins, Chambers County
Mr. Jerry Thrower, City of Lanett
Mr. William D. McDaniel, ALDOT 4th Division

Other Attendees:

Ms. JoEllen Jackson, ALDOT 4th Division 4th District
Mr. Daryl Howard, ALDOT 4th Division 1st District
Ms. Dawn Landholm, EARPDC
Ms. Stacey Browning, EARPDC

Mayor Young called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. She then asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the November 5th meeting. After determining that there were no changes necessary, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jerry Thrower made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. DeJarvis Leonard seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mayor Young then asked if there was any other old business. Ms. Dawn Landholm began discussion of the nominations and elections of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. At the last meeting, there were not enough members of either committee present to hold elections. Ms. Landholm asked Mayor Young if she would be willing to serve as Chairman of the Policy Committee again. Mayor Young said that she would. Ms. Landholm suggested carrying over the previous Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policy Committee, and holding elections for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Jerry Thrower and Mr. Henry Hawkins were the only Technical Advisory Committee members present that were eligible to hold office. Mr. Hawkins agreed to be the Chairman, while Mr. Thrower agreed to be the Vice Chairman. Mayor Young asked for a motion to approve the nominations, which was given by Mr. William D. McDaniel. Mr. Leonard seconded.

Mayor Young then moved on to “New Business.” She asked for ALDOT staff to give an update on road projects in the area. Mr. McDaniel provided a listing of projects that is attached to these minutes. He mentioned that the list is essentially the same as the list provided at the last meeting, but there is a new addition concerning stimulus Transportation Enhancement projects. There is an underrun on the current projects, so the surplus money will go to other projects, which will now be eligible for 100% funding. With the new stimulus, all Fiscal Year 09 TE projects will be converted to 100% stimulus funding. Depending on how much money is left over, the projects eligible for 100% might go back to FY08. ALDOT is not yet accepting applications for new projects. FY09 projects must be cleared by September of this year, and funding is provided on a first come, first serve basis. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that the City of Roanoke is the only entity affected by this in the area.

Mr. Leonard introduced both Mr. Daryl Howard and Ms. JoEllen Jackson. He then explained that in a project on 431 the third lane would be extended from 22 all the way to Wal-Mart and tie-in to a turn lane there. This project is scheduled to be let. Mr. Leonard mentioned that there is a hold-up on the Osanippa Creek project with the environmental document, but the environmental assessment should be let by March. If funding is available, the construction will be let this summer. Mr. Leonard discussed the current lack of a transportation bill; ALDOT is operating under a continuing resolution. This means that there is no official funding, so many projects have been put on hold. They are hoping for a new stimulus bill. They are anticipating a new bill, but it will be another year or more before a bill can be passed. Mr. Leonard mentioned that about \$170 million had been rescinded from ALDOT, so there are no carryover funds for the next year. The Hillabee Creek project will depend on funds, and may utilize stimulus funds if they come. Mr. Leonard also mentioned to Mayor Young that they are anticipating the release of funds at any time for the K Street sidewalks project in Alexander City.

Mayor Young then moved the meeting on to the “Special Program,” which was a discussion by Ms. Stacey Browning of access management projects. Ms. Browning discussed the benefits of access management, and also addressed Elmore County’s Access Management Policy, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She also discussed the Bruton Smith Parkway Design District in Georgia, which was a collaborative effort between the county and the city of Hampton. She mentioned the Franklin County (VA) Corridor Overlay District’s access management section. The county used a broader project to deal with issues of access management. She discussed the Austell Road Access Management Plan in Atlanta, in which an engineering firm was hired to conduct a detailed study of a corridor. Ms. Browning mentioned the Peachtree Corridor Access project in Atlanta, which was not intended as a capacity project, but allowed traffic along the road to flow significantly better. A copy of Ms. Browning’s presentation is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Landholm mentioned that she will try to get plans from an access management project in Omaha as well as before and after statistics to provide to RPO members. This project is a good example of the benefits of access management. Ms. Landholm also mentioned that Mayor Wright of Sylacauga had been very complimentary

of an access management plan that the City had undertaken. Mr. Leonard mentioned that ALDOT had worked with Sylacauga to close some crossovers and install a new signal on Highway 280. Mr. Leonard said that there was some trouble with public support at first, but eventually the public realized that it was a good project. There is also an access management project in Oxford that will be let in March. Mr. Leonard mentioned that there is a problem with the project in Oxford in that the study was done five or six years ago, and there has been a significant amount of business turnover since then. It is difficult to get the new business owners on board. Mr. Thrower mentioned that they are looking at changing the access to the Kroger on 50 and 29 in Lanett. This would involve either closing or conversion to one lane on a surface street.

Mayor Young asked about a roundabout project in Alexander City near the high school. Mr. Leonard responded that he had not pushed it because of the lack of funding. Roundabouts no longer qualify for TE funding.

Mayor Young then asked that the next meeting date be announced. Ms. Browning mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Alexander City ALDOT office. The meeting was adjourned.