

**EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICT**
July 24, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.
East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission – Anniston

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Anna Berry, City of Heflin
Mayor Clem Lewis, Town of Oak Grove (represented by Mr. Charles Merkel)
Mr. Michael Hosch, Calhoun County
The Honorable Ryan Robertson, Cleburne County
Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, ALDOT 4th Division
Mr. Bill Curtis, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Other Attendees:

Mr. Charles Merkel
Mr. Jack Plunk, Calhoun County MPO
Mr. Patrick Hall, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
Ms. Dawn Landholm, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Mayor Anna Berry, acting as Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Under “Old Business”, Mayor Berry asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Ryan Robertson moved that the minutes be adopted as presented. Mr Michael Hosch seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Mr. Patrick Hall and Ms. Dawn Landholm gave the staff report. They informed the Committee that they would be presenting a summary of the Access Management Workshops, which were held in June of 2008, and they would be attending this year’s National Association of Development Organizations conference on rural transportation planning in Duluth, Minnesota.

Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, of ALDOT’s 4th Division, gave an update on ALDOT’s programmed construction projects in the four county Central District of the Rural Planning Organization. He noted the ongoing rehabilitation of Interstate 20, as well as the resurfacing project for AL9 north of US78 to the White Plains community. The resurfacing of US280 from Childersburg to Oak Grove has recently been completed, and the resurfacing of US280 from Oak Grove to the county line will begin soon. In the next fiscal year, the Talladega Bypass will undergo “base and pave” as well as the “Eastern Bypass” in Calhoun County from Golden Springs Parkway to Iron Mountain Road. The

completion of the Eastern Bypass is estimated at about two years, from Golden Springs Parkway to Iron Mountain Road. The Joint Powers Authority is currently trying to fund the roadway from Iron Mountain Road to its planned connection to AL21. The resurfacing of US278 in Heflin has not been started due to trying to work with the new street scape project, which will be started soon. Mr. Leonard said ALDOT wanted to make sure the two projects were complementary, and one would not delay the other. In the first quarter of the next fiscal year, construction to widen Interstate 20 to 3 lanes to AL21. Mr. Bill Curtis inquired about the improvements of AL21 in the Town of Munford, Mr. Leonard answered that the highway will be divided, and would not be re-aligned, but “straight through” Munford. The right-of-way has already been purchased, and based on current funding levels, the improvement of AL21 is scheduled to begin in 2011.

Under “motions and resolutions”, Ms. Landholm reminded the Committee about the discussion at the May meeting regarding changes to the Bylaws. She proposed two changes to the Rural Planning Organization’s structure. First, she suggested amending the bylaws to allow the District Policy Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee to meet concurrently. There are several advantages to doing so. Concurrent meetings would allow the mayors and county commission members to appoint staff who work on roads as their alternate representative without that person having to attend two separate meetings covering the same topics. In addition, these people with technical knowledge would be available to respond to questions the elected officials may have. Finally, meeting attendance—and, therefore, local government representation—should increase.

The second issue to address is the Citizens Advisory Committee. Very few people have been appointed to this committee. Ms. Landholm proposed eliminating the Citizen Advisory Committee. That section would be removed from the Bylaws, and the Citizen Participation Plan would be revised to call for periodic public forums to allow and encourage more citizen participation.

Ms. Landholm requested a motion recommending the changes to the Regional Policy Committee, if the Committee approves of the proposed modifications. Mr. Robertson moved that the Bylaw and Citizen Participation Plan amendments that Ms. Landholm proposed be recommended to the Regional Policy Committee. Mr. Merckel seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Under “Special Programs”, Mr. Hall gave a summary and a presentation based on the Access Management Workshops held in Anniston and Alexander City in June. The workshops were successful and well attended, and Mr. Hall hoped to see more local governments actively participate in access management. With good local participation and coordination, local access management ordinances could result in the creation of a statewide access management plan. Mr. Hall then directed the Committee to a handout of his presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. This presentation detailed the regulatory and design options that could be used to further the goal of managing access along highways, roads, and streets. Specifically, the use of zoning and road design were highlighted.

Ms. Landholm announced that the next meeting of the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization's District Policy Committee for the Northern District is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the EARPDC board room.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.