

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

Policy Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Barbara Young, City of Alexander City  
Ms. Dawn Landholm, representing Mr. Bill Curis, EARPDC

Technical Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. William D. McDaniel, ALDOT 4<sup>th</sup> Division  
Mr. Randy Thomas, City of Alexander City  
Mr. Donnie Cash, City of Roanoke  
Mr. John C. Trimble, ALDOT 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Daryl Howard, ALDOT 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Mr. Jerry Thrower, City of Lanett

Other Attendees:

Ms. Stacey Browning, EARPDC

Mayor Barbara 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 July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. After determining that there were no changes necessary, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Dawn Landholm made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Randy Thomas seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mayor Young then asked if there was any other old business. After determining that there was none, she moved on to “New Business.” Ms. Stacey Browning gave a staff report on the HUD Regional Planning Grant recently awarded to the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. She provided a handout with the abstract of the project, included with these minutes. The grant will fund the creation of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the ten county region of East Alabama, utilizing the six livability principles established by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (HUD, DOT, and EPA) as a foundation. Ms. Browning described the consortium created for the project, consisting of EARPDC, a few nonprofit organizations, the Anniston-Oxford MPO, the Gadsden MPO, and the RPO. The Plan will seek to integrate the existing plans in the region, such as the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan, the CEDS, and the MPO’s transportation plans. During the planning process, a variety of studies will be conducted on livability issues throughout the region.

Housing, land use, environment, transportation, and economy studies will all be undertaken.

Ms. Dawn Landholm mentioned that she and Ms. Browning attended the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference in St. Louis, but the only real takeaway from the conference was that no reauthorization bill should be expected anytime this year.

Mayor Young then asked a question about the grant funding, if any money would be available for projects. Ms. Landholm explained that this grant would only be for planning, but that it would open the door for implementation funding in the future. Mayor Young explained that Alexander City knows what they need as far as transit goes, but they don't have the money. Ms. Landholm mentioned that a lot of issues like that would come up in the planning process. Mr. Jerry Thrower asked if the grant would interfere with TIGER II grants, and Ms. Landholm answered that they are completely separate grants.

Mayor Young then moved on to ALDOT's update on road project. Mr. William McDaniel provided handouts for county/city projects and state/US projects. Mr. McDaniel discussed bridge projects in Chambers County, where numerous projects have been initiated. These projects may take several years to come to fruition. He mentioned that an inspection was performed on November 3<sup>rd</sup> on the K Street sidewalks in Alexander City. This project has gone very smoothly, and is mostly complete. There is an industrial access project at Cusseta Industrial Park, and the county should be released soon to advertise for bidders. There have been some ROW issues, which is why it has taken so long to get to this point. Chambers County has been working on reclamation projects, in which the surface is reclaimed by mixing in cement to the base. This is a very cost effective way of resurfacing, and ALDOT intends to preach this method to the counties. Mr. McDaniel said that other counties are putting down a layer of asphalt, which does not fix the problem. Then contractors come in and have to tear up the road completely. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that everyone likes to see asphalt going down because they like to see their tax dollars at work, but this really does not fix the roads. Instead, the base should be fixed correctly. This method is cheaper than laying down new asphalt. There was some more discussion on this method.

In Randolph County, there is some resistance to this method of fixing the base of roads. Mr. Daryl Howard mentioned that many streets never had a base under them, and they are coming apart. People want it fixed, but it is extremely expensive. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that the costs of petroleum products have skyrocketed, and therefore construction costs have gone up simultaneously. Each year the counties get half a million dollars, but they have to save these up for resurfacing projects because they cost so much. The discussed method will not work in every circumstance, but it is cost effective on many roads.

Mr. McDaniel asked Mr. Howard and Mr. John Trimble if they had anything to discuss on state and US routes. Mr. Trimble discussed projects in Chambers County,

mentioning that the AL 77 project was originally scheduled to be let in December, but it has been pushed back. There has not been a preconstruction meeting for the bridge over Osanippa Creek, so nothing has started on that project. Mr. Thrower mentioned that the water line had been moved, but only utility work has started on this project. The bridge at Halawachee Creek is a little ahead of schedule, but there is still some work to do. The I-85 welcome center is a moving target.

Mr. Howard said that the 280 resurfacing in Coosa County should finish in the winter or spring. The safety corrections on AL 9, AL 22, and AL 259 are still under construction. Utility work is still being done on Hillabee Creek in Tallapoosa County. This project should pick up after the first of the year if the weather is good. The AL 63 resurfacing is basically finished. The realignment on AL 63 is under construction, but a new contractor will soon be sought. Mr. Howard mentioned that ALDOT has looked at downtown Alexander City that needs some repaving, but nothing has happened on it yet. Mayor Young asked a question about the downtown Alexander City projects, when they would begin. She was concerned because the project is near the high school, and school traffic would be affected. Mr. Howard is not sure if the project will even happen next year. The potential roundabout in Alexander City was mentioned, but has been put on the back burner.

There was some discussion over who the new highway director would be.

Mayor Young asked if there was any other New Business, and, determining that there was none, she moved on to Open Discussion and Announcements. Ms. Landholm mentioned that the next meeting date would be January 27, 2011. The meeting was then adjourned.