

East Alabama Rural Planning Organization
District Policy Committee/Technical Advisory Committee – North District
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 13, 2013 - 1:30 p.m.
Gadsden Etowah Chamber of Commerce
1 Commerce Square, Gadsden, AL

Members in Attendance:

Ben Thackerson representing ALDOT 1st Division
Kirk Day representing Cherokee County Commission
Corey Chambers representing Cherokee County
Robert Nail representing Etowah County
Mayor Edward Mackey representing the Town of Leesburg
Mayor Tony Wilkie representing the City of Centre

Other Attendees:

Robin Caler

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. by Mayor Wilkie who then asked Corey Chambers to lead the group with a word of prayer.

The first item on the agenda was election of Officers which was postponed due to the limited number of attendees. The election will take place at the next RPO meeting. The next item, on the agenda was Old Business.

The minutes were reviewed and there were no questions or comments. Mayor Mackey motioned the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Mr. Chambers. The minutes were approved.

The next item was Other Old Business that had been discussed in prior meetings. There was none.

Mayor Wilkie then moved on the New Business – Reports of Officers, Staff and committees. Ms. Caler gave a report on MAP 21. The next item on the agenda was Road Updates presented by ALDoT. The following information was shared with attendees:

State Route 68 in Cherokee County work has been completed (resurfacing)
Highway 35 in Cherokee County work has been completed (resurfacing)
State Route 9 (resurfacing) – low bid was submitted by CW Mathews. They have not started yet.
State route 68 widening and resurfacing in Dekalb and Cherokee Counties project is scheduled for the March 2013 letting.
There is a bridge project on 68 over Tag railroad ALDoT currently has a consultant working on that project and it is scheduled for fiscal year 2014.

Highway 411 in Etowah County, base and pave – work on that project is about 15% complete.

There are two bridge projects on State Route 179 – one project with two bridge replacements (Wade Creek and Cove Creek). Project has been let, but preconstruction conference has not been held yet.

This update was followed by a brief discussion on State funding and the lack of 4 lane highway through Cherokee County. Also discussed was the lack of new projects to be developed by ALDoT over the next 10 to 20 years.

The next updates were provided by County Engineers on County Roads:

Cherokee County Roads 15 and 22 (Federal Aid projects) projects have had the preconstruction conference and it is just a matter of waiting for seasonal limitations to pass. Those projects will be done in the spring.

There is one ATRIP project that has been let – County Road 19.

Cherokee County is awaiting announcement for the next round of ATRIP funding – they had submitted 3 resurfacing projects for that round.

There were two Federal Aid projects coming up this year in Etowah County – the resurfacing on Tumlin Gap Road and Stevens Gap Road in the rural part of Etowah County. There are 3 ATRIP projects that were approved in round one that the County is hoping to have let in the early part of this year – Weston Gap Bridge, a bridge on Bud Umphry Road and a bridge on Mail Road. There is one bridge project that was submitted in Phase 2 of ATRIP and looking at up to 10 bridge projects being submitted in phase 3 of ATRIP.

There being no other New Business, the next item on the agenda was CLEAR Plan 2030 Livability Resource Team update.

Ms. Caler provided information regarding the upcoming County Conversations – she gave an overview of the proposed outline and design of the meetings/discussions. Discussion then turned to the livability survey and numbers that were complete in Cherokee and Etowah counties. Mayor Wilkie suggested getting with the local papers and radio stations to promote the survey.

Ms. Caler then provided information about the Easter Seals Rural Transportation topic guides that were available. She distributed a two page introductory informational document.

The next meeting date was set to be March 14, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the Gadsden/Etowah County Chamber of Commerce meeting room. There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilke adjourned the meeting.