

East Alabama Rural Planning Organization
District Policy Committee/Technical Advisory Committee – Central District
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 16, 2012
East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
Anniston, Alabama

Policy Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Charles Merkel, Town of Oak Grove
Mayor Steve Baswell, Town of Ohatchee
Donna Matthews, City of Lineville

Technical Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. William D. McDaniel

Other Attendees:

Mr. Jack Plunk, Calhoun Area MPO
Ms. Dawn Landholm, EARPDC
Ms. Robin Caler, EARPDC

Dawn Landholm called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15. She stated that there were no officers or technical advisory members present and that she would preside over the meeting.

Under “Old Business”, Ms. Landholm asked for approval of minutes of previous meeting. Mayor Merkel motioned to approve the minutes. Mayor Baswell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no discussion. There being no other old business to discuss the meeting moved forward to “New Business”.

Report of Officers, Staff and Committees: Ms. Landholm reported on the House Transportation Reauthorization Bill working from the committee through the House. The Senate had put out a six-hundred page bill last fall. They had a four page summary with no direction on how the bill would accomplish its objective. She stated that there was no new surface transportation bill.

Mr. McDaniel of ALDoT 4th Division reported on the status of current and completed projects for Counties in the Central RPO District. He then reported on status of State and U.S. Routes stating that Mr. Leonard asked that they be included in the report for general information. (See attachment 1) Mr. McDaniel then mentioned the Federal Aid Transportation Bill and that the Senate version was longer than the House version. The House version contained no earmarks and many of the smaller Federal aid programs that were in the last bill such as SRTS and TE are not mandated anymore. SRTS and other programs would be gone completely.

Mayor Merkel asked a question regarding County resurfacing projects. He asked about how the counties utilize the Department of Transportation on resurfacing projects. Mr.

McDaniel stated that each county gets half million dollars each year in Federal aid money (STP money) that it takes the counties 2 or 3 years to get enough Federal aid money along with their match to do a resurfacing project. The counties are in charge of designing the project with ALDoT being responsible for review and once the plans are ready for letting the ALDoT will let the project and the County will inspect the project with ALDoT overseeing the counties work.

Ms. Landholm moved on to agenda item 2.b. and stated that there were no District staff members present.

Ms. Landholm moved on to agenda item 3, County Engineers update on County Roads. There were no County Engineers present.

Ms. Landholm asked for Other New business items, and there being none moved on to item D on the agenda, Special Presentation of the CLEAR Plan 2030 project.

Robin Caler of the East Alabama Planning and Development Commission presented an overview of the CLEAR Plan 2030 project and discussed the purpose of Livability Resource Teams (LRT) and their role in the CLEAR Plan 2030 project. (See Attachment 2) She gave an update on the CLEAR Plan 2030 Consortium meeting which was held on February 14, 2012, stating that the outcome of that meeting was that the members were going to advise and nominate members for the Livability resource Teams. She then stated that everyone on the RPO were more than welcome to participate as a Transportation Land Use LRT member and that by serving on the RPO they were already serving as an LRT member. Mr. McDaniel stated that Mr. Leonard of ALDoT had someone that he was going to recommend for the LRT, but that he wanted to confer with that person prior to releasing his name. Ms. Caler then pointed out to all in attendance Ashley Myers contact information for the CLEAR Plan. Ms. Caler then referred to the handout describing a LRT members' responsibility.

She then moved on to describe certain project elements, the RFP for the community livability study, the data gathering element and how those items all mesh together.

Mayor Merkel stated that at the end of the project, this would be something that anyone could go to as a resource to retrieve the information. Ms. Caler elaborated on additional benefits of the Plan in that entities applying for grant funds from HUD could receive bonus points for their application if the projects aligned with the Plan. She stated that one entity in Calhoun County has already received bonus points for an application submitted several months ago. There was brief discussion regarding other agencies that were reviewing a reward system for alignment with the Sustainability program. Mr. Plunk asked how the project aligned with the Plan. Ms. Caler stated that the proposed project addressed traditionally marginalized populations.

Ms. Caler reiterated the need for LRT members and urged members to consider proposing members.

Open Discussion and Announcements: None

Ms. Landholm then announced the next meeting date as May 17, 2012 at the EARPDC offices at 1:00 p.m. She then asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Merkel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Baswell.