

East Alabama Rural Planning Organization
District Policy Committee/Technical Advisory Committee – North District
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting
July 12, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Centre City Hall
401 East Main Street, Centre, AL

Members in Attendance:

Les Hopson representing ALDOT
Ben Thackerson representing ALDOT 1st Division
Johnny L. Harris representing ALDoT 1st Division
Judge Melvyn Salter representing Cherokee County Commission
Corey Chambers representing Cherokee County
Robert Nail representing Etowah County
Mayor Ethel Sprouse representing the Town of Cedar Bluff
Mayor Edward Mackey representing the Town of Leesburg
Mayor Tony Wilkie representing the City of Centre

Other Attendees:

Robin Caler
Ashley Myers

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:35 p.m. by Mayor Wilkie. Mayor Wilkie welcomed those in attendance to Centre and moved on to the first item on the agenda, Old Business. Mr. Nail made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mayor Mackie. The minutes were unanimously approved with no comment.

He then asked for any other old business that should be brought before the group. There being none, the next item was discussed: New Business

Staff Report: Ms. Caler gave an update and introduced a summary to MAP 21. She provided attendees with a link to the actual document (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>) and the summary (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/summaryinfo.cfm>). She reviewed the funding levels, MPO and RPO information. Those in attendance reviewed the summary document and there were no further questions or comments.

ALDoT updates on road projects were covered next, followed by County road project updates from County Engineers.

The next item on the agenda was the Livability Resource Team meeting. Ms. Caler provided a brief overview of the CLEAR Plan 2030. She then introduced the various aspects of transportation (infrastructure, programs, vehicles, people) and requested information on pressing issues (roads requiring work, roads that should be built), inquiries to the elected officials regarding public transportation, and economic

development components related to transportation. Mayor Wilkie stated that there was a rural transportation program in the county. He asked if any others had any problems or could expand on the question. Mayor Mackie stated that the Town of Leesburg has been seeking funding for an access road for KTH. There is an expansion in progress and he fears that once the expansion is complete the existing infrastructure will not handle increased traffic. The Town is currently working with the Industrial Board and County to get the road “stubbed” in partially to the Towns property and then get some industrial access road behind KTH to alleviate some congestion through town.

Mayor Wilkie stated that there was an existing issue in the Town of Centre that they were addressing related to 18-wheelers. There was no further comment on existing issues within the Counties or municipalities. Mayor Wilkie then moved on to the next item on the agenda, Open Discussion.

Mayor Mackie brought up an issue he has been dealing with: private property right of way and individuals parking vehicles on it (both short and long term, conducting and attending a yard sale was used as an example for the reason of parking). Specifically, his question was whether or not the Leesburg P.D. has jurisdiction to tell people to remove their vehicles as it may be thought that the right-of-way is State property. Mr. Harris stated that there are State Statutes against selling in the right-of-way. But who exactly is responsible for enforcing that statute is unclear. The question was raised if the Town of Leesburg has the authority to enforce State Statutes. Mayor Sprouse stated that the Town of Cedar Bluff does not allow yard sales in residential yards. If citizens are selling something, they must have a business license and that usually ends things right there with no argument. Mr. Harris stated that the DoT can issue encroachment notices, but they do not have enforcement authority.

Mayor Mackie then posed a question regarding the records of maintenance of a red light in an intersection within the Town. Mr. Harris stated that it is not unusual for an attorney to request that information. He stated that they always refer that information to their attorney. He asked if the Town had an attorney and Mayor Mackey stated that the matter had been turned over to the Towns attorney.

Mayor Sprouse asked if the State had maintenance agreements with the cities and if she could get a copy of the agreement between the State and Cedar Bluff. Mr. Harris stated yes, if there was one the City could get a copy. He then stated he would get their Traffic Engineer to research the agreement and get the Town a copy.

Mayor Wilkie brought up the topic of acquiring a traffic camera, not only for traffic monitoring, but also for safety and security and as an aid to law enforcement. Other attendees agreed that such an item would be a monumental benefit to the Towns.

There being no further business to conduct, the next meeting date was set for the month of October to be hosted by the City of Cedar Bluff. Ms. Caler said she would work with the Town and advise others of the date and time. The meeting was then adjourned.