

East Alabama Rural Planning Organization (EARPO)
Meeting Minutes

District Policy and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Southern District
Thursday, January 17, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.
East Alabama Planning and Development Commission

Members in Attendance:

Libby Messick, EARPDC
Mayor Phil Blasingame, New Site
Ken Cush, ALDOT County Transportation Engineer
Mike Corley, ALDOT Alex City Area
Steven Corley, ALDOT Pre-Construction Alex City
Bridget Graham, Coosa County Commission
Teresa Smith, ALDOT Pre-construction Alex City
Garry Banks, ALDOT District 4

Other Attendees:

none

Ms. Messick called the meeting to order at 10:03 and welcomed everyone to the first FY19 meeting of the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization's District Policy and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for the Southern District.

Ms. Messick asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves.

After introductions, Ms. Messick explained she had put together a brief agenda which was available for attendees at the meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were not available in the EARPO transfer to Ms. Messick. She explained the RPO would be starting fresh and attempt to revamp the RPO with new ideas.

Ms. Messick then called for any reports or updates from ongoing projects from ALDOT or County. A handout in the agenda packet included new projects to be let in Randolph County, and ongoing projects in Clay county. Mr. Mike Corley reported for there will be a resurfacing project on 431 south of Wedowee where two sections will be resurfaced this spring; a resurfacing project on 22 outside of Alex City to the new bridge will be resurfaced this year. Mr. Mike Corley reported from the new bridge to New Site will be resurfaced in 2020. Mayor Blasingame asked if that area would also be a 4-lane. Mr. Mike Corely reported that it would be converted into a 3-lane. Mr. Mike Corley also reported overlay projects for 77 form I-20 to 275, 44 in Calhoun County to 431, the 280 Childersburg bridge should be complete next year, 48 bridge east of Heflin over cane creek and 46 bridge over Fox creek in Randolph county will be Let this year.

There were no motions or resolutions that needed to be discussed.

The next item of business was special programs which Ms. Messick explained was the main item for the meetings. As RPO coordinator she explained her role is a sort of liaison between the districts/municipalities and ALDOT. That if there are any projects they are interested in or problems such as sight limitations, safety concerns, or maintenance they can use these meetings to discuss and keep track of any progress made. She asked for ideas as for the district's interests with the RPO, what type of projects are there needs or interests for, and what can the RPO can do for the districts.

Mayor Blassingame stated the city of New Site had applied for a grant to asphalt a current walking track at city hall. Ms. Messick stated if it was a sidewalk or something used for pedestrians, however she wears many hats and could also assist with those types of projects.

Ms. Graham stated the sidewalk in front of the Coosa County Courthouse at Hwy 231 and AL 22 was in need of repair and had become quite unsightly. Ms. Graham asked if anyone knew whose jurisdiction the sidewalk would be in. Mr. Steven Corley stated it would be in District 1; however ALDOT does not maintain the sidewalk. Ms. Graham asked if it was within ALDOT right-of-way. Mr. Steven Corley stated he was unsure. Ms. Graham stated she believed there had been the argument previously of who was to maintain the sidewalk, either Rockford or the County. Ms. Messick stated she would follow up with ALDOT in District 1.

The next item on the agenda was public involvement. Ms. Messick stated that one of the difficult items with the RPOs is getting more involvement since there is no dedicated funding for projects, but we are more than happy to help find funding and assist on projects. One of the ideas discussed at the other meeting was to go to each municipality town/city meetings to make introductions and invite the mayors to the meetings personally since she is new to the RPO and there has probably been a changing of the guard so to speak since the time the RPO meetings were more on a set schedule. All agreed that it was a good idea. Mayor Blassingame invited Ms. Messick to the New Site town council meetings and would follow up with emailing the meeting dates.

Ms. Messick explained that the State-wide 4-year plan is coming up for update soon and ALDOT will be taking its public involvement through the RPOs instead of the MPOs as they have in the past. This will ensure the rural communities will have a first look and opportunity to comment on the state plan.

Ms. Messick explained the other handouts in the agenda packet for the meeting. Ms. Messick included a list of goals in an Action Plan in the previous RPO Coordinator's files. She requested the attendees look over the goals in the action plan and make any suggestions to remove or change anything that may not fit the RPO. She further explained that the goals would be a work in process where items could be added and removed as the RPO meets throughout the year. Ms. Messick also included the latest monthly MPO/RPO newsletter, as well as the latest update of the bylaws. The last revision to the bylaws was in 2010. Ms. Messick asked for a review of the bylaws for the next meeting to ensure they are as up-to-date as possible. Mr. Cush said the ALDOT verbiage was outdated and should be changed from regions to divisions.

Ms. Messick opened the floor for any questions or comments thus far. Ms. Graham stated the position for Coosa County would need to be appointed by the Commission but could be taken

care of at the next meeting. Ms. Graham asked Ms. Messick if she could attend the next meeting to give a brief overview of the RPO.

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

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