

**EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICT**

*January 24, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.  
ALDOT 4<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters – Alexander City*

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Barbara Young, City of Alexander City  
Mr. Jerry Thrower, City of Lanett (representing Mayor Oscar Crawley)  
Mr. William D. (“Dee”) McDaniel, ALDOT Division 4 (representing Mr. DeJarvis Leonard)  
Mr. Bill Curtis, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Other Attendees:

Mr. Jimmy Mitchell, citizen representative, Coosa County  
Ms. Anita Haggerty, Tallapoosa County Commission  
Mr. Randy Thomas, City of Alexander City  
Mr. Patrick Hall, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Ms. Dawn Landholm, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Mayor Barbara Young of Alexander City, as Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Young then led attendees in introductions for the benefit of new attendees.

Under “Old Business”, Mayor Young asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Jerry Thrower moved that the minutes be adopted as presented. Mr. Dee McDaniel seconded the motion, which was passed by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Under “New Business”, the officers stated that they had nothing to report.

Ms. Dawn Landholm, in staff reports, reminded everyone to please fill out and turn in their Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee appointment forms. Ms. Landholm explained how those two committees also would serve as the Infrastructure Committee of the East Alabama Rural Action Commission. Mr. Bill Curtis expounded on those comments, explaining the details of the various committees of the East Alabama Action Commission. Mr. Patrick Hall notified members that he and Ms. Landholm would be attending ALDOT’s meeting concerning the Statewide Transportation Plan on January 28<sup>th</sup> and announced the public hearing schedule for the State’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Dee McDaniel of ALDOT's 4<sup>th</sup> Division then passed out and explained the attached documents regarding the status of projects in the Five Year Plan in the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization—Southern District's four county area.

There were no motions or resolutions or other new business.

Under "Special Programs", Ms. Landholm gave a presentation on one of the sessions she had attended at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference in September of 2007. A copy of the handout is attached. In summary:

- Iowa – Established RPOs in the early 1990s; because over 90% of all roads are local and county roads, RPOs function like a Metropolitan Planning Organization, preparing a long range transportation plan and annual work program and receiving State funding.
- Pennsylvania – Also established RPOs in the early 1990s; RPOs function like a Metropolitan Planning Organization, preparing a long range transportation plan and transportation improvement program.
- Kentucky – Established RPOs in the early 1990s; RPOs operate as a consultation process, but State DOT gradually has given them more influence; our RPO may want to emulate them in creating a vision statement, goals, and objectives, a Project Identification File, and an Unscheduled Projects List.
- Tennessee – Established fairly recently; started as a consultation process, but RPOs' responsibilities have been expanding; RPOs have the authority to prioritize projects within their areas; the State DOT uses the RPO needs study when preparing plans for future projects.

No meeting attendees wished to be heard on matters not included in the agenda.

Under "Open Discussion and Announcements", Mr. Curtis announced that in the Southern District of the RPO, there would be a focus on creating a model access management ordinance for US Highway 280. There had been a previous workshop on access management that had preceded an application for federal funds to create a Highway 280 corridor study. That project was not funded, but the Commission—through the RPO—can create a model access management ordinance that local governments can tailor to their communities and adopt. An access management ordinance helps lessen existing and prevent future congestion and safety issues that might arise along a highway corridor. Mr. Curtis explained that ALDOT does not have the authority to enact access management standards, so the local governments must adopt them. ALDOT can implement a local government's access management ordinance. Committee members also suggested that impact studies might be needed for different sections of the Highway 280 corridor, especially in regards to the new Kia plant in Georgia and to suburban development spurred by the growth of the Auburn-Opelika area.

Ms. Landholm announced that the next meeting of the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization's District Policy Committee for the Southern District is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the ALDOT Division 4 office in Alexander City.

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