

**EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE & TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE for the SOUTHERN DISTRICT
January 27, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.
ALDOT Division 4 Office – Alexander City**

Policy Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Barbara Young, City of Alexander City
Ms. Dawn Landholm, representing Mr. Bill Curis, EARPDC
Mayor Janis Canham, Town of Jackson's Gap
Ms. Kathleen Thomas, Town of Jackson's Gap

Technical Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. Randy Thomas, City of Alexander City
Mr. Donnie Cash, City of Roanoke
Mr. John C. Trimble, ALDOT 3rd District
Mr. Daryl Howard, ALDOT 1st District
Mr. Mike Tims, ALDOT 4th District
Mr. Henry Hawkins, Chambers County
Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, ALDOT

Other Attendees:

Ms. Stacey Browning, EARPDC
Mr. Gerard Brewer, City of Alexander City

Mayor Barbara Young called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. She asked everyone present to introduce themselves, as there were many attendees. After introductions, Mayor Young asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the November 4th meeting. After determining that there were no changes necessary, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. DeJarvis Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mayor Janis Canham seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mayor Young then asked if there was any other old business. After determining that there was none, she moved on to "New Business." Ms. Stacey Browning gave a staff report on surface transportation authorization, which has been extended to March 4th. Ms. Browning provided a handout, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Leonard mentioned that funding has been continued until March 4th as well, and that after that funding may be cut off if there is not a new bill or another extension. This would only affect upcoming projects, not projects that are already underway. Ms. Browning also provided a handout detailing AASHTO's priorities for transportation in the coming year. AASHTO is primarily concerned with passing a long-term surface transportation

authorization bill and finding transportation funding sources. Lastly, Ms. Browning mentioned a possible earmark ban being considered in Congress. Mr. Leonard mentioned that this ban could be good or bad for the State, depending on how the bill is written.

Mayor Young then moved on ALDOT Update on Road Projects. Mr. Leonard provided a handout of projects, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He mentioned that the first sheet deals with county and city projects, which Mr. William McDaniel deals with. Mr. Leonard mentioned that the AL 22 bridge replacement has begun, and Mr. Daryl Howard added that the clearing is coming along and the spring should see some movement on the project. Mr. Leonard mentioned a few other projects that are under construction. Mr. Henry Hawkins asked a question about the I-85 welcome center listed under Chambers County. Mr. Leonard replied that they will eventually be constructing a new one, but it will not be funded until a new transportation bill is passed. The old welcome center has been annexed into Auburn.

Mr. Donnie Cash asked about the 3 bridge projects listed under Randolph County on the County/City projects sheet. Mr. Leonard did not know what these projects are, as they are county jobs handled by Mr. McDaniel and done through the county engineer.

Mr. Randy Thomas asked about some of the Alexander City projects, and asked a question about a project on railroad crossings. Mr. Leonard responded that the plans for this project are in Montgomery, and he will follow up. He also said that there is some trouble with the railroads. Mr. Leonard mentioned that they had received no state resurfacing money this year. Mr. Gerard Brewer said that they were having issues with sewer enlargement, needing to increase the size of the sewer underneath some roads.

Mayor Canham asked a question about getting some decorative signs on 280. Mr. Howard mentioned that there is a permit process, and he would discuss it with her after the meeting.

Mr. Brewer said some of the businesses in Alexander City had been complaining about traffic along Cherokee, and they want a yield sign changed to a 3-way stop. Mr. Leonard that he still feels a roundabout would be a good fit for that intersection.

Mr. Leonard mentioned that the new director of ALDOT is John Copper, who he met yesterday. Mr. Cooper seems very interested in improving ALDOT. Mr. Leonard also mentioned that for questions related to projects in districts, members can refer to their district engineers. Mr. Howard mentioned that his permit engineer is retiring on Monday, and that a search has begun to replace him yet. Mr. Leonard introduced Mr. Mike Tims, the engineer for Clay, Cleburne, and Randolph Counties.

Mr. Howard asked about a resurfacing project in downtown Alexander City. Mr. Leonard said they are hoping to get to it this year. Mr. Brewer said that the city has escalated some utility repairs for the projects, so they need to know if it is coming. Mr. Leonard responded that they will not know until some jobs are let, so there are some questions funding-wise.

Mayor Young moved on to Update on County Projects from County Engineers. Mr. Hawkins mentioned that they had moved all of their resurfacing projects to building the bases better. He discussed a few projects in which they had used new techniques on the base that had held up very well, even with a lot of wear and tear. Mr. Howard mentioned about few things about this new base technique. He discussed regulations for the smoothness coefficient that had recently been changed. Mr. Leonard also joined the discussion, talking about a DG smoother that they have used on state routes. He said that this technique is good for places without a lot of truck traffic. There was discussion concerning this base technique.

Mr. Hawkins said that anyone that is interested in this technique could come see it being constructed during the spring or summer, as they have many projects lined up. Mr. Brewer said that he would be interested, as there are roads in Alexander City that are candidates for the technique.

Mayor Young asked if there was any new business, and Ms. Dawn Landholm discussed the HUD Sustainability Grant recently awarded to the EARPDC. She told the attendees that the RPO will be where livability is discussed. She mentioned that at the last meeting, the details about the amount of the grant had been unclear. EARPDC was awarded \$555,000 to develop the CLEAR Plan 2030. She mentioned that HUD, EPA, and the DOT had formed the Partnership for Livability and developed the 6 livability principles that take into account housing, transportation, and economic development. She discussed the consortium partners, which are multi-county organizations. There has not yet been an organizational meeting, but at that meeting, livability teams will be formed. She mentioned that she and Ms. Browning would keep the RPO members up to date on the process, and that they hoped to use the RPO as a resource for transportation especially.

Mr. Leonard asked if Ms. Landholm knew about transportation needs for the project yet. Ms. Landholm responded that this will be a three year grant starting February 1st. She discussed a needs assessment process that will occur throughout the region, most likely with the aid of a consultant. Part of the process will involve bringing together the different plans already in place. There will also be an implementation plan developed. After the CLEAR Plan is developed, the region will have preferred status for HUD grants, setting the region to receive funding in the future for implementation.

Mayor Young asked if there was any more new business, and Mr. Brewer discussed an innovative project that is being undertaken in Alexander City. They are inserting a culvert without disturbing the utilities and are doing it themselves. Mr. Howard mentioned that they did a similar project last year. Mr. Brewer said that the bottom of the pipe had eroded, and some PVC has already been inserted. They have a few unknowns with the project, such as floating. Mr. Howard mentioned that floating could be a problem. Mr. Leonard asked about a pull bar that had been designed for the project in Mr. Howard's district. Mr. Howard discussed putting concrete under and around the pipe, and how they had determined that it was not rust causing pipes to erode, but

abrasion from sand. Mr. Donnie Cash asked a question about how plastic pipe holds up. Mr. Hawkins mentioned that if a plastic pipe breaks, the whole thing must be torn up. Mr. Leonard said that they do not use plastic, but there is an experiment with plastic pipe underway with Auburn University. Mr. Howard said that he had been using for quite a while. There was some discussion about plastic pipes and using concrete under roadways.

Mayor Young moved on to Open Discussion and Announcements. She mentioned that the next meeting would be April 28, 2011. The meeting was then adjourned.