

**EAST ALABAMA RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE & TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE for the SOUTHERN DISTRICT
*November 19, 2008 - 10:00 a.m.
ALDOT Division 4 Office – Alexander City***

Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Lathonia Wright, Randolph County Commission
Mayor Barbara Young, City of Alexander City
Mayor Mike Fisher, City of Roanoke (represented by Mr. Tim Jacobs)
Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, ALDOT Division 4
Mr. Bill Curtis, East Alabama RP&DC (represented by Ms. Dawn Landholm)

Other Attendees:

Mr. Tim Jacobs, City of Roanoke
Mr. Donnie Cash, City of Roanoke
Mr. Eric M. English, ALDOT 4th Division, District 4
Mr. John C. Trimble, ALDOT 4th Division, District 3
Mr. Patrick Hall, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
Ms. Dawn Landholm, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Mayor Barbara Young, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

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

There was no other old business.

Under “New Business”, Mayor Young stated that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Patrick Hall and Ms. Dawn Landholm gave the staff report. Mr. Hall informed the committee that this would be his last meeting, as he had accepted a position with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ms. Landholm stated that she will act as program facilitator until Mr. Hall’s replacement has been hired and trained.

Mr. DeJarvis Leonard, of ALDOT’s 4th Division, gave an update on ALDOT’s programmed construction projects in the four county area. In Tallapoosa County, the

resurfacing of US Highway 280 is continuing. In Randolph County, the resurfacing of US Highway 431 from Roanoke to Wedowee should be begin soon, along with various intersection improvements along the highway. Next year, US Highway 431 will be resurfaced from Roanoke to the Chambers County line. On the northern section of US Highway 431, Mr. Leonard noted that an additional passing lane that was planned will not be constructed because it passes near a water reservoir. In Chambers County, the County Commission received a grant to construct an industrial access road at the Cusseta Industrial Park at Interstate 85 Exit 77. Another project in Randolph County is replacement of the Hillabee Bridge on AL Highway 22, which is scheduled for next fiscal year. In the City of Roanoke, design of the AL Highway 22 “connector” or “bypass” is in progress. The intersection of AL Highway 22 and US Highway 431 in Roanoke was discussed. A gas station at that location has a curb cut on the corner of that busy intersection, making it more dangerous than it would be otherwise.

There were no notions or resolutions or other new business.

Under “Special Programs”, Mr. Hall gave a presentation on access management. He commented on the connection between all types of transportation plans, especially between access management and land use. Access management is easier, and costs less, in communities that have planned their land use development in accordance with their roadway networks. For instance, if traditional highway commercial development occurs in concentrated “nodes”, as opposed to the more common “strip development”, the number of access points onto major roadways will be minimized, making it easier and safer for automobiles to enter and leave the shopping center. Businesses benefit from being in such a shopping center because traffic moves more slowly, giving the stores greater exposure to passers-by. A copy of the presentation handout is attached to these minutes.

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

Under “Open Discussion and Announcements”, Ms. Landholm announced that the next meeting of the East Alabama Rural Planning Organization’s District Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee for the Southern District is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the ALDOT Division 4 Headquarters Building.

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