

Northwest TN Rural Planning Organization

124 Weldon Drive Martin, Tennessee 38237 (731) 587 4213 phone (731) 587-4587 fax
email at bethany.brock@nwtd.org

Executive Committee Chair
Mayor Gary Reasons

RPO Coordinator
Bethany Brock

Technical Committee Chair
Buck Carter

Meeting Minutes Joint Committee Meeting December 12th, 2023 Discovery Park of America – Tennessee Room

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Mayor Gary Reasons called the meeting to order. RPO Coordinator Bethany Brock took roll. Mayor John Penn Ridgeway motioned from the last meeting's minutes to be approved, and Steve Carr seconded it.

Freight & Logistics Update – Dan Pallme

Dan discussed CRISI grant wins with the Port of Cates Landing. He also discussed state grants (MMAG, TAP, IMPROVE Capital) and Corridor ID passenger rail through the region. Studies completed this year were Bottleneck analysis, freight plan, BOC Transit Study. Upcoming freight studies include truck parking, return on investment, waterway study, passenger rail, third bridge. The future of freight includes waterway peer exchange and the next steps of Transportation Modernization Act.

Transportation Modernization Act – Lisa Dunn

Lisa provided some information regarding the Transportation Modernization Act. Lisa explained the timeline, goals, and objectives of the plan. She went over state aid funding as well.

TDOT Updates-Ashley Owens & Thiera Taylor

Ashley presented information regarding the 10-year plan that will be published on Monday, December 18th. Ashley also discussed Transportation Planning Grants. Packets were distributed with meeting agendas. TPGs are due January 19th, 2024. Contact Bethany Brock if interested in applying. Thiera presented the Transportation Funding database and how to look for funding opportunities. Here is a link to the Transportation Funding Database: [Microsoft Power BI \(powerbigov.us\)](https://powerbigov.us)

CDBG Update – Bethany Brock & Faith Allen

Bethany & Faith stated that you can apply for sidewalk restoration, local road improvements & repairs, road studies, and box bridges through CDBGs this year. If you have a current CDBG it must be closed out by March 29th, 2024 to apply. A public hearing must be held by February 9th, 2024. If interested in applying please contact Bethany or Faith by January 5th, 2024.

Other Business/Updates-RPO Coordinator

Bethany provided an update on what she has been working on as the RPO Coordinator since the last meeting. She submitted one Multimodal Access Grant for the City of Tiptonville and

wrote a letter of support for Newbern's MMAG application. She submitted one Community Transportation Planning Request for Gibson County. She submitted one Statewide Partnership Plan for Dyer County. She also submitted two Rural & Tribal Pilot Assistance Program for Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and Gleason. Lastly, Bethany submitted 5 Traffic Signal Modernization Program Applications: Gleason, Trenton, South Fulton, Camden, and McKenzie. She also updated the RPO Committee members and is in the beginning stages of writing a bike plan for the city of Martin.

Bethany also stated that Transportation Planning Grants are open. A packet is included behind the meeting agenda. The applications are due January 19, 2024. Maximum award amount is \$200,000 with a 10% local match. No match for at-risk or distressed counties. RAISE grants are also open for capitol or planning projects. Applications are due February 28th, 2024. Match amount is determined based on if the applicant is historically disadvantaged area or an area of persistent poverty. Please contact Bethany if you are interested in either grant.

Bethany also announced that she will be hosting "The Future of EVs in Northwest Tennessee" workshop on February 22, 2024 at the Martin Public Library. Stay tuned for more information regarding it but she hopes to see everyone there!

Public Comment-Buck Carter

No public comments.

Adjournment

Chairman Mayor Gary Reasons called the meeting adjourned.

In attendance: Ashley Owens, Thiera Taylor, Antoine Hawkins, Wanda Fuzzell, Richie Chilcutt, John Penn Ridgeway, Jeff Cosby, Tim Belton, Donny Bunton, Mark Ward, Cindy McAdams, John Clement, Jeffrey Medlin, Brian Coleman, Shane Hollin, Kevin Dunn, Milton Legions, Charles Anderson, Roger Pafford, Jennifer Wheatley, David Quick, Pam Mabry, Nina Smothers, Danny Cook, Bethany Brock, Buck Carter, Melinda Goode, Gary Reasons, Dan Pallme, Alexis Morris

In attendance via Zoom: Joseph Butler, Jennifer Morris, Janna Hellums, Tessa Kyle, Nelson Cunningham, BW Beasley, Rep. Tandy Darby, Kim Gilley, Verla Smith