

**AGENDA
NORTH EAST TEXAS
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 27, 2017**

The North East Texas Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) will meet at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 27, 2017, at the Titus County Extension Office, 1708 Industrial Road, Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Item 1. Call to order.

Item 2. Invocation.

Item 3. Approve the minutes as submitted of the North East Texas Rural Planning Organization Committee Meeting held Thursday, April 28, 2016, in Mt. Pleasant, Texas and inclusion of the Northeast Texas Rural Transportation Summit agenda on November 9, 2016.

Regular Business

Item 4. Election of Chair Pro Tem. (To be presented by ATCOG Board President, L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County)

Item 5. Information on Overweight Permit Fees collected by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown; handout to be provided at meeting)

Item 6. TxDOT Project Tracker. (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown; handout to be provided at meeting)

Item 7. Discussion of possible second Northeast Texas Rural Transportation Summit. (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown)

Item 8. Discussion of process for Officer Election at the next scheduled meeting.

Item 9. Discussion of other transportation items, as needed.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the North East Texas Rural Planning Organization Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 26, 2017, at the Titus County Extension Office in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act, Government Code Chapter 551 one or more of the above items may be considered in executive session closed to the public, including but not limited to consultation with attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and Section 551.074 arising out of the attorney's ethical duty to advise ATCOG concerning legal issues arising from an agenda item. Any decision held on such matter will be taken or conducted in open session following the conclusion of the executive session.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Administration at 903-832-8636 two (2) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

All agendas are sent electronically and available at www.atcog.org. Should any Board Member need a copy printed and available at the meeting, please call 903/255.3555 or email athurston@atcog.org.

**MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NORTH EAST TEXAS RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 28, 2016**

The North East Texas Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Titus County Extension Office in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Item 1. President L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Brady Fisher, Northeast Texas Resource Conservation & Development, gave the invocation.

Item 3. The next order of business was to approve the minutes as submitted of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Planning Organization Committee Meeting held Thursday, October 29, 2015, in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County and seconded by Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County. They were approved.

Regular Business

Item 4. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented for consideration election of Judge Williamson as a temporary Chair Pro Tem, in order to hold the meeting. The Nominating Committee will discuss potential nominees for the Chair & Vice-Chair positions for future meetings.

Motion to approve this nomination was made by M.C. Superville, Jr., Judge, Lamar County and seconded by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County. The nomination was approved.

Item 5. Mr. Brown introduced David Plutowski, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in Austin. Mr. Plutowski distributed Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) information to the Board and delivered a presentation regarding what an RMA consists of. Essentially, an RMA has the ability to handle more projects than TxDOT, due to being able to access local, state and federal funds. An RMA is a local, independent transportation agency that can finance, build, operate and/or manage toll roads, airports, utilities, ferries and other transportation projects. City, counties and designated municipalities are all eligible to create an RMA. Lamar & Delta counties are currently a part of the Sulphur River RMA, while Bowie & Titus counties are a part of the East Texas RMA.

Judge Williamson questioned if a project spans over several counties, some of which are not in the RMA, and the RMA decides to disband, would the non-participating counties be responsible for the debt. Mr. Plutowski assumed the RMA, as a whole, would be responsible, rather than the other cities or counties. Judge Superville provided input due to experience with this type of situation. He stated security agreements would need to be in place, prior to the start of the project, to ensure responsibility from the RMA.

Mr. Plutowski explained different ways to fund an RMA project, including toll road revenue, a revolving loan from TxDOT, raising taxes, surplus revenue, etc. The project would need to be feasible and necessary in order to be funded. The RMA would also be responsible for hiring and compensating any staff or consultants for projects. There was some general discussion concerning the pros & cons of an RMA, however, due to time constraints, Judge Williamson stated the agenda would need to move forward.

Item 6. Judge Brian Lee provided an update of the I-30 Corridor Study Kick-off Meeting in March, which was well attended. The next meeting will be May 31, 2016, in Greenville, Texas. Mr. Brown stressed involvement is key to getting this project off the ground. Due to time constraints, the discussion was very brief. Detailed information was provided in the agenda and more information can be given upon contacting Judge Brian Lee or Mr. Brown.

Item 7. Mr. Brown provided a very brief update on the high-speed rail project. Representative Gary VanDeaver sent information regarding the rail, along with maps for potential future plans. This information was included in the agenda for reference. Mr. Brown asked anyone that needed further information to contact him.

Announcements

Mr. Brown announced the Paris District is holding a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2016, to discuss the district's Project Development Plan and schedule for Transportation Projects in for fiscal years 2017 – 2020. Deanne Simmons, TxDOT Atlanta, announced the Atlanta District would be holding a TIP Meeting the same day in Atlanta for citizens in that area.

Judge Williamson announced the next RPO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016, at the Titus County Extension Office in Mt. Pleasant.

There was no further business, so Judge Williamson adjourned the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Chuck Superville, Jr., Judge, Lamar County
Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Lynda Munkres, Judge, Morris County
Bob Thorne, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Daingerfield
Edwin Pickle, Councilman, City of Paris
Brady Fisher, Northeast Texas Resource Conservation & Development

GUESTS PRESENT

David Plutowski, TxDOT – Austin
Deanne Simmons, TxDOT – Atlanta
Roger Feagley, Sulphur Springs EDC
Glenda Bassham, Sulphur Springs EDC
Susan Thorne, Member of the Public

STAFF PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Vickie Williamson, Special Projects Coordinator
Amber Thurston, Executive Assistant
Leslie Allen, Intern

North East Texas Rural Planning Organization
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:



Rural Transportation Summit

Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Morris, Rains, Red River, Titus, Upshur, Wood

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration

- 9:30 – 10:30 *Welcome and General Session*

- Why Transportation is important to Economic Development
Carlton Schwab – *President/CEO Texas Economic Development Council*

- Remarks from **Senator Bob Hall SD2** – *Senate Transportation Committee and Select Committee on Transportation Planning*

- 10:30 – 10:45 Break

- 10:45- 11:45 Information on TxDOT Freight Study: **Caroline Mays**
TxDOT Freight Planning / International Trade Section Director

- Updates on the status/progress of
 - I - 30 Planning Group
 - US 82
 - I - 369/I – 69
 - NET Trail
 - NETx Rail District

- 12:00 – 1:00 *Lunch – Keynote Speaker*
TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Austin – the status of transportation funding and planning for the state.

- 1:15 – 2:15 UTP (Unified Transportation Plan): **Lauren Garduno**,
TxDOT Director of Transportation Planning & Programming Division

- Regional Planning and Ideas to build a stronger partnership

- 2:15 – 3:15 **Elected Officials Panel Discussion (invited speakers)**
*confirmed
State Senators
 *Bryan Hughes (elect)
State Representatives
 *Dan Flynn Larry Phillips Gary VanDeaver
 *Cole Hefner (elect) Chris Paddie

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