

**JOINT MINUTES**  
**NORTHEAST TEXAS RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION,**  
**NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND**  
**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 31, 2022**

The Northeast Texas Rural Transportation Planning Organization (NETRTPO), Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD), and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as, via teleconference/webinar.

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

Item 2. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

**No members of the public made a comment.**

NETRTPO Agenda Items

Item 4. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETRTPO meeting held Thursday, April 25, 2019.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO of TexAmericas, and seconded by Judge Scott Lee. It was approved.

Item 5. Chris Brown, Executive Director, introduced Mr. Dan Perry, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), to present the FY23-26 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) project information to the Board.

Mr. Perry provided handouts which included the Paris District FY2022 (which includes the following counties in the ATCOG region: Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, and Red River Counties) Project Development Schedule in conjunction with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following:

- Safety Awareness Campaign #EndTheStreakTX
- TxDOT Project funding
- 23-26 Overlay (Asphalt Resurfacing)
- 23-26 Reconstruction (Rebuilding the Pavement Structure)
- 23-26 Bridge Replacement (Highways and County Roads)
- 23-26 Safety Projects (Lighting, Sidewalks, Widening, End Treatments)
- 23-26 Mobility Projects (Adding capacity to existing highways)
  - U.S. 82
  - US 271

The report concluded Mr. Perry's presentation. He opened the Floor for questions or comments.

Judge Scott Lee expressed his concerns regarding TxDOT constructing a truck parking within Franklin County. Judge Lee asked that the record reflect his concerns regarding TxDOT communication with the County Judges regarding projects within their perspective counties. He thanked Mr. Perry for listening to him.

Ms. Deanne Simmons, TxDOT, provided the Atlanta District (which includes the following counties in the ATCOG region: Bowie, Cass, Morris, and Titus Counties) FY2022 Letting Schedule and FY23-26 Rural Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Simmons provided handout information to the Board. Upon the conclusion of her report, she opened the Floor for questions. No questions were asked.

*This concluded all RTPO Agenda Items.*

#### **NETEDD Agenda Items**

Item 6. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday, December 9, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County, and seconded by Judge Scott Lee. It was approved.

Item 7. Mr. Brown presented the Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) update for review. NETEDD fully expended all Federal COVID Revolving Loan Funds and exceeded the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) goals assigned to these funds.

The NETEDD Revolving Loan Fund 08-57-02889, which was created by merging NETEDD RFL and CTEDD RLF in 2020, received the formal Release of EDA Federal interest in the Revolving Loan Fund Award on March 17, 2022. The defederalization of the RFL will reduce reporting requirements and expand program availability.

*This concluded all NETEDD Agenda Items.*

#### **ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items**

Item 8. Mr. Brown presented the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors meeting held Thursday, December 9, 2021.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, March 3, 2022.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Homeland Security Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, February 17, 2022.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Norton and seconded by Judge Brian Lee. It was approved.

#### **Review and Comment**

Item 9. Mr. Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director report. He reviewed the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), and THSSP Implementation Plan (IP) Feedback Report. Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator, received a score of 46.5 out of a possible score of 47 points on this report.

**Regular Business**

Item 10. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the Cass County nomination to serve on the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) through December 31, 2023.

- Chief Deputy Rex Bloodworth (Cass County Sheriff's Office)

Motion to approve was made by Becky Wilbanks, Judge, Cass County, and seconded by Judge Scott Lee. It was approved.

Item 11. Ms. Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the revisions to the RCJAC Residential and Community-Based Services for Victims of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) grant application scoring instrument.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Brian Lee and seconded by Judge Scott Lee. It was approved.

Item 12. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and consideration approval for the ATCOG Executive Director to submit the following applications for FY22 Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure grant funds to the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Equipment to be Purchased</b>
Delta County	\$196,068.86	1 dispatch console, 8 base radios
Delta County	\$487,182.00	2 towers, 2 communication shelters, 2 repeaters
Franklin County	\$181,486.25	4 repeaters
Hopkins County	\$224,637.00	2 dispatch consoles, 9 base radios, 9 mobile gateways
Sulphur Springs	\$224,637.00	2 dispatch consoles, 9 base radios, 9 mobile gateways
Lamar County	\$962,564.50	1 tower, 1 communication shelter, 6 repeaters, 1 generator

Motion to approve was made by Judge Brian Lee and seconded by Mr. Stan Wyatt, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District. It was approved.

Item 13. Ms. Fezell presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase and installation of radio infrastructure equipment in Red River County. The total estimated cost of the project is \$233,349. The grant will cover \$130,798 of the expenses, and the remaining costs will be the responsibility of Red River County.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Wyatt and seconded by Judge Wilbanks. It was approved.

Item 14. Mr. Chris Pruitt of Patillo, Brown, & Hill, L.P. presented for review and consideration for approval of the ATCOG Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

Ms. Melinda Tickle introduced Mr. Pruitt to present the Financial Statements and Auditor's report. The auditor's review depicted an unmodified opinion, meaning ATCOG financials are free of material misstatement and can be relied upon by a 3rd party; this is the highest opinion an auditor can provide.

Motion to approve was made by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County, and seconded by Judge Wilbanks. It was approved.

Item 15. Mr. Brown presented for review and consideration for approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Altech, Inc, not to exceed \$700,000 to complete renovations at the Texarkana office building. Mr. Brown presented a PowerPoint presentation and handouts with additional details and drawings of the renovation project.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Scott Lee and seconded by Mr. Wyatt. It was approved.

Item 16. Ms. Rea Allen presented for review and consideration the adoption of a resolution authorizing recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Bell and seconded by Judge Wilbanks. It was approved.

### **Announcements**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

With no other announcements, a motion to adjourn was made by Judge Bell and seconded by Judge Scott Lee. The meeting was adjourned.

#### **NETRTPO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County  
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Mihir Pankaij, Councilman, City of Paris  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Ronald Humphry, Mayor, City of New Boston

#### **NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County  
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Mihir Pankaij, Councilman, City of Paris  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

#### **ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County  
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Mihir Pankaij, Councilman, City of Paris  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

#### **ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Moore, Texarkana College

Harold Nash, Councilman, City of Sulphur Springs  
Jean Matlock, Councilwoman, City of Texarkana  
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb  
Lynn Reynolds, Mayor, City of Linden

GUESTS PRESENT

Chris Pruitt, Patillo, Brown, & Hill, L.P.  
Deanne Simmons, Texas Department of Transportation  
Dan Perry, Texas Department of Transportation  
Kathy Comer, Office of United States Senator John Cornyn  
Ricky Jones, Sheriff, Franklin County  
Robert Bridges, Red River County  
Stacy Taylor, Texas Department of Transportation  
William Lindsey, Executive Director, DeKalb Economic Development Corporation

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director  
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director  
Mae Lewis, Housing Director  
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant  
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director  
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director  
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director  
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator



---

L.D. Williamson, President  
Board of Directors  
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:



---