



Rural Planning Organizations

Blue Oval City Community Impact Meeting - March 9, 2022

Antoine D. Hawkins TDOT OCT Region 4 Supervisor



Rural Planning Organizations – Origin and Purpose

Origin and Purpose

- Established in 2005 to enhance state and regional level partnerships in rural areas for transportation planning purposes.
- RPOs role is to involve local officials in multimodal transportation planning through a structured process locally and regionally.
- Additional roles of the RPO
 - Provide transportation information to local governments and other organizations
 - Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process
 - Partner with TDOT on the development of Long-Range Transportation Plans
 - Develop and prioritize suggestion for projects to be included in the STIP

Rural Planning Organizations – Implementation

Implementation

- Coordinated through Development Districts in partnership with TDOT's Long Range Planning Division
- 12 RPOs statewide
 - Region 4 - Northwest TN RPO; Southwest TN RPO; West TN RPO
- Each RPO is staffed by a Coordinator that works directly in each respective District to assist TDOT with implementation and execution of our stated goals

Rural Planning Organizations – Tasks and Projects

RPO - Roles

- Public Facing
 - At minimum two meetings biannually in which Statewide transportation topics are discussed
 - Continual engagement meetings throughout the development district on community specific transportation topics
- Plan Creation
 - Rural Regional Plans
 - SW and W have been completed. NW in progress
 - Rural Planning Initiative
 - Community Transportation Planning Grant
 - OCT led; however, RPOs integral in process from application to adoption
- ODAS
 - Other duties as assigned “WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!”

Office of Community Transportation - Statewide and Region 4 RPOs

Tennessee MPO / TPO / RPO Planning Areas



MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization
 MTPO - Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
 TPO - Transportation Planning Organization
 RPO - Rural Planning Organization

Office of Community Transportation Staff

- OCT Manager**
 Stacy Morrison
- Headquarters Staff**
 Jennifer Marshall
- Region 1**
 Troy Ebbert
 Michelle Christian
 Randia Sawyer
- Region 2**
 Andrea Noel Rachael
 Bergmann Kevin
 Layne
- Region 3**
 Jonathan Russell Ian
 Jonathan Wellmeyer
- Region 4**
 Antoine Hawkins
 Ashley Owens
 Thiera Taylor

RPO Coordinators

- Center Hill RPO**
 Silas Stoddard
- Dale Hollow RPO**
 Mark Dudney
- East Tennessee North RPO**
 Don Brown
- East Tennessee South RPO**
 Don Brown
- First Tennessee RPO**
 Chase Milner
- Middle Tennessee RPO**
 Karlyssa Helton
- Northwest RPO**
 Ben Bradberry
- South Central East RPO**
 Lisa Cross
- South Central West RPO**
 Lisa Cross
- Southeast RPO**
 Sarah Murray
- Southwest RPO**
 Shelton Merrrell
- West Tennessee RPO**
 Kamilah Kelly

MPO, MTPO, and TPO Coordinators

- Bristol MPO**
 Steven Mott
- Chattanooga TPO**
 Karen Rennich
- Clarksville MPO**
 Stan Williams
- Cleveland MPO**
 Greg Thomas
- Jackson MPO**
 Jackson MPO
- Johnson City MPO**
 Glenn Berry
- Kingsport MTPO**
 Bill Albright
- Knoxville TPO**
 Jeff Welch
- Lakeway MTPO**
 Rich DesGroselliers
- Memphis MPO**
 Pragati Srivastava
- Nashville MPO**
 Sean Pflazer

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 Click Name to Email Representative



RPO and Blue Oval City

- Located in SW RPO; however, Regional opportunities anticipated as a result of Blue Oval City
- Opportunities for planning through TDOT and RPOs



Region 4 RPO Coordinators



Ben Bradberry
NW RPO Coordinator



Kamillah Kelly
W RPO Coordinator



Shelton Merrell
SW RPO Coordinator