



## **GREEN RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2021

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) met on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom and teleconference. A quorum was present with the following members in attendance:

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steve Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive  
Tom Watson, Mayor, City of Owensboro (Rep. by Kevin Collignon)  
Steve Austin, Mayor, City of Henderson (Rep. by Doug Boom)  
Brian Howard, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission (OMPC)  
Deneatra Henderson, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), District Office 2  
Mike Baker, Hancock County Industrial Foundation  
Candace Brake, Greater Owensboro Chamber  
Dan Lanham, Audubon Area Community Services/Green River Intra-County Transit System (AACS/GRITS)  
Brian Wright, Owensboro Riverport  
Whitney Risley, Henderson KY Economic Development  
Mark Brasher, Daviess County Road Department Engineer

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brad Schneider, Henderson County Judge/Executive  
Adam O’Nan, Union County Judge/Executive  
Johnny “Chic” Roberts, Hancock County Judge/Executive  
David Johnston, Ohio County Judge/Executive  
Al Mattingly, Jr., Daviess County Judge/Executive  
Curtis Dame, McLean County Judge/Executive  
Joanne Kendall, Minority Representative  
Charlotte Whittaker, Senior Representative  
Missy Vanderpool, Executive Director of Henderson Economic Development  
Donnie Mayton  
Rob Barnett, Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport

Captain Brenton Ford, Kentucky State Police (KSP) – Post 16

Jimmy VanCleve, Area 3 Training Center

Mark Calitri, Owensboro-Daviess County Convention Center & Visitor's Bureau

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Jason Siwula, KYTC

Nick Hall, KYTC District Office 2

Keirsten Jagers

Doug Taylor, Regional Transportation Field Representative

Gina Boaz, GRADD

Luke Hill, GRADD

Therese Payne, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Henry called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Henry offered the minutes of the November 25, 2020, meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee for approval.

A motion was made by Mike Baker and seconded by Candace Brake to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2020, GRADD RTC meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Socioeconomic

Chairman Henry introduced Luke Hill and turned the meeting over to him to discuss a socioeconomic study Mr. Hill was asked to work on in conjunction with the Lincoln Trail Area Development District as part of the Western Kentucky Parkway upgrade. Bo Martin at Lincoln Trail ADD requested his help since part of the Western Kentucky Parkway runs through GRADD. The study determined the number of people over 65, those disabled, as well as individuals with limited English proficiency living within Grayson, Butler and Ohio Counties, the counties through which the Western Kentucky Parkway runs. The study has been submitted to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Mr. Hill would be glad to email the study to any members interested in it.

B. Regional Transportation Committee Membership

Vacancies remain on the committee. Luke Hill will inform the committee via email of current vacancies. Chairman Henry stated these need to be filled as soon as possible and thanked everyone currently serving on the committee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. SHIFT Update/Change in Schedule

Luke Hill shared another change in the SHIFT schedule. The deadline has now been moved to April 1, 2021. This year, GRADD has been allotted 21 sponsorships for the district, down from 23 last year. Any requests for projects must be approved by this committee; therefore, the committee will need to meet in April. Chairman Henry suggested, if possible, he would like to have the meeting in person to allow for discussion. He will work with Joanna Shake and GRADD staff on the details for social distancing.

B. Litter Abatement

Chairman Henry shared his concern about the lack of funds for litter abatement. The problem has been compounded due to the pandemic since no litter has been picked up for the last seven to eight months. He asked Deneatra Henderson to share her ideas about funding. She shared that litter abatement funds are not funded through transportation funds. She suggested reaching out to elected officials to ask them to investigate litter abatement agreements.

V. UPDATES

A. Highway District Office Update

Deneatra Henderson shared routes will be resurfaced as weather warms up. Projects that can be ready to go quickly will be prioritized. She also shared the Infra Grant cycle opened yesterday but cautioned these were mega grants for very large projects. She reiterated she wasn't discouraging anyone from applying, just suggesting being realistic. Projects that will get funded will be of regional or national significance. Instead, she suggested considering the Build Grant. Ms. Henderson emphasized the importance of focusing on the federal environmental documents.

B. Buckle Up Phone Down Campaign

Jason Siwula with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet shared a presentation regarding the statewide campaign "Buckle Up Phone Down." He shared the goal of the campaign is to keep people safe around the region, state, and nation. In the last year, 745 lives were lost on Kentucky roadways, 27 in the GRADD region. The goal of the campaign is to have under 500 deaths by 2024 by focusing on prevention. His presentation included two powerful commercials. The website for the campaign is <https://kyhighwaysafety.com/>. Mr. Siwula also shared the link to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Strategic Highway Safety Plan [https://datamart.kytc.ky.gov/SHSP/SAFER%20KY%20SHSP%202020\\_Final.pdf](https://datamart.kytc.ky.gov/SHSP/SAFER%20KY%20SHSP%202020_Final.pdf) for members who are interested in viewing it.

C. Other Updates

Doug Taylor shared there are an excessive number of requests for discretionary programs, but the funds and ability to process and review those requests are extremely limited. He anticipates the governor making an announcement by the end of March that those requests ranked as ten will be the only ones filled. He encouraged all local officials to contact him on a case by case basis to see if he can help in any way. He also reminded them that each county gets up to \$80,000 for drainage, and since this money is not competitive, counties should apply.

Luke Hill reminded the committee the next meeting will be April 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in person, if possible. Mr. Hill is monitoring HB561 filed yesterday in the state legislature regarding gas tax information.

Judge Henry thanked local and state transportation workers who worked around the clock the last couple of weeks during the winter weather. He also appreciates all the work the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet does to keep Kentucky roads safe.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Public Comments

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

A motion was made by Mike Baker and seconded by Brian Wright to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

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Judge Steve Henry, Chairman

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