

Southern TTAP Center  
Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma  
BIA Regions

Steering Committee Meeting  
March 14, 2023  
10am – 12pm CST

## **MINUTES**

### **10:00am FHWA Welcome and Introductions**

- There were 5 in attendance via zoom and 21 present.
- Welcome and request for contact information sheet be completed and left on the table before leaving.
- Dr. Bruce Russell gave Invocation.
- Morgan Manning, FHWA Tribal Technical Assistance Program Manager presentation of U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration restructuring the Office of Transportation Workforce Development and Technology Deployment.
- Compared LTAP and TTAP programs.
- Next generation branding - “One TTAP – Seven Centers”
- Collaborate and Partner to provide the highway transportation community with resources and technologies under one organization.
- Listed Opportunities for Centers – Conferences and Initiatives
- Partnering with National Center for Rural Road Safety (RRSC)

### **10:15am Southern TTAP Center Co-Director Introductions, Steering Committee Guidelines**

- There were 5 in attendance via zoom and 21 presents.
- Kim Johnson, Southern TTAP Center Co-Director introduces herself. She also asked Gary Snyder, Director of Center for Local Government Technology (CLGT) Dr. Bruce Russell, OSU Civil Engineering Professor

and Southern TTAP Center Co-Director to make their introductions. Kim invites all TTAP staff to introduce themselves including Samantha Shepherd, Jeannie Luginbill, Jess Mutschelknaus and Jana Snow.

- Presentation with guidelines from Notice of Funding Opportunities

### **10:30am            Steering Committee Introductions**

- Sonny Biggoose – Ponca Tribe – working on a truck stop on Hwy 177, pushing for drivers to be able to park and go
- Dr. Rhonda Fair – ODOT Director of Tribal Coordination
- Amy Hill – Muscogee (Creek) Nation – Tribal Transportation Coordinator – She is looking forward to resources and classes TTAP can provide. She is doing all she can to be a voice for Tribal Nations
- Terry Holman – Senior Transportation manager - Chickasaw Nation – ODOT Tribal Advisory Board – recently awarded 13 design grants and bridge programs
- Matthew McSpadden – BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region. He covers Kansas, Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma, and Texas. Barry Hughes is Regional Director
- Michael Lynn – Cherokee Nation – Director of Infrastructure and Transportation – Happy to see a more local TTAP center
- Skyler Mathews – Transportation Director Kaw Nation – Currently working on overhauling and upgrading roads and bridges and a cemetery expansion. Partnering with county to maintain 800 miles of roadway.
- Chris McCray – Transportation Manager of Pawnee Nation – He believes the steering committee is a good thing and vital to the future of transportation
- Kendra McGeady – via Zoom – Northeast Ok Tribal Consortium / Grand Gateway – her office is working to push on demand transit technology. Glad to see TTAP returning to local centers.

- Theo Neido – Assistant Director of Transportation Comanche Nation – He has been an inspector for 10 years and has recently moved into the Asst. Director position. He is working on resurfacing local schools and roads leading to them. They have completed 8 and have 5 more to do. They have been partnering with county.
- Lisa Wamego – Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kansas – They are working on maintaining roads and bridges.
- Lonnie Hammer – Southern Plains BIA – Background in Maintenance and Construction with one tribe. He is learning to work with the Southern Plains region and connect all the tribes he is working with.
- Chris Sindone – Road Program Director Arapaho (via Zoom) works with Tribal Transit, road maintenance and construction. He is currently working on Driveway Assistance Project in Duncan. He has taken LTAP courses and is a Roads Scholar. Started as a general laborer and is excited to be on the committee.
- Allen Laughrun, MA – FHWA Tribal Coordinator, Oklahoma. Worked similar position in Tennessee and is an Airforce Veteran. Has been in Oklahoma three and a half years. Currently working on the Tiger and other opportunities for funding.
- Darcel Collins – (via Zoom) FHWA Tribal Coordinator, Oklahoma. Works in the Eastern Region and is handing off some of her area to Allen. Excited about TTAP moving local.
- Walt Catlett – Catlett Engineering – He is looking forward to progress with the TTAP program. He is an instructor and is excited to work with TTAP as well as LTAP.

## 11:00am Break

## 11:15am Review and Discussion of Needs Assessment and 2023 Annual Work Plan

- Kim requested the assessment be completed by Friday, March 17 at 5pm.
- **Class suggestions:** There were a few suggestions/requests for classes to be offered
  - Chris Sindone Updated GIS systems.  
Project Inspection Site
  - Amy Hill Would like to see more Roads and Transit related topics and question for the assessment.  
Kim Johnson requested Amy to email questions needed to gear assessment toward transit.
  - Dr. Rhonda Fair Would also like to see more transit related such as the NTTFI Inventory system.  
Environmental Regulations  
Understanding NOFO  
Grants Administration (how to get funding)  
(Morgan had mentioned there will be Fed Aid 101 online coming out this summer.)  
Would like to see Road Star program reinstated.
  - Chris McCray Request for Equipment classes  
GIS training (Morgan had mentioned they have a GIS101 online)
  - Morgan Manning Mentioned a need for CDL – Kim mentioned the ELDT Train the Trainer class and Sonny Biggoose agreed it is a great way to save time and money.
  - Theo Niedo Questioned whether LTAP class completion would transfer to TTAP.
  - Skyler Mathews Requested classes om drones and geospatial licensing.

## **Meetings and Hosting**

- Lisa Wamego Offered to host a meeting for all of Kansas.
- Theo Niedo Suggested drawing lines based on tribe regions.
- Dr. Rhonda Fair Suggested lines to be more tribe friendly.  
Suggested it might be a good idea to piggyback on OTTC or have it before.
- Michael Lynn Suggested having lines taken away and just have meeting sites in four different areas and all are welcome, and Dr. Russell agreed. There was a vote taken and majority agreed with no lines and just having meetings available for all.
- Dr. Bruce Russell Offered using OSU properties although he wondered if it would be more accepted to be at a site by one of the tribes.
- Terry Holman His tribe could possibly host.
- Chris Sindone Offered a meeting at Watonga Convention Center.
- Chris McCray Like Rhonda's suggestion to have a meeting May 9<sup>th</sup> prior to OTTC meeting.

- Kim will email a link to current training courses available and requirements to achieve Roads Scholar certificate and to TTAP website
- Morgan mentioned TTAP does not have a logo. There is a nomination through FHWA for members to submit a logo.
- Where will the May 16, 2023, steering committee meeting be? The majority vote was to remain in Stillwater however Kim will take suggestions via email by Friday.
- Chris McCray reminded members of the Tribal Transportation Training April 24-26 in Glenpool, OK at the Glenpool conference Center. Go to [www.crosstimbersconsulting.com](http://www.crosstimbersconsulting.com) to see more information.

- Kim reminded all to leave contact information sheets, email assessments or use the QR code, she will email link to Roads Scholar requirements and to TTAP website.

**12:00pm Meeting adjourned**