



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

BY-LAWS

of the

South Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization

A Program of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association

Article I - Creation

The South Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SCORTPO) is hereby created by the Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA) in response to federal legislation created originally as a part of TEA-21 and other federal highway legislation created thereafter. Specifically, federal legislation calls for local government officials, other appropriate entities and organizations, as well as interested members of the public, to have a forum to discuss regional transportation needs and priorities and to develop a regional transportation plan for input into the statewide plan of state departments of transportation.

The SCORTPO region shall be contiguous with the SODA service area and shall include all areas within the counties of Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray and Pontotoc.

Article II - Responsibilities

The responsibilities of SCORTPO shall be:

- To provide a forum for local elected officials and community leaders to learn about and discuss relevant regional transportation topics;
- To evaluate and recommend projects with a regional impact to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation;
- To develop an intermodal regional mobility strategy, including road, rail, transit, aviation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for the sixteen-county area;
- To better integrate and coordinate regional transportation plans and priorities with the areas Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and other regional and local community economic development plans.
- To serve as a clearinghouse for transportation related data, research and information; and
- To pursue other relevant transportation activities, research and projects as may be determined in the future.



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Article III - Membership

1. Two (2) members shall represent municipal governments. (Mayor or designee from 1-2 cities/towns)
2. Two (2) members shall represent county governments. (Commissioner or designee from 1-2 counties)
3. One (1) member representing each Native American Tribe headquartered in the SODA/SCORTPO service area.
4. Two (2) to six (6) members selected from the following entities:
 - a. Council of Government
 - b. ODOT - Division Engineer or Designee
 - c. Airport Authority
 - e. Rail Operator
 - f. Trucking/Distribution
 - g. Public/Private Transportation
 - h. Economic Development/Industrial Authority
 - i. Advisory/Non-Voting:
 - (1) FHWA, FTA
 - (2) Legislators
 - (3) ODOT Planning
 - (4) ODOT Transit
 - (5) State Agency such as ODEQ, SHPO, Agriculture/Wildlife, Forestry

Article IV - Officers

1. SCORTPO shall elect from among its members a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.
2. Terms of office for all officers shall be for two (2) years beginning at the first organizational meeting of SCORTPO.
3. In the event an officer is unable to fill his/her term, SCORTPO shall elect a replacement, at a regular or special meeting, who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
4. In the case of a tie vote the chair will be deemed to have the authority to break the tie.
5. In the event the officers are absent or unable to preside over meetings SCORTPO may appoint a chair pro tem.



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Article V - Meetings

1. Meetings throughout the year shall be as established by the SCORTPO Policy Board.
2. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. In the event of a regular or special meeting of SCORTPO where a quorum is NOT established, members present, if totaling at least five (5) members, may make the decision to conduct the meeting by executive order. This would allow those present to take action on non-financial agenda items necessary to carry out the requirements of SCORTPO set forth by regulation. This could include, but not be limited to, approval of minutes, consent agenda-type items, discussion and/or questions of guest speakers or visitors, acceptance of reports from staff members, modifications, updates, or changes to the Public Participation Plan or Planning Work Program or discussion of new business to be brought forth on a future agenda.
3. When a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of all members present shall be required for the vote to pass.
4. All meetings of the SCORTPO Policy Board shall be open to the public and shall comply with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act of the State of Oklahoma. All SCORTPO records shall comply with the provisions of the Open Records Act of the State of Oklahoma.
5. Rules of procedure may be as determined by the membership. If rules of procedure are not established by the membership, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the conduct of SCORTPO meetings.

Article VI- Attendance

Board membership shall become vacant when a member is absent at any three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.

Article VII - Designated Alternate

Alternate voting is a mechanism for a member of a voting body to delegate his or her voting right to another appointee. Alternate voting ensures a quorum at meetings where all the board members cannot attend. Board members shall have confidence in the judgment of the alternate appointed to vote for them.



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Policy Board

1. A voting member may designate an alternate annually in writing on forms approved by the Policy Board to represent him/her. These forms must be on file with South Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SCORTPO) by January 31 (annually).
2. Alternates will be allowed to represent and vote on agenda items for one regularly scheduled meeting per year.
3. Appointment of an alternate is an option for each Policy Board Member to exercise but not a requirement.
4. Policy Board Chairman shall be notified in writing of the reappointment or replacement of a board member's alternate. An alternate may vote only in the absence of the regular member he or she represents.
5. Alternates shall have knowledge of parliamentary procedures and an understanding of policy coordination with the organization.
6. A voting member authorizes the alternate to speak or vote on their behalf.

Committee Membership

Alternate committee representatives may be appointed and approved by the acting Policy Board using same method and procedures.

Article VIII- Committees

Members of SCORTPO may establish committees as deemed necessary or desirable in order for the policy board to carry out its purposes in the best and most efficient manner. The Chair shall nominate committee members who shall then be appointed by action of the policy board at any meeting in compliance with Article V, above.



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Article IX- Amendments

Members of the SCORTPO may recommend amendments to these by-laws at a regular or special meeting. Any amendment shall be approved by action of the Board of Trustees of SODA.

Article X - Duration

The duration of SCORTPO shall be in perpetuity unless terminated by action of the Board of Trustees of SODA.

***Adopted February 26, 2021 by the
Southern Oklahoma Development Association
Board of Directors***