TPO Executive Board Minutes
9 a.m., December 21, 2011
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on December 21 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Mike Hammond, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*	Perrin Anderson	Sevier County *for Mayor Larry Waters*
*	Mike Hammond	Knox County Commission
*	Dale Hurst	Lenoir City *for Mayor Aikens*
*	Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*	Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*	Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*	Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville *for Vice Mayor Joe Bailey*
*	Cindy Pionke	Knox County *for Mayor Tim Burchett*
*	Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*	Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
*	Eddie Simpson	Loudon County *for Mayor Estelle Herron*
*	Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
	Jeff Welch	Director, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
	Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
	Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
	Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
	Bryan Boone	City of Maryville
	Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Don Brown	East Tennessee Development District
	Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)
	Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
	Alan Huff	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Steve King	City of Knoxville
	Eddie Mannis	City of Knoxville
	Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
	Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
	Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
	Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
	Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
	Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

* Voting Member

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of September 28, 2011 minutes
■ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Presenter: Mike Hammond, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 28, 2011, TPO Executive Board minutes. **Attachment #1.**

Discussion: N/A

Action: A motion was made by Brenda Palmer (City of Knoxville) and seconded by Dale Hurst (Lenoir City) to approve the September 28 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Approval of a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Technical Committee Recommends Approval**
   ■ Action   □ Possible Action   □ Discussion   □ Information

   Presenter: TPO Staff

   Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments and staff recommends approval. **Attachment #2- Resolution.**
   a. Amend TIP Project 2011-081 (Tazewell Pk. and Emory Rd. Intersection Improvements). Increase FY 2012 total funding for ROW from $600,000 ($480,000 federal and $120,000 state) to $1,464,000 ($1,171,200 federal and $292,800 state) at the request of TDOT. **Attachment #2a**.
   b. Add TIP Project 2011-083 (UT Joint Institute for Advanced Materials). Add $562,500 ($450,000 federal and $112,500 local) to FY 2012 for PE and $21,935,001 (17,548,001 federal and $4,387,000 local) to FY 2012 for CON. The new research campus is located off Alcoa Hwy along Fort Loudoun Lake. The local match is being provided by The University of Tennessee. **Attachment #2b.**
   c. Add TIP Project 2011-231 (KAT Transit Vehicles – CMAQ Awarded Funds from TDOT). The project is to add $3,600,000 to FY2012 for the purchase of three 40-foot diesel hybrid-electric buses and three 35-foot trolley diesel hybrid-electric buses for replacements to the existing fleet. **Attachment #2c.**

   Discussion: Staff was asked about the funding breakdown of the KAT Transit Vehicles. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that this project was 100 percent federally funded, and required no local match.

   Action: A motion was made by Mayor Madeline Rogero (City of Knoxville) and seconded by Mayor Don Mull (City of Alcoa) to approve the Amendments and Additions to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Motion to Approve the Ranking of TDOT Highway Priority Projects for the Urban Area**
   ■ Action   □ Possible Action   □ Discussion   □ Information
   Technical Committee Recommends Approval

   Presenter: TPO Staff

   Item Summary: Staff has included two documents for your review regarding ranking of highway projects submitted to the TPO by TDOT. **Attachment #3a** is a spreadsheet that includes the ranking of the TDOT projects as approved by the Technical Committee members. **Attachment #3b** is a project location map. **Attachment #3c** is a list of projects identified from previous priority lists as significant that are in addition to those in the ranked list.

   Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) explained that there are three project lists included in Attachment #3a – an FY 2013 list, an FY 2014-15 list, and a Totally Funded list. Staff initially prioritized the projects based on six criteria: congestion, system preservation, mobility options, safety and security, project readiness, and economic benefits. Those lists were then reviewed and scored by the Technical Committee and adjusted to reflect that feedback. He read aloud the projects listed in Attachment #3a. Angie Midgett (TDOT) explained that they need the list no later than the end of January, but preferred it by mid-January. Mayor Madeline Rogero (City of Knoxville) asked what was the impact was of voting on these project lists today. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that the list is something that TDOT needs to get from the TPO each year. The first list (FY 2013) is a prioritization of the most immediate projects for the next year, however the second set (FY 2014-15) has more flexibility, as it would be a part of another prioritized list next year. Angie Midgett (TDOT) added that the first set (FY 2013) are projects ready for funding, the second set (FY 2014-15) are also probably ready, but that there is not enough funding to go around so this prioritization helps in distributing that funding. Mayor Madeline

Rogero (City of Knoxville) followed up, asking if there would be time for ask further questions on the second set of projects (FY 2014-15). Jeff Welch (TPO) replied that there would be.

Ed Shouse (ETDD) asked if Right of Way had been acquired on the Motor Mile for the Alcoa Highway project. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that Right of Way had not been acquired, that part of the project would come after further study. Ed Shouse (ETDD) asked if this project would utilize previous studies that had been done on the corridor to control its access. Mayor Tom Taylor (City of Maryville) replied that it would. Mayor Don Mull (City of Alcoa) commented that that such an endeavor would be expensive and that just doing utilities is a major cost. Mayor Tom Taylor (City of Maryville) added that the corridor has a major problem because currently the corridor serves both local traffic and through traffic that moves between Maryville/Alcoa and Knoxville. This project would separate those movements. He added that it would be like Kingston Pike and Interstate 40 in Knoxville.

Action: A motion was made by Mayor Don Mull (City of Alcoa) and seconded by Mayor Tom Taylor (City of Maryville) to approve the Ranking of TDOT Highway Priority Projects for the Urban Area. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of a Resolution to Expand the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries to Include the City of Oak Ridge**
   ■ Action   □ Possible Action   □ Discussion   □ Information
   Technical Committee Recommends Approval

   Presenter: TPO Staff

   Item Summary: Staff has prepared a technical memorandum that supports the expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries to include the city of Oak Ridge. Staff and Technical Committee recommend approval of the expansion. **Attachments #4a- Resolution, #4b-** memorandum.

   Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) provided some background on the process He indicated that Oak Ridge had approached the TPO to look at being added to the TPO Planning Area, and that from that request TPO staff and Technical Committee looked at other areas as well and concluded that adding Oak Ridge made sense in particular due to its economic ties to the Knoxville Region. Mike Hammond (Knox County Commission) commented that the Pellissippi Parkway corridor has the same problems as Alcoa Highway due to this connection.

   Mayor Tom Beehan (City of Oak Ridge) addressed the Board, beginning that if Oak Ridge could go back to the beginning, it would have gone about this entire process differently, but that he was appreciative of the consideration that Oak Ridge has been given. He commented that coming in to Knoxville from Oak Ridge for this meeting; he wished he had been able to video tape the traffic on Pellissippi Parkway because it illustrates the connection and the challenges along the corridor. He said that adding Oak Ridge to the TPO Planning Area was an important recognition for Oak Ridge and especially important as relates to the regional nature of Plan East Tennessee (PlanET). Mayor Tom Taylor (City of Maryville) said that he was disappointed in how we got here, but that he wanted to be clear that he was 100 percent in favor of the move to add Oak Ridge.

   Mayor Madeline Rogero (City of Knoxville) asked how this would impact the funding distribution in the region. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that Oak Ridge receives their own funding that is outside of what the TPO allocates; however their projects would now go through the TPO Executive Board for approval. He continued that the Board is allowed to spend its dollars outside the Urbanized Area if it chose to, however updated Bylaws have been drafted that would need to be approved after a decision to add Oak Ridge is made, and that in those drafted bylaws there is language that STP funds could be allocated outside the Urbanized Area, but would require a 2/3 majority. This allows the Board flexibility if it decides such an allocation is in its best interests. Mayor Tom Beehan (City of Oak Ridge) added that their interest in joining the TPO was to be apart of the planning process.

   Action: A motion was made by Mayor Tom Taylor and seconded by Ed Shouse to approve the Resolution to Expand the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries to Include the City of Oak Ridge. The motion carried with Angie Midgett (TDOT) abstaining from the vote.

5. **Presentation of Amendments to the TPO Bylaws and Prospectus**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ■ Discussion ☐ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a drafts of the TPO Bylaws, MOU's, and Prospectus. Major updates and revisions are presented in this draft. **Attachment #5**- Overview of Prospectus and Bylaws Updates, **#5a**- Draft Technical Committee Bylaws, **#5b**- Draft Executive Board Bylaws, **#5c**-Draft Bicycle Advisory Committee Bylaws, **#5d**-Revised MOU related to Regional conformity analysis and regional modeling, **#5e**- Draft Prospectus Update.

Discussion: Alan Huff (TPO) emphasized that this was the first reading of the draft Bylaws and Prospectus documents, which in their current form assume the addition of Oak Ridge. He continued by emphasizing the language regarding the STP funding question that was brought up by Mayor Madeline Rogero (City of Knoxville) in the discussion about adding the City of Oak Ridge to Planning Area, and emphasizing that this draft proposes a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board to allocate outside of the Planning Area. Other changes are essentially updates based on projects and programs that are relevant now and updates in language and product names, such as the Mobility Plan. Mayor Tom Taylor (City of Maryville) asked if we are currently able to allocate STP funds outside of the Urbanized Area. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that we have never done it before, that nothing in the bylaws articulated that we cannot, but that the new language articulates that.

Ed Shouse (ETDD) asked what would be the impact on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Kelley Segars (TPO) explained that the BAC was not the same as the Executive Board, with mandatory positions that must be filled, but that it seeks out interested parties from member communities.

Ed Shouse (ETDD) asked for clarification about the involvement of the Lakeway TPO. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that they are a part of the Knoxville TPO process due to part of their planning area being included in the Non-Attainment Area.

6. **Annual Obligations for Highway Projects in the Urban Area**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion ■ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT has provided to the TPO a list of obligated projects for fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010, to Sept. 30, 2011). Approximately $24,485,216 was obligated to highway projects in our TPO area. **Attachment #6-** List of obligated projects for Fiscal Year 2011.

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) provided an overview of the purpose for the annual listing of projects. Noting some of the major transportation projects that funds were obligated to during the last fiscal year.

7. **EPA's Preliminary Recommendations for Designations for the Revised 2008 Ozone Standards**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion ■ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: In a letter dated Dec. 8th, 2011 EPA presented to the State of Tennessee its preliminary recommendations of areas of the state that are nonattainment or contribute to the violation of the standards. The preliminary recommendation for counties to be included in the Knoxville nonattainmnet area is: Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Sevier Counties in their entireties, and a portion of Cocke County. EPA is recommending that Jefferson County be no longer be included in the ozone nonattainment area. **Attachment #7-** Letter from EPA.

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) gave overview. Dale Hurst (Lenoir City) noted that we are characterized as marginally Non-Attainment as a function of this moving of the yard stick and asked if Mike Conger could elaborate on this. Mike Conger (TPO) explained that previously the standard was 84 ppb (parts per billion) and at that standard we were in compliance, or under that number. The new

standard is 75 ppb, and although barely, our region was over that threshold. He noted that although there may be multiple sensors in a county, it only takes one sensor over that threshold to violate the standard.

Mayor Ralph McGill (Town of Farragut) asked what measures will take place as a result of our region surpassing the threshold. Mike Conger (TPO) said that ultimately that was up to the State and that we were waiting for that report. He added that although over the standard, we were not high enough for mandatory measures to be imposed by the federal government, such as vehicle emission inspections. Some actions that are already taking place may be adequate given how close we are to meeting the standard, such as improvements TVA is already making to their plants and vehicle fleet improvements as the fleet turns over.

Ed Shouse (ETDD) commented that Jefferson County appeared to be ahead of us, having been removed from Non-Attainment, and asked the reason for this. Mike Conger (TPO) explained that the sensors in Jefferson County were only barely under the threshold, at 74 ppb, whereas 75 ppb meant Non-Attainment. He continued that our region was entirely within the range of 70 to 77 ppb, so only barely surpassing the threshold. He commented that Jefferson may simply be far enough down wind whereas the Knoxville Region essentially sits in a bowl that traps everything that blows in from the west.

8. Other Business

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

Federal Legislation Update
Jeff Welch (TPO) informed the Board that a highway authorization bill passed, with a 3.6 percent reduction, which given everything going on right now is not a major cut. He explained that this bill also includes triggers that if unmet, could result in further cuts, however that may change.

Executive Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building

Technical Committee Meeting, January 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building

Public Meeting about Western Avenue
Angie Midgett (TDOT) informed the Board that there would be a public meeting about the Western Avenue project, which runs from Texas to Keith that would be held on January 17, 2012 at the LT Ross Building, from 5-7 pm. Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that the project includes a 5-lane realignment, including a new bridge, shoulders, etc. and that staff has a copy of the plan that it can email out to members if desired.

8. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

Discussion: N/A

9. Adjournment