

TPO Executive Board Minutes
9:00 a.m., June 27, 2012
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on June 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Ralph McGill, Vice-Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

* Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Larry Waters</i>
* Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, <i>for Mayor Madeline Rogero</i>
* John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Ed Mitchell</i>
* Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
* Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
* Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
* Cindy Pionke	Knox County <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
* Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
* Eddie Simpson	Loudon County <i>for Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
John Benditz	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Terry Bobrowski	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
Tom Fowler	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Tanisha Hall	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Sandi Hoff	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)
Mike Patterson	ETHRA
Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge
Jeff Welch	Director, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Dori Caron	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Alan Huff	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

***voting members**

1. Approval of April 25, 2012 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of April 25, 2012 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

Attachment #1 – April 25, 2012 Minutes

Action: A Motion was made by Eddie Simpson (Loudon County) and seconded by Don Mull (City of Alcoa) to approve the April 25, 2012 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments and the Technical Committee recommends approval.

Attachment #2a - Resolution

- a. Amend TIP Project 2011-081 (Tazewell Pk and Emory Rd Intersection Improvements). Amend the project by adding FY2013 STP funds for CON in the amount of \$2,200,000 total (\$1,760,000 federal and \$440,000 state).

Attachment #2b - TIP Project 2011-081

- b. Add TIP Project 2011-085 (Knoxville SmartWay ITS Expansion). Amend the project by adding FY2013 IM funds for CON in the amount of \$3,576,700 total (\$3,219,030 federal and \$357,670 state).

Attachment #2c - TIP Project 2011-085

- c. Add TIP Project 2011-086 (Knoxville SmartWay ITS Communications Upgrade). Amend the project by adding FY2013 IM funds for CON in the amount of \$1,500,000 total (\$1,350,000 federal and \$150,000 state).

Attachment #2d - TIP Project 2011-086

Discussion: Bryan Berry (MPC) reviewed the proposed Amendments. Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that the state is expanding the ITS west to Lenoir City.

Action: A Motion was made by Ed Shouse (ETDD) and seconded by Cindy Pionke (Knox County) to approve the Amendments to the TIP. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Quarterly TIP Project Status Update

Item Summary: Staff will begin a quarterly email to municipalities and entities with projects in the current Transportation Improvement Program and ask for project status updates. This report will assist the TPO in monitoring projects and allow for more accountability of Surface Transportation Program funds.

Attachment #3 – Sample Quarterly Project Update

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that currently the TPO has a Surface Transportation Program (STP) fund balance of 35 - 38 million dollars. Mr. Welch further noted that at the last meeting staff encouraged jurisdictions to move these monies out into projects and get them obligated, as well as move existing projects along. With the Quarterly Project Update, staff will be asking jurisdictions to identify where projects are in the process and to also identify any issues with moving the projects to completion. The Project Update will be a tool that staff can use to assist with expediting completion of the projects and will also serve to keep everyone informed on a regular basis. The first update will be in July and quarterly thereafter.

4. A Motion to Approve an Amendment to the Bylaws of the Technical Committee and Executive Board to add a Voting Member From the City of Oak Ridge

Item Summary: Metropolitan Planning Area expansion to include the City of Oak Ridge was approved by the Executive Board and concurred with by the Governor. Now that the City of Oak Ridge is within the TPO's Metropolitan Planning Area and the new 2010 urbanized area they are eligible to become a voting member of the Technical Committee and the Executive Board. As required by the bylaws this amendment has been listed as an agenda item and discussed at a previous meeting. The Technical Committee recommends to the Executive Board that they amend their bylaws to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member.

- a. Motion to Amend the Bylaws of the Technical Committee to Include the City of Oak Ridge as a Voting Member.

Attachment #4a – Draft Technical Committee Bylaws

- b. Motion to Recommend to the Executive Board Approval of the Amended Executive Board Bylaws to include Oak Ridge as Voting Member

Attachment #4b – Draft Executive Board Bylaws

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated that the Technical Committee approved the Amendments to their Bylaws to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member at their June 10th meeting. Mr. Welch further noted that in addition to including the City of Oak Ridge, as a result of the expansion of our Urbanized Area Boundaries (US Census Bureau 2010), TPO staff will be meeting with the City of Clinton and the Towns of Loudon and Oliver Springs over the next 8-10 months to assess their participation as well. Mr. Welch, referencing Article XI of the Draft Bylaws, noted a statement had been added to reflect that the STP funds will be spent within the Urbanized Areas unless there is a 2/3 vote of Technical Committee and Executive Board to allow the use of these funds outside of the Urbanized Areas. This allows TPO to address any emerging issues outside of the areas. Mr. Welch clarified that a population of at least 5,000 is required to be a voting member.

Action: A Motion was made by Perrin Anderson (Sevier County) and seconded by Ed Shouse (ETDD) to approve adoption of the Executive Board Bylaws, as presented, to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Release of Final Designations for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Item Summary: EPA recently published final ozone designations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. The effective date is July 20, 2012. The area in Nonattainment includes Anderson (part), Blount County, and Knox County.

Attachment #5 – Map of Old and New Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) stated that in March of 2011 our area was brought into Attainment pursuant to the 1997 standards. He noted we are now back into Nonattainment based on the 2008 standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb). Mr. Conger also noted the good news is that under the 2008 standard, the overall area of Nonattainment did shrink considerably. The new area consists of all of Knox and Blount Counties as well as 2 census tracts in Anderson County located around the Bull Run steam plant, a major emission source. Mr. Conger stated that of the 9 ozone monitors located in our region and reflected on the attached map, only one of them exceeded the new standard which was the Look Rock monitor in Blount County. Mr. Conger further stated that the EPA is looking for these areas to come back into Nonattainment by 2015 which he feels is obtainable. It was clarified that the numbers reflect a rolling 3 year average. Now being reported are the 2009, 2010, and 2011 averages. This summer 2009 will be dropped and 2012 added. 2009 was a particularly good year for ozone with unusually low numbers being reported. Mr. Conger further clarified that the air quality standards have to be reviewed every 5 years by EPA. The ozone standard when revised again as early as next year may in fact be lowered, which could have a significant impact since several monitors in the area are barely meeting the current 75 ppb standard.

6. Summary of Regional ITS Architecture Update Study

Item Summary: The Knoxville Regional ITS Architecture Update Study is nearing its conclusion. A summary overview of the final Regional ITS Architecture and ITS projects identified in the Strategic Deployment Plan will be presented.

Attachment #6 – ITS

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) noted that TPO staff, with the assistance from consultants from Kimley-Horn & Associates have been updating the Regional ITS Architecture Plan. It was clarified that ITS stands for Intelligent Transportation Systems and involves any technological solutions to improve the efficiency of the transportation systems including both the roadway and transit systems. Mr. Conger introduced Tom Fowler and John Benditz from Kimley-Horn.

Mr. Fowler noted that they are currently in the process of seeking final comments in a draft document from the stakeholders and plan to complete this in July. He noted examples of ITS including TDOT's SmartWays System as well as the arterial signal systems and noted numerous benefits ITS provides. Mr. Fowler stated that an ITS Architecture Plan is required by the FTA and FHWA in order to receive federal funding for ITS projects and noted that it is essentially a long range plan for how to deploy, integrate and operate ITS. The original Plan for Knoxville was developed in 2000 and last updated in 2003. The Knoxville ITS Plan has 3 main components: The ITS Architecture Plan, the ITS Deployment Plan, and a Sevier County Master Plan. Mr. Fowler noted several key benefits to this study: It provides a vision of how ITS can be deployed in the region both now and in the future, it supports the development of an integrated and interoperable system in the region, and it also encourages the use of standards and shared resources to maximize return on investment. Mr. Fowler also noted they believe this information assists agencies in seeking federal funding for ITS projects. He further stated that the ITS Architecture Plan meets USDOT requirements.

Mr. Fowler stated they hosted 4 stakeholder workshops since October of 2011 in addition to 2 additional workshops in Sevier County looking to address their unique tourist corridor needs. Representation was good, consistent and included federal, state, regional, county, and municipal agencies as well as representatives from the private sector. These workshops involved 3 primary steps: identification of existing ITS inventory, looking at individual ITS service packages available that would meet the needs of this region, and identification of projects for deployment within the region. The focus of the service packages are traffic management, traveler information, emergency management, transit management, and archival data. Also identified were projects that agencies wanted to deploy in the region. These involved short- (up to 5 years), mid- (5-10 years), and long- (10+ years) term projects, with short term needs remaining the focus throughout the workshops. Adaptive Signal Control was a focus of the Sevier County workshops. Mr. Fowler noted next steps include completing the final document, developing a regular system maintenance plan and also updating the Plan on a regular basis. He also noted all of the project documents are available on the project website.

Mike Conger (TPO) discussed using this Plan going forward. He noted that TPO is looking to develop an ongoing Planning for Operations emphasis which involves focusing on integrating these types of management and operations strategies into the long range planning process. TPO staff wants to develop an ongoing regional operations task force and get the system operators involved in the process. Mr. Conger noted that this would assist the region in focusing on smaller operations type projects. The task force would be engaged as TPO finalizes the Long Range Mobility Plan Update, due next year.

7. Call for Studies for FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)
Item Summary: Discussion and update on the draft FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated staff is working to prepare the final draft of the FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to encompass the period from October 2012 to September of 2014. The Program identifies activities that TPO staff and participants will undertake with regards to special studies such as the Long Range Mobility Plan and Planning for Operations

Task Force. He asked that jurisdictions contact staff if there are any special studies your communities would like done or any studies with which you would like assistance in obtaining funding.

8. Presentation on Plan ET Livability Report Card

Item Summary: The five working groups of PlanET met recently to discuss the major drivers that will impact the region in the next 20 years. These drivers were identified in the Livability Report Card prepared for PlanET.

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated as part of the PlanET process a series of forums were held in April. Good feedback was obtained although there was representation at each meeting from a group of individuals that feel PlanET is part of a government initiative to take away their property rights. The 5 working groups, who met 2 weeks ago, have the following focuses; Transportation and Infrastructure, Community Health, Environment, Economy and Workforce, and Housing. The groups identified major drivers in this area that need to be addressed. Of significant concern was the dispersed development pattern followed by a large shift in demographics. Additionally, concern was expressed about adequately serving the needs of the ageing and disabled populations. Mr. Welch noted these PlanET initiatives were being done in concert with long range planning efforts further noting a strong link between the efforts of PlanET and the TPO. Mr. Welch stated the next phase of PlanET will be the development of a scenario planning tool. Staff will be completing the existing trends scenario in the next 30 days and will then looking at different options develop a future trends scenario. A kickoff meeting for scenario maps will be in October. Staff will also focus on having an increased number of smaller meetings. Discussions have also surrounded developing regional symposiums, designed to position us as a major player and to focus on the above-mentioned 5 areas in addition to education. Mr. Welch clarified that 100 percent of the funding for PlanET was secured via a competitive HUD grant process. These funds are being matched with local staff hours from TPO, MPC, the City of Knoxville, and Knox County plus hours from the City of Maryville and Blount County. Mr. Welch noted that the Livability Report Card is available on the TPO website and hard copies are also available.

9. Other Business

Federal Legislation Update: The 9th continuous resolution from Congress to extend the provisions of SAFTEA-LU is set to expire on June 30. There may be a 2-year deal by the end of the month with approximately the same dollar amounts.

TDOT Update: Angie Midgett noted that TDOT has created a new Environmental Advisory Council that will have their first meeting in July. This group will focus on TDOT's commitment to protecting the state's natural resources while allowing TDOT to build and maintain their transportation system. Ms. Midgett also noted that the decision was made regarding the Pellissippi Parkway Extension and Alternative A was chosen. The next step is for TDOT to do additional environmental studies with the final environmental impact study being completed in the spring of 2013. Ms. Midgett introduced Tanisha Hall, Long Range Planning Division Director and Sandi Hoff, Manager of TDOT's Research Program.

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

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

10. Public comment

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

11. Adjournment