

TPO Executive Board Minutes
April 25, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Main Assembly Room
City County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 25, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Tom Taylor chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Wayne Blasius	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Billy Pickel	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Randy Smith	Chair, Knox County Commission
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	

***voting members**

1. Motion to Approve March 28, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the March 28, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Wayne Blasius to approve the March 28, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Active Knox Speaker Series Presentation

Item Summary: Jana Lynott, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, Livable Communities Team, AARP Public Policy Institute will discuss “What Makes a Community Livable?” in the context of AARP’s work on creating a network of Age-Friendly Communities in which travel is safer for people of all ages.

Discussion: Jeff Welch introduced Jana Lynott along with other local and regional AARP partners in attendance today. Ms. Lynott noted AARP is deeply committed to the health and well-being of our entire nation and is now growing local presence nationally to assist communities with becoming livable for folks of all ages. She has been focusing on development of the ground breaking *Livability Index: Great Neighborhoods for all Ages* web-based tool which has 7 categories which she touched on individually after reviewing current and projected national demographics. Those categories are: Housing, Neighborhood, Transportation, Environment, Health, Engagement and Opportunity.

Ms. Lynott highlighted the many various ways livable communities serve to enhance not only individual lifestyles but also local economies and shared multiple examples of successful, mixed-use, compact communities across the country in both urban and suburban environments. Noting land use and the detail of design are crucial factors in planning and development she noted that AARP is promoting adoption of Open Streets policies nationwide. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr18/LivableCommunitiesForAllAges.pdf>

3. KAT Receives FTA Section 5339 (b) Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program Award Overview

Item Summary: The Federal Transit Administration has awarded Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) a \$3.6 million grant to purchase electric buses and charging equipment. The grant will fund the purchase of the first fully electric buses in KAT's fleet.

Discussion: Dawn Distler, Director of Transit, City of Knoxville noted KAT is planning to add these vehicles to their Sutherland route noting KAT will be the first city in Tennessee to use electric vehicles on a fixed route. They are currently out to bid for a vendor. KAT will also be exploring extended range electric vehicles which would allow greater flexibility in their overall mobility throughout the city. She further noted they continue to work towards changing their fleet over to alternative fuel vehicles that will work well for the city. It was also noted that KAT will be receiving the American Public Transportation Association's Gold Safety award next weekend. KAT, in an effort to enhance safety over the last few years and having changed policies and procedures across the entire agency, has significantly reduced what they call "preventable accidents" from 74 in 2016 to 6 in 2017.

4. Maryville Greenway Connectivity Study Presentation

Item Summary: Maryville recently completed a Greenway Connectivity Study, and staff will present on their methods and findings.

Discussion: David Prichard, Development Services Director, City of Maryville gave an overview of the study. He noted they decided to focus on the connectivity between schools which would serve not just the students but the entire city and which also included connecting existing parks when located nearby. After touching on the methodology used by the consultant he reviewed their study of existing conditions where gaps and barriers were identified to develop recommendations for future improvements. The study yielded a priority alignment for the city that connects the schools. He then reviewed some of the recommendations the study yielded including intersection enhancements and recommended facilities as well as highlighting probable costs of the priority alignment which was broken out into segments such that the city could move forward on a segment when funds became available. He closed touching on suggested "catalyst" projects that can utilize existing funding while significantly improving overall existing connectivity. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr18/MaryvilleConnectivityStudy.pdf>

5. Springbrook Farm Master/Vision Plan for Alcoa West Plant Redevelopment Presentation

Item Summary: An overview of the master plan for Spring Brook Farms in Alcoa will be presented.

Discussion: Jeremy Pearson, City Planner, City of Alcoa, touched on the history of the area to be developed noting this project was born out of a Smart Growth America initiative in 2014 and is reutilizing an industrialized area no longer being used, and which will ultimately encompass over 365 acres. The Plan includes town and retail centers, hotels and office spaces, various housing options including senior living opportunities, and community garden/farmers market spaces. Other Plan components include greenway connectivity, which fits well into local and regional greenway development, and a transit connectivity component which will work towards the establishment of local and regional transit.

Mr. Pearson noted that in gathering input and feedback during multiple public meetings in the fall of 2017 there was an incredible response from the community which was overwhelmingly positive. By late November 2017 both the Alcoa Municipal/Regional Planning Commission and Alcoa Board of Commissioners endorsed the Plan by unanimously adopting resolutions in support of the project. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr18/SpringbrookFarmPlan.pdf>

6. Overview of TDOT 3-Year Program of Projects

Item Summary: TDOT released its FY 2019-2021 Comprehensive Multimodal Program on April 5th as part of Governor Haslam’s overall state budget for consideration by the State Legislature. The TPO staff has summarized the highway projects with phases of work included for funding in the proposed program within our Region in a tabular and map format and will provide a brief overview for the Board’s information.

Discussion: Mike Conger reviewed TDOT’s recently released annual 3-year Program of Projects for our region. As it is part of Governor’s Haslam’s budget it was heard and subsequently passed by the legislature. Upon reviewing the list as presented in Attachment #2, Mr. Conger noted it can be considered final as the budget has been passed. He noted the Board approved a list of ranked project and phases of those projects late last year and that list was then submitted to TDOT. Mr. Conger noted that overall the final list correlates well with the list submitted by staff. Once finalized, he noted some projects will need to be incorporated into the TIP.

7. Draft TPO Outreach Plan Presentation

Item Summary: The Outreach Plan has been evaluated and updated by staff and will be available for public comment for 45 days. The Draft Plan can be viewed here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/news/2018/166/TPO-Outreach-Plan-Draft.pdf>

<https://knoxtrans.org/news/2018/166/TPO-Outreach-Plan-Appendices-Draft.pdf>

Discussion: Ally Ketron gave an overview of the recently updated Plan which is available for comment through May 16th. She began noting the Plan is a federally mandated document and serves as a guide for TPO staff. The Plan addresses multiple federal requirements and outlines methods to meet outreach goals and targets best practices in striving to ensure we are successful in implementing meaningful community engagement in all aspects of transportation planning. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr18/TPO Outreach Plan Update 2018.pdf](https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr18/TPO%20Outreach%20Plan%20Update%202018.pdf)

8. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Jeff Welch introduced Craig Luebke, a new transportation planner who began April 2nd and who will be managing the Transportation Improvement Program. He has replaced Elizabeth Watkins who took an opportunity with FHWA in Nashville.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.