

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
June 8, 2010  
9 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on June 8 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville. Bruce Wuethrich, Co Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Karen Estes	Community Action Committee Transit
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Gary Holiway	ETHDA
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kim Henry	Development Corporation of Knox County
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Kim Henry	TDC
Gary Wynn	citizen
Jim Mays	Vulcan Materials
John Sexton	Knox County Engineering
Terry Shupp	Knox County Parks and Recreation
Kevin Stoltenberg	City of Maryville
Jamie Rowe	Tazewell Pike neighborhood
Nathan Vatter	Tennessee Department of Transportation Regional Traffic
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

**\*voting members**

**Determination of Quorum**

### **1. Approval of May 11, 2010, Minutes**

**Presenter:** Bruce Wuethrich, Co Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of March 9, 2010, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Attachment #1 – May 11, 2010, minutes.**

**A motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Mark Donaldson to approve the May 11, 2010 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **2. Discussion of Draft FY 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO submitted a draft 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program to TDOT for review by TDOT and FHWA/FTA. That review has been complete and the document has been corrected/modified. **Attachment #2a - Final draft 2011-2012 Work Program.**

**Attachment #2b - TDOT comments and TPO Staff response. Attachment #2c - FHWA/FTA comments and TPO Staff response.**

**Background:** This is the first time that we have submitted a multi-year work program. The proposed work program covers both FY 2011 and 2012. TDOT and FHWA are encouraging the development of a two-year work program.

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT believes that the work program meets all federal and state guidelines. Angie Midgett, TDOT confirmed that this was correct. Jeff Welch informed the committee that there are some minor editing errors that are being taken into consideration. Jeff Welch noted that a carryover of \$52,000 will be placed in the contingency line item for FY 2011 and \$50,000 in FY 2012. A vote on the work program will take place at the July TPO Technical and Executive Board meetings.

### **3. Discussion of 2011-2014 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO staff will review the projects submitted for the TIP by TDOT and local governments. Revisions have been made since the last Technical Committee meeting. Project phases and time frames need to be verified. The city of Maryville has also requested that an additional project, relocation of McCammon Ave. be considered for local STP funding.

**Attachment #3a - TIP Development Time line. Attachment #3b - Summary of TIP Projects submitted to date. Attachment #3c - Local STP Project list. Attachment #3d - McCammon Road Relocation application request (Maryville), and Attachment #3e. Map of McCammon Road project area.**

**Background:** Staff has prepared an early draft of TIP and submitted it to TDOT for their review. Staff is also preparing information for the Interagency Consultation process for conformity analysis on the TIP and LRMP.

Mike Conger stated that the staff is working to develop a new TIP that includes new projects as well as old projects. The TIP is expected to be complete (approved and adopted) by November 30, 2010. The timeline developed by TDOT and staff has added additional dates to keep the project moving. Conformity determination had to be completed for the new PM 2.5 rule. The interagency group will be reviewing the draft conformity including Lakeway's conformity analysis. Mike Conger anticipates the interagency review to be completed by the August. The Technical Committee is set to approve the TIP conformity analysis in Late October / November. Mike Conger stated that he is currently meeting monthly with the interagency group.

Project modifications to the LRMP needed to be confirmed by June 7<sup>th</sup>. If this is not done, projects will not be able to move forward. The TPO is working with a very tight deadline to get the TIP approved. 2014 is the first horizon year. Staff needs to make sure that projects “make sense”. The TPO needs to ensure financial constraint so it is imperative that project modifications are done accurately and in a timely fashion. We will be unable to move forward with approval of our TIP if these modification are not made.

Jeff Welch noted that staff submitted a summary of TIP to TDOT for review last week. TDOT is reviewing the packet. Jeff Welch asked the TPO Technical Committee members to please look at their programs and projects and let staff know if there are modifications or corrections that needs to be made. Particularly important is for Technical Committee members to look at ATTACHMENT #3c. Jeff Welch asked members to please review this table as quickly as possible and let staff know if they have any changes.

Jeff Welch stated that as currently proposed there is approximately \$6.4 million of STP funds that are not programmed at the end of the FY 2011-2014 TIP.

Pat Phillips requested a modification to their application for Dixie Lee Junction. Pat Phillips stated that TDOT is finishing the TPR. It is anticipated that the project will jump from a cost of \$89,000 to \$200,000. The draft TPR is expected in 30 days. Jeff Welch stated – if we can get the bigger picture – we can adjust this accordingly

Jeff Welch stated that the City of Maryville (see att. 3b) would like to add a project to the TIP Brian Boone stated they originally planned this project as a local project however more ROW is anticipated and it would be difficult to complete the project without state or federal aid. Brian Boone suggested that it be included in the 2011-2014 TIP. Most work will be completed in 2011. Design is complete, and ROW has been done in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

**A motion to approve and add the aforementioned projects to the proposed 2011-2014 TIP update was made by Brian Boone and seconded by Pat Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.**

Steve King noted that he had concerns about Projects 38, 39 and 40, the buckets for greenways, sidewalks and safety stating that he was not in favor of doing things this way. Each agency has the ability to request projects that fit into these categories. Angie Midget asked Steve to clarify his concerns. Steve King explained that he believes having buckets removes some flexibility from each agency. Angie Midget asked him if he objects to the projects or the suballocation and Steve King responded that he objected to the suballocation not the projects. Angie Midget pointed out that other regions do have buckets. Memphis has a bunch of buckets. All jurisdictions in the Memphis region submit projects to the buckets and they are ranked by the Memphis MPO. This allows projects to keep moving by eliminating the need for the projects to be amended into the TIP as they are identified. Once they are ready to go they are funded. Steve King stated that he believed it should be up to all jurisdictions what they want to spend the money on and a certain percentage of money should not be spent on a certain type of project. Angie Midget noted that buckets are not required. TDOT only requires an overrun bucket. Jeff Welch explained the purpose of the buckets is to encourage smaller projects and keep them

moving. The TPO has a large STP balance as Commissioner Nicely said the TPO needs to spend this money. Buckets provide an opportunity to spend down that balance and avoid a future rescission. If there are questions or concerns the TPO Technical Committee is asked to contact staff.

#### **4. Status of ARRA funded projects in the urban area.**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** ARRA funds must be let to contract by August 1, 2010.

**Background:** See Attachment #4a, an e-mail from Nancy Sartor explaining the timeline for obligating ARRA funds. **Attachment #4a - TDOT timeline for ARRA projects. Attachment #4b - Knoxville ARRA Project Summary Status Table.**

Jeff Welch stated that the TPO, with assistance from TDOT, pressed FHWA to support spending unspent ARRA money on a Regional ITS architecture study. FHWA denied the TPO request but stated that CMAQ dollars could be used to fund the project. We are now working with the TDOT to fund the project through the CMAQ program.

Jeff Welch announced that he is making one more plea to the Technical Committee to identify any projects that could use some of the approximately \$400,000 remaining ARRA funds. Pat Phillips noted that ARRA money could be spent on an eligible project in Loudon but it would be just outside the urbanized area. Jeff noted that, if pressed, the TPO may request TDOT to spend money in nonattainment area. A decision on how to spend the remaining dollars needs to be reached by the end of July. The TPO needs to report back to TDOT the first of August. The TPO will work with KAT on an administrative adjustment to move money to them. CAC has requested an additional \$40,000 to add to their transportation software project. Jeff Welch noted that we may be able to do an administrative adjustment for this. Jeff Welch also asked the committee if there were any other projects to add.

Jeff Welch requested that a motion be passed to release any remaining ARRA funds after July 31 be returned to TDOT and further we request that those funds be spent in the TPO nonattainment area. **Kathryn Baldwin made the motion and Pat Phillips seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Kathryn Baldwin noted that the 2010 national census might result in the adjustment of the regions urbanized border. She stated that a four-year TIP and two-year UPWP will not take into account any new areas that may be included in the urbanized area. Jeff Welch responded that the UPWP will be revisited yearly for modifications, and the TIP is consistently amended. The TPO also adds projects and amends projects on an ongoing basis. Any revised urbanized area boundaries is at least two years away. The TPO will reevaluate the TIP and work program at that time.

#### **5. Review of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects Proposed by TPO Membership and Staff**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Complete CMAQ applications are due to TDOT on July 2. TPO Staff will complete the Air Quality analysis for each project prior to submittal.

**Background:** Distributed at meeting.

Katie Habgood stated that CMAQ applications will be sent to TDOT on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike Conger will be working on the air quality conformity analysis for the projects. A summary of the submitted will be sent to Technical Committee for review. Projects will be ranked by emissions reduction. In July, TPO staff will make a presentation to TDOT on each project. Jeff Welch stated that the state has \$37 million. The TPO will develop an emissions budget and flush out the descriptions for each project. If anyone would like a special workshop the TPO is happy to schedule one.

Angie Midget noted that projects that can be funded quickly will be given priority. TDOT would prefer to see the budget by year.

#### **6. Other Business**

- Technical Committee Meeting, July 13 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building
- Public Meeting on Draft EIS for Pellissippi Parkway, Tuesday, July 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Heritage High School
- Executive Board Meeting July 28 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

#### **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.