

TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
October 8, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 8, 2013 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves. It was determined that there was a quorum.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Beth Collins	Lenoir City
*Rich DesGroseilliers	LAMTPO
*Mark Donaldson	MPC
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), <i>for Jack Qualls</i>
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Kevin Stoltenberg	City of Maryville, <i>for Brian Boone</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

Jeff Welch requested that there be an amendment to today's Agenda. The Item requested to be added is the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification immediately following Agenda Item #2.

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to add the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification to the Agenda immediately following Agenda Item #2. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**1. Approval of September 10, 2013 Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of September 10, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Beth Collins to Approve the September 10, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Recommend Approval of the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Item Summary:** Every three years a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is prepared by the TPO. The new TIP covers the fiscal years of 2014-2017.

Comments from TDOT and FHWA have been addressed in the final draft TIP. Staff recommends approval. The Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Executive Board.

**Discussion:** There was no immediate discussion.

**A Motion was made by Perrin Anderson to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Putting the James White Parkway Extension (JWP) back into the TIP.** Mr. Anderson noted TDOT has indicated that they will start the public process for the JWP if the project is put back into the TIP. He noted Sevier County would have as much public input as possible in determining the future of this project.

**The Motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

**A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Jim Hagerman to Recommend Approval of the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

**Public Comment:** Chair Cindy Pionke noted there were two persons who have signed up to speak on this Agenda Item.

Mr. Bill Cox noted he lives about 3 blocks from the end of the James White Parkway (JWP) and that he was here on behalf of extending the JWP. He stated there were many people in South Knoxville and Sevier County that want the JWP extended. He ended by stating he would like to see the JWP finished in its entirety as proposed by the state.

Mayor Madeline Rogero acknowledged that there are many good and reasonable people in our City who will disagree on this and other issues. She noted along with Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis who represents that district, as well as along with the vast majority of City Council, she does not believe that the James White Parkway (JWP) extension is a good move for our City and region. She noted that should the vote go forward at next week's Executive Board meeting to not include the JWP extension that it was imperative that everyone work together as a region to ensure that improvements are made to Chapman Highway. Mayor Rogero noted multiple improvements and growth to South Knoxville as a result of the Urban Wilderness. Further, she noted TDEC has donated \$200,000 to build trails on the recently donated Wood property, with the check being presented by Governor Haslam.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion and Chair Cindy Pionke called for a vote on the Motion on the floor.

**The Motion carried with Perrin Anderson and Cindy Pionke voting no.**

**Added Agenda Item: Motion to recommend approval of a Certification that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.**

**Item Summary:** This self-certification must be done every four years according to the Code of Federal Regulation - 23 CFR 450.334. The certification is to be included as part of the Transportation Improvement Program. Staff recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch briefly described the document handed out at today's meeting and noted staff is asking the Committee to recommend approval of this Certification to the Executive Board.

**A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification. The Motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. **Recommend Approval of the Updated TPO Outreach Plan**

**Item Summary:** This change to the public outreach plan will allow the TIP Public hearing process to serve as the public hearing process for the FTA Section 5307 Program of Projects if the designated recipient so chooses to follow this process. Staff recommends approval. The Technical Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Executive Board.

**Discussion:** Doug Burton noted this language deals with the Federal Transit Administration Urban Area funds that come to the Knoxville Region. He noted the City of Knoxville is the designated recipient and that in years past when KAT was the only agency seeking these funds, they ran the required FTA public process through the Knoxville Transportation Authority, a city board. Mr. Burton then noted that as there are now other agencies interested in receiving these funds, Mayor Rogero sought to implement a more transparent process and asked the TPO to be responsible for running the public process attached to these federal funds. He further noted that in order for the TPO to do that there needs to be statement in our Public Outreach Plan stating that we have this responsibility. Staff recommends approval.

**Public Comment:** Prior to action on the Outreach Plan, members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of the Updated TPO Outreach Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.**

### 4. **Recommended Ranking of TDOT Highway Projects**

**Item Summary:** TDOT asked the TPO to rank the projects in the attached project list (Attachment #4A). Committee members submitted their individual rankings which are summarized on the project list. The Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Executive Board.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch reviewed the process and noted that TDOT does this annually across the state. He briefly touched on each project and its proposed ranking for projects under consideration for FY 2015 in addition to those under consideration for FY 2016-2017. Mr. Welch highlighted project B9, Operations and Safety Improvements on Chapman Highway, and noted this project was added to the list by the Executive Board late last year, and further highlighted a handout noting projects under development and turn lanes in the Chapman Highway corridor. Mr. Welch stated there were 2 additional projects added to the list as requested by Committee members, C1 and C2, Intersection of Kingston Pike and Northshore and Interchange of 1-40 at Campbell Station Rd., respectively.

**A Motion was made by Pat Philips and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend approval of the Ranking of TDOT Highway Projects.**

**Further Discussion:** It was clarified that additional projects not currently ranked could be added to the list for submittal to TDOT at this time. Both member jurisdictions that requested the 2 additional projects noted above discussed the need for each project.

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Mark Donaldson to Amend the List by Adding Projects C1 and C2 to the Existing Ranked List as Projects 10 and 11, respectively. The Motion carried unanimously with Angie Midgett abstaining.**

Chair Cindy Pionke called for a vote on the amended list.

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Don Brown to recommend approval of the Amended List, which now includes Projects C1 and C2 as Ranked Projects 10 and 11, respectively, to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously with Angie Midgett abstaining.**

## 5. Smart Trips Program Update

**Item Summary:** The Smart Trips program has experienced tremendous growth in the past year. Smart Trips staff members Alisa Ashouri and Sara Martin will provide an overview of the program with emphasis on recent milestones pertaining to membership and participation levels, community outreach, awards and recognition, and the annual Commuter Challenge.

**Discussion:** Sara Martin gave an overview of the history of the program which started in 2003 and focused entirely on transportation demand management. Smart Trips began as a repository for resources for numerous strategies that would assist an individual in reducing their commute. The program became incentive based in 2007 to encourage participation in the use of alternative transportation, utilizing the concept of “gameification”. Ms. Martin highlighted Best Workplaces for Commuters, a national program hosted out of the University of South Florida, which provides certification for entities that are advocating for transportation demand management in their companies or organizations by pledging that 14% of their workforce will take some form of alternative transportation within 18 months of signing up for the program. Ms. Martin noted this national certification has made transportation demand management more of a priority for employers. Ms. Martin noted the Smart Trips program has received 2 awards this year; the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award and the Best Supporting Agency Award from the University of South Florida’s National Race to Excellence competition.

Alisa Ashouri spoke further about individual participation. She noted Smart Trips runs Commuter Challenges, where prizes are offered to those individuals who meet the preset participation goals for that challenge period. Smart Trips also holds community events geared towards maintaining as well as increasing individual participation. Ms. Ashouri described the Trolley Cash Cab which has been increasingly successful in generating participation and getting the word out about the program. This year she noted they produced a YouTube video featuring TVA and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters employees training to carpool and further noted we have already had 1000 views. Ms. Ashouri noted that Smart Trips has exceeded goals set for last fiscal year in all targeted areas; new monthly users, peak registrations, monthly loggers, new participations and peak users. She stated in FY 2011-2012, Smart Trips participants removed 1.3 million pounds of CO2 emissions from the area around Knoxville, and this year they have already reached the removal of 1.5 million pounds.

## 6. Other Business

- Executive Board Meeting *Wednesday, October 16*, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 12, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Upcoming PlanET Events. For complete and up to date information please visit the PlanET website at: <http://www.planeasttn.org>

Jeff Welch stated that subsequent to the government shutdown, the Federal Highway Administration continues to be open; however the Federal Transit Administration is shutdown as is the Environmental Protection Agency.

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no comment from the public.

## 8. Adjournment

**A Motion was made by Melissa Roberson and seconded by Jim Hagerman to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**