

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
June 9, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on June 9, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Sheryl Ely	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Kathryn Baldwin</i>
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	KAT
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Jeff Welch	MPC
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

Cindy Pionke welcomed State Representative Jimmy Matlock.

1. Approval of May 12, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of May 12, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Don Brown to approve the May 12, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: The TPO receives an annual apportionment of funds through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310-Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program. Funds can be used for operating and/or capital expenses. Matching funding is required. Section 5310 funding is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to service the special needs of transit-dependent population beyond traditional public transportation services. Funding is targeted towards non-profits, but in some instances private providers and/or governmental agencies can receive funding.

The TPO advertised a call-for-projects throughout the urban area. The TPO had 10 applicants whose requests exceeded the amount of funding available. The Human Services Transportation Coordination Committee (HSTCC) met and evaluated the applications. The HSTCC has put forth a recommended slate of projects for funding for the Technical Committee's consideration. Two projects were not funded mainly due to questions about eligibility. Two agencies received fewer vehicles than requested. With those adjustments, eight of the ten agencies are able to receive funding. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton noted *Attachment #2* is a summary of the proposed TIP Amendments. Mr. Burton then noted the funds have been recommended for awarding by an application review committee consisting of representatives from the TPO, KAT, ETHRA, TDOT and the ADA Coordinator for the City of Knoxville. Complicating the awarding of these funds is that Congress has passed only 10/12 of this year's budget. He then reviewed each of the proposed Amendments. In summary, funding has been recommended for the Knoxville Knox County CAC - Volunteer Assisted Transportation and Blount County CAA Senior Miles programs for operating expenses, and further, has been recommended for vehicle purchases [capital expenses] by Knox County CAC Transit, Emory Valley Center, Loudon County Office on Ageing, Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services and the Sertoma Center. He noted Agape Outreach Home had been recommended to be funded for the purchase of a passenger bus but they have withdrawn their application. Mr. Burton touched briefly on the 2 applications not recommended for funding at this time. He further noted the Human Services Committee will continue to explore ways to promote accessible taxis.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program with the exception of Attachment #2B [Agape Outreach Homes, as it has been withdrawn]. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on the Effort to Preserve the Highway 321 Bridge in Loudon County

Item Summary: Tennessee State Rep. Matlock will update us on his conversations with TVA about preserving the Highway 321 bridge as a pedestrian/bicycle facility when the highway is moved to a new alignment.

Discussion: Rep. Jimmy Matlock stated he represented District 2, serving most of Loudon and Monroe Counties. He noted this project affects much more than just his district and goes perhaps even beyond our region. He noted that Highway 321 is a huge economic catalyst for what happens in our region, is becoming more heavily traveled every day and is being used as another option to travel to the Smoky Mountains. He noted he is looking for a way to convince TVA to keep the existing bridge in addition to the new one being constructed over the dam. He further noted there was tremendous support across the region to keep the bridge. Unfortunately, TVA has not yet agreed but has given them a number of \$8 million as a potential figure to keep the bridge open. He noted the proposal for the new bridge designates \$1 million to remove the existing bridge. He then noted they had proposed to TVA that they instead escrow that money to be used for a projected annual maintenance of \$50,000. It was noted that TVA is no longer voicing previously stated security concerns as a reason to remove the bridge. Rep. Matlock thanked Committee members for their time and the opportunity to further highlight their efforts.

4. Draft TDOT Multimodal Access Policy - Comment Period

Presenter: Kelley Segars

Item Summary: TDOT is currently in the process of developing a Multimodal Access Policy to ensure that the needs of all roadway users (including but not limited to motorists, transit-riders, freight-carriers, bicyclists and pedestrians) are considered during project planning and design.

Following adoption of the Multimodal Access Policy, TDOT will develop a Multimodal Access Implementation Plan, Design Guidelines, and training for internal and external partners. Staff will provide comments to TDOT on the Draft policy by June 22, 2015.

Discussion: Kelley Segars noted this policy will supersede and replace the current Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Policy. She asked member jurisdictions to get their comments to Ellen Zavisca a few days prior to the deadline if possible so staff can compile them to forward to Jessica Wilson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for TDOT. She noted the new policy appears to have a softening of the language leaning towards “consideration” and away from “must include”.

5. Other Business

- The National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is now accepting applications for 2016 projects for community-led conservation and recreation projects. The applications are due August 1st. Complete information can be found here: www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm. Jeff Welch noted staff was available to assist any member jurisdiction with the application process.
- Jeff Welch also noted TDOT’s Office of Multimodal Transportation Resources has issued a letter seeking identification of both short term and long term rail projects that would benefit the community. They are looking for information on high priority capital projects slated over the next 20 years regardless of whether or not funding for the project has been identified. They are interested in projects that; expand the rail network, increase rail capacity, increase safety, extend the life of rail infrastructure, support improved operational efficiency and/or improve multimodal connectivity. They are seeking this information in concert with the Tennessee Statewide Rail Plan (SRP). Please submit any projects to Liza Joffrion, Director of Multimodal Transportation Resources, TDOT by June 19th.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Darryl Smith to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.