

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
March 10, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on March 10, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. 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.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Beth Collins	City of Lenoir City
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, Dept. of Engineering and Public Works
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1 Community Planning
*Melissa Roberson	KAT
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

Brian Boone introduced Dave Prichard, now Senior Planner for the City of Maryville.

1. Approval of February 10, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of February 10, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Beth Collins to approve the February 10, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2040 Long Range Mobility Plan.

Item Summary: In response to a request for a TIP amendment that requires a revised regional emissions analysis and air conformity determination, the TPO staff decided to undertake a comprehensive review of both the TIP and Mobility Plan in order to address as many required project amendments as possible under one single action. This review consisted of meeting with each of the TPO member jurisdictions and TDOT to review the current Mobility Plan roadway project list in detail.

Discussion: Mike Conger gave an overview of the activities leading up to the proposed amendments as outlined in Attachment #2. He then briefly touched on the projects listed in each of the 4 major types of changes proposed: projects moving to a different Analysis year, projects with changes to scope or termini, projects to be eliminated and projects to be added. Mr. Conger noted staff recommends approval.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend approval of amendments to the 2040 Long Range Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program
Item Summary: Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the 8 proposed amendments to the TIP involving 6 existing projects and 2 new ones.

A Motion was made by Andrew Sonner and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend approval of amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommend Adoption of the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.
Item Summary: The project amendments approved in items 2 and 3 above required an air quality conformity determination due to the TPO's current air quality attainment status. The TPO conducted a revised regional emissions analysis that has determined that the projected emissions from the proposed transportation system resulting from the project amendments are less than the allowable amount for each of the required analysis years and thus conformity for all applicable air quality standards has been demonstrated. The TPO coordinated the conformity determination with stakeholder and regulatory agencies through its Interagency Consultation process and held a 14-day public review and comment period.

Discussion: Mike Conger gave an overview of the air quality conformity regulations, highlighting ground level ozone and particulate matter (PM2.5) as these are 2 of the 6 "criteria" pollutants identified by the Clean Air Act which our region has had issues in meeting the established standards. The EPA has to review the standards every 5 years to ensure they are set at an appropriate level based on their review of scientific and health data and as a result the standards have changed over the years. Mr. Conger then touched on the Air Quality standards addressed by Conformity and briefly reviewed our region's Air Quality status for each standard. He then noted that Transportation Conformity is required as it is the link between Air Quality and Transportation Planning. Mr. Conger also briefly reviewed how conformity is demonstrated and concluded by touching on future air quality issues. The complete presentation has been posted on the TPO website and can be found here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/Conformity_20150312.pdf

A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Houston Daugherty to recommend adoption of the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation on Attitudes Toward Safe Routes to School in Tennessee.
Item Summary: Dr. Jerry Everett, Research Director at UT's Center for Transportation Research conducted focus groups and surveys across Tennessee to learn about parents' opinions about walking and bicycling to school. He'll present an overview of his findings.

Discussion: Dr. Everett noted this work was funded by TDOT's Safe Routes to School Program. He gave a brief background on what makes a Safe Routes to School Program successful. He then touched on why these types of programs are important in Tennessee. After reviewing the project goals, survey methodologies, demographics and areas covered, Dr. Everett presented the results. The complete presentation has been posted on the TPO website and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/EverettPresentation_20150310.pdf

6. Update on the Smart Trips Program. *This Agenda Item was postponed due to time constraints.*

7. Other Business

- CMAQ grant applications are due directly to TDOT by April 10th. Program and application information can be found at www.tn.gov/tdot/cmaq.
- The ETindex Livability Report Card 2015 was released on March 6, 2015. The report examines our region's strengths and challenges in 8 key areas as identified through the PlanET effort.
- The 2015 Tennessee Bike Summit: Making Connections is taking place on April 23rd and 24th at the Knoxville Convention Center. For complete information and to register visit their website: <http://www.tnbikesummit.org/>.
- Executive Board meeting will follow today's Technical Committee meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.