Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Small Assembly Room

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on April 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building. Vice-Chair Jack Qualls presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

All presentations given during the meeting are available online.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Beth Collins	Lenoir City
*Chico Messer	Blount County
*DeAnna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Jim Snowden	Knox County Engineering
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon/Loudon County
*Tom Clabo	City of Knoxville Engineering
*Rich DeGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Michelle Christian	TDOT, Region 1
*Jeff Welch	Knoxville-Knox County Planning
*Laura Smith	ETDD
*Larry Gann	City of Clinton
*Blake Sartin	Airport Authority
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Dakota Gentry	City of Alcoa
*Si McMurray	KAT, for Rebecca Styers
*James Temple	Sevier County
* Patrick Berge	City of Oak Ridge
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut

TPO Staff
**Partner Agency Staff
Members of the Public
***Voting Members*
*****Non-voting members*

1   Call to Order

a. Determination of a Quorum: Vice-Chair Jack Qualls called the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum present.
b. Introductions
c. Introduction of Zoom Participants
d. Amendments to the Agenda
e. List of Commonly Used Acronyms

2   Motion to Approve February 14,2023 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the February 14, 2023 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the February 14, 2023 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously 19-0.

3   Election of Officers

Item Summary: The representation on the Technical Committee and Executive Board for the City of Oak Ridge has changed.   Patrick Berge, Public Works Director, will now represent them on the Technical Committee. Wayne Blasius was elected Chair last month. Therefore, for the Technical Committee, we need to select a new Chair and Vice Chair. Such elections shall be by a majority vote of the membership.

Discussion: Jeff Welch discussed the election of TPO Technical Committee Officers.

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to nominate Jack Qualls as the 2023-2024 TPO Technical Committee Chair. The Motion carried unanimously 18-0.

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Daryl Smith to nominate Jim Snowden as the 2023-2024 TPO Technical Committee Vice-Chair. The Motion carried unanimously 18-0.

4   FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting Amendments to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the associated Air Quality Conformity Report and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being Followed to the Executive Board. TDOT and locally requested amendments for three (3) air quality non-exempt projects.

Staff Recommendation: Approve

Discussion: Craig Luebke reviewed the locally requested amendments for two (2) air quality non-exempt projects. Draft Amendment 23-2020-012 [Attachment 4D] was removed from consideration by TDOT.

A Motion was made by Brian Boone and seconded by Chico Messer to recommend approval of a Resolution Adopting two (2) Amendments to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the associated Air Quality Conformity Report and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being Followed to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 20-0.

5   FTA Urban Area Transit Program of Projects

Item Summary: Motion to Recommend Approval: The Program of Projects (POP) is a list of projects, for each agency, to be funded with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307, 5310, and 5339 funding. FTA requires a public hearing on the POP. The POP public hearing

will be at the April 26, 2023, Executive Board meeting. Staff will update the Technical Committee on the FY23 FTA apportionments and the local distribution of funds. Because the TIP already has the Section 5307, 5310, and 5339 funding pages approved, the new funds and projects will be added through internal adjustments.

Staff Recommendation: Approve

Discussion: Doug Burton reviewed the current Program of Projects (POP).

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of the 2023 Program of Projects (POP) including the FY23 FTA apportionments and the local distribution of funds to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 20-0.

6   Update on Safety Plan

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the progress toward creating a Roadway Safety Action Plan for the Knoxville region. Once complete, this plan will make our region and the local governments in it eligible to receive implementation grants through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca shared an update on the creation of a Roadway Safety Action Plan and its subsequent benefits.

7   Update on the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Item Summary: The EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program will provide grants to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Planning grants go to the 67 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Knoxville is No. 64) and each will receive $1 million dollars. The funding is to support efforts by states, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, tribes, among other groups. Planning funds can be used to update existing climate, energy, or sustainability plans, or to develop new plans. There will be $4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants at a later date. For more information go to: https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared an update on the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program and a proposed path forward to in cooperation with the City of Knoxville.

8   Priority Populations 2022 Update: Socioeconomic Challenges in the Knoxville Region

Item Summary: The Priority Populations dataset identifies communities facing greater social and economic equity challenges within the Knoxville region. The 2022 update of this dataset is accompanied by a technical report, which includes an explanation of the 27 indicators used to calculate ratings across four themes and a final, priority score. For the full report go to: https://archive.knoxplanning.org/locldata/priority-pop-2023_web.pdf.

Discussion: Aubrey Weiland, Knoxville-Knox County Planning, gave an overview of results of an analysis of 27 indicators used to identify Priority Population areas in the region.

9   TDOT Project Update – Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) from Woodson Drive to Cherokee Trail

Item Summary: The next phase of the major reconstruction of Alcoa Highway is scheduled to be bid for construction in the May 2023 letting. TDOT staff will provide an overview of the project scope, construction schedule and features of the design.

Discussion: TDOT Region 1 staff Christie Brown gave an overview of the entire Alcoa Highway project in both Knox and Blount counties. Eric Wilson, also with TDOT, then gave a detailed overview of the Alcoa Highway project from Woodson Drive to Cherokee Trail. The video shown can be viewed here: State Route 115 (US 129) Alcoa Highway (tn.gov)

10   Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners

Item Summary: Updates from our FHWA and TDOT Partners.

Discussion: There was no discussion this month.

11   Other Business

- The TPO has released the FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities funding – Call-For-Projects. Applications are due Friday, April 21st. For more information go to: https://knoxtpo.org/call-for-projects-federal-transit-administration-knoxville-urban-area-section-5310-funding/.
- The TPO staff are in the early stages of putting together the FY 2024 & FY 2025 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). If Technical Committee members have suggestions for planning studies, please let us know.
- TDOT is holding the next round of Multimodal Access Grants. A webinar will be held on April 11, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. (EST). Notice of intent to apply deadline is April 26-May 16. For more information go to: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/bicycle-and-pedestrian-program/multimodal-access-grant.html.
- The FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All - Notice of Funding Opportunity is now available. The deadline is July 10, 2023. For more information go to: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building
- TPO Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

12   Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13   Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.