

TIP Project Report

10/29/2024

**AMENDED
(NEW)**

TIP ID	PIN #	Length in Miles	Lead Agency
KNX 23-2023-001		1.2	City of Knoxville
State	County		
TN	Knox		
State Route	Total Project Cost		
	\$25,000,000		

Project Name
Urban Wilderness Gateway Park

Termini
From Sevierville Pike/Moody Ave. to bridge north of Anita Dr.

Project Description
Approximately 1.2 mile realignment of roadway combining all lanes to the existing southbound roadway. Interchange realignment at southern project terminus, southbound realignment at the northern terminus, extension of Gateway Park with a shared-use path that connects N/S project boundary areas and adjacent neighborhood connections.

Long Range Plan #	Conformity Status
21-606	Exempt

FY	Phase	Funding	Programmed Funds	Fed Funds	State Fund	Local Funds
2025	PE-N	RCN	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0
2026	PE-D	RCN	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
Total			\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$0	\$0

Comments:

- Amendment #178: Amend the TIP to add this exempt project for PE-N in FY 2025 and PE-D in FY 2026. PE-N is estimated at \$300,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). PE-D is estimated at \$2,000,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). This amendment adds \$2,300,000 (\$2,300,000 federal RCN/\$0 local) to the TIP. The total project cost is \$25,000,000.





eSTIP Fiscal Constraints Report for STIP Period 2023
Knoxville MPO

AMENDED
(NEW)

Fund Code	Fiscal Year	Budget Total	Programmed Funds	Federal Funding	State Funding	Local Funding	Federal Carryover	Remaining Balance
RCN	2025	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RCN	2026	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: Fiscal constraint report update 10/29/24 and reflects:
FY 2025 RCN: +\$300,000 (Federal: +\$300,000)
FY 2025 S-CRP: +\$2,000,000 (Federal: +\$2,000,000)

Reconnecting Communities (RCN) is a new fund code with the proposed amendment.



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM Transportation Conformity Summary Report

Project Amendments:

On November 20, 2024, the Knoxville Regional TPO Executive Board voted to approve the following amendments to the Knoxville Regional FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TIP #	LRTP #	Project Name	Conformity Status
23-2020-011	17-1006	I-75 at Emory Road (SR-131) Interchange	Exempt
23-2023-001	21-606	Urban Wilderness Gateway Park	Exempt

Air Quality Conformity Status:

This amendment does not trigger the need for a conformity determination because the projects/actions have been determined to be Exempt from the need to demonstrate conformity as per 40 CFR 93.126 or are Exempt from regional emissions analyses as per 40 CFR 93.127.

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification:

The Knoxville TPO Planning Process certification is included and certifies that every four years the transportation planning process addresses the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Resolution:

The adopting resolution for this project and air quality conformity determination is included.

Public Participation:

Public participation processes were in accordance with the Knoxville TPO's federally approved Public Participation Plan. Two public hearings were held on November 12, 2024 at the TPO Technical Committee Meeting, followed by November 20, 2024 at the TPO Executive Board meeting. No public comments were received.

Interagency Consultation:

The Knoxville Air Quality Interagency Consultation (IAC) group was consulted on November 6, 2024 regarding the conformity exempt status of the amendments. There was agreement from the group regarding the Knoxville TPO staff's exempt assessment of the project based on IAC correspondence. The required 14-day IAC review period was from November 6, 2024 to November 20, 2024. IAC email correspondence regarding the amendments is included.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

January 6, 2023

**Federal Highway Administration
Tennessee Division**

404 BNA Drive, Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37217
Phone (615) 781-5770

**Federal Transit Administration
Region IV**

230 Peachtree St. N.W., Suite 1400
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Phone (404) 865-5600

Mr. Matt Meservy
Director, Long Range Planning Division
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Nashville, TN 37243

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-TN

Subject: Air Quality Conformity Determination for Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Meservy:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tennessee Division and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region IV Office, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV Office, have reviewed the Air Quality Conformity Determination adopted by the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (KRTPO) Executive Board on October 26, 2022 and the Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (LAMTPO) Executive Board on November 9, 2022.

The Air Quality Conformity Determination covers the Knoxville, Tennessee maintenance area for the 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone and the 2006 Daily PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and addresses the planned transportation improvements from the KRTPO's amended 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the new FY 2023–2026 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for the Knoxville Regional TPO and Lakeway MTPO planning areas, and the portions of the State of Tennessee's Statewide TIP in the Knoxville, Tennessee maintenance area.

Based on our review, we find the documents conform to the ozone and PM_{2.5} NAAQS for Knoxville, Tennessee.

If you have any questions regarding this determination, please contact Zack Coleman, Transportation Planning Specialist, FHWA Tennessee Division at (615) 781-5777 or Andres Ramirez, General Engineer, FTA Region IV at (404) 865-5611.

Sincerely,

**YVETTE G
TAYLOR** Digitally signed by
YVETTE G TAYLOR
Date: 2022.12.29
08:07:50 -05'00'

**PAMELA M
KORDENBROCK** Digitally signed by PAMELA
M KORDENBROCK
Date: 2023.01.04 09:33:45
-06'00'

Dr. Yvette G. Taylor
Regional Administrator
FTA Region IV

Pamela M. Kordenbrock
Division Administrator
FHWA TN Division

cc: Mayor Terry Frank, Executive Board Chair, Knoxville Regional TPO
Mayor Mark Potts, Executive Board Chair, Lakeway MTPO
Mr. Gilberto DeLeon, Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA TN Division
Mr. Sean Santalla, Program Development Team Leader, FHWA TN Division
Mr. Andres Ramirez, General Engineer, FTA Region IV
Mr. Josue Ortiz, Environmental Scientist, EPA Region IV
Ms. Dianna Myers, Environmental Scientist, EPA Region IV
Mr. Stacy Morrison, OCT Planning Manager, TDOT
Mr. Troy Ebbert, OCT Region 1 Planning Supervisor, TDOT
Mr. Jeff Welch, Director, Knoxville Regional TPO
Mr. Mike Conger, Senior Transportation Engineer, Knoxville Regional TPO
Mr. Craig Luebke, Transportation Planner, Knoxville Regional TPO
Mr. Rich DesGroseilliers, MTPO Coordinator, Lakeway MTPO
Mr. Marc Corrigan, Environmental Consultant, TDEC

**A RESOLUTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE KNOXVILLE REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)
AMENDING THE FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the FY 2023-2026 Knoxville Regional Transportation Improvement Program was adopted on October 26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the elements of the transportation planning process are to receive final approval from the Executive Board of the local Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program must be updated as needed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project amendments were reviewed with the Knoxville-Area Air Quality Interagency Consultation Group with respect to air quality conformity requirements and are either exempt from, or were demonstrated to conform with the federal transportation air quality conformity regulations from the Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, a short conformity determination report was prepared for the air quality non-exempt project amendments which concluded that air quality conformity was demonstrated by relying on a previous regional emissions analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee recommends approval of the Resolution, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOXVILLE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD;

That the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program be amended to include the following changes and that the Tennessee Department of Transportation include these amendments into the State Transportation Improvement Program:

Attachment #4A: Amendment 23-2020-011 I-75 at Emory Road (SR-131) Interchange - Amend project to increase the construction phase and total project cost for this exempt project. The project schedule is also revised to move construction from FY 2024 to FY 2025. L-STBG PE-Design funds are also removed from the TIP, as the funds were previously obligated. The construction phase is increased from \$10,100,000 to \$33,325,000 NHPP (\$26,660,000 federal/\$6,665,000 state) and the total cost is increased to \$35,725,000. This amendment adds \$22,947,222 (+\$18,580,000 NHPP/- \$250,000 L-STBG/+ \$4,645,000 state/- \$27,778 local) to the project and TIP. The total project cost is increased to \$35,725,000. Comment added to reference previously obligated L-STBG funding. TMA designation added to the termini description.

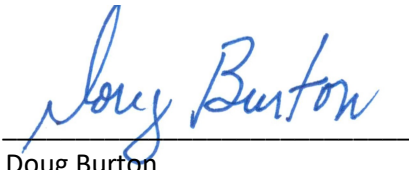
Attachment #4B: Amendment 23-2023-001 Urban Wilderness Gateway Park - Amend the TIP to add this exempt project for PE-N in FY 2025 and PE-D in FY 2026. PE-N is estimated at \$300,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). PE-D is estimated at \$2,000,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). This amendment adds \$2,300,000 (\$2,300,000 federal RCN/\$0 local) to the TIP. The total project cost is \$25,000,000.

November 20, 2024

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Frank", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Terry Frank
Anderson County
TPO Executive Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burton", written over a horizontal line.

Doug Burton
Coordinator
Knoxville Regional TPO

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS CERTIFICATION

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.336, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the Tennessee Department of Transportation hereby certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is addressing major issues facing the Knoxville, TN urbanized area, and is being carried out in accordance with the following requirements:

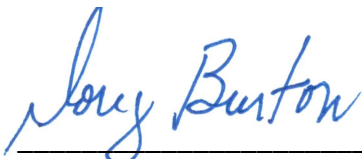
- I. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. 5303 and 5304 (Highways and Transit).
- II. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000 d-1) and 49 CFR part 21.
- III. 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity.
- IV. 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in USDOT-funded projects.
- V. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts.
- VI. Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38.
- VII. In nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d), and 40 CFR part 93.
- VIII. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
- IX. Section 324 of Title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender.
- X. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

November 20, 2024

Date



Mayor Terry Frank
Anderson County
Knoxville Regional TPO Executive Board Chair




Doug Burton
Coordinator
Knoxville Regional TPO

IAC Review of Knoxville TPO November 2024 TIP Amendments & Notice of IAC Conference Call for 11/20/2024

From Mike Conger <mike.conger@knoxplanning.org>

Date Wed 11/6/2024 1:39 PM

To Craig Luebke <craig.luebke@knoxplanning.org>; Amy Brooks <amy.brooks@knoxplanning.org>; Andres Ramirez (FTA) <andres.ramirez@dot.gov>; Chasity L. Stinson <Chasity.L.Stinson@tn.gov>; Chris McPhilamy <Chris.McPhilamy@tn.gov>; Darlene Reiter <darlene.reiter@tn.gov>; Dianna Myers <myers.dianna@epa.gov>; Doug Burton <doug.burton@knoxplanning.org>; Elizabeth Orr <Elizabeth.Orr@dot.gov>; Holly Peterson <Holly.Peterson@dot.gov>; Jane Spann <Spann.Jane@epa.gov>; Jarvis.Simone@epa.gov <Jarvis.Simone@epa.gov>; Jim Renfro <jim_renfro@nps.gov>; Julia Walker <julia.walker@dot.gov>; Justin Mayer <justin.mayer@knoxcounty.org>; Larocca.Sarah@epa.gov <Larocca.Sarah@epa.gov>; Lynorae Benjamin <benjamin.lynorae@epamail.epa.gov>; Marc Corrigan <marc.corrigan@tn.gov>; Melanie Murphy (FHWA) <melanie.murphy@dot.gov>; Sherman, Michael (FTA) <michael.sherman@dot.gov>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

November 2024 TIP Amendment Profile Pages and Financial Tables.pdf;

Knoxville IAC Members,

This email is concerning two separate items - first, I am sending information for IAC review of two proposed FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments and secondly, I am providing 2-week notice of the next Knoxville IAC conference call to discuss information related to our conformity analysis to support the Mobility Plan 2050.

TIP Amendment Review Information

The Knoxville Regional TPO Executive Board will be hearing two (2) amendments to the FY 2023-2026 TIP at their November 20, 2024 meeting. Following is a brief description of the projects included in this amendment and attached is a packet with the before/after profile pages and financial tables to demonstrate fiscal constraint.

1. Amendment 23-2020-011: I-75 at Emory Road (SR-131) Interchange project - Amend project to increase the construction phase and total project cost for this exempt project. The project schedule is also revised to move construction from FY 2024 to FY 2025. L-STBG PE-Design funds are also removed from the TIP, as the funds were previously obligated. The construction phase is increased from \$10,100,000 to \$33,325,000 NHPP (\$26,660,000 federal/\$6,665,000 state) and the total cost is increased to \$35,725,000. This amendment adds \$22,947,222 (+\$18,580,000 NHPP/- \$250,000 L-STBG/+ \$4,645,000 state/- \$27,778 local) to the project and TIP. The total project cost is increased to \$35,725,000. Comment added to reference previously obligated L-STBG funding. TMA designation added to the termini description.

This is a current Knoxville TPO TIP/Mobility Plan project that was previously determined to be Exempt under 40 CFR93.127 (Interchange reconfiguration projects). The proposed amendment represents only

an addition of funding to reflect revised cost estimates for construction, which does not impact the overall project concept that has previously been considered by the IAC.

2. Amendment 23-2023-001: Urban Wilderness Gateway Park - Amend the TIP to add this exempt project for PE-N in FY 2025 and PE-D in FY 2026. PE-N is estimated at \$300,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). PE-D is estimated at \$2,000,000 (100% federal Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods [RCN]). This amendment adds \$2,300,000 (\$2,300,000 federal RCN/\$0 local) to the TIP. The total project cost is \$25,000,000.

Project Description: Approximately 1.2-mile realignment of roadway combining all lanes to the existing southbound roadway. Interchange realignment at southern project terminus, southbound realignment at the northern terminus, extension of Gateway Park with a shared-use path that connects N/S project boundary areas and adjacent neighborhood connections. This will allow the current northbound travel lanes and adjacent excess land to be repurposed as a linear park.

This is a current Knoxville TPO Mobility Plan project (ID#21-606) that was previously determined to be Exempt under 40 CFR93.126 (Bicycle and pedestrian facilities). The proposed amendment formally adds the project to the TIP from the Mobility Plan with the funding grant award being made available through the FHWA's discretionary RCN grant program

In summary, it is the TPO staff's opinion that the above listed set of proposed TIP amendments does not trigger the need for a conformity determination because these projects/actions are exempt from conformity for the reasons noted above. Also, the TPO staff have determined that the project amendment meets financial constraint requirements. Please review this information and provide any comments regarding air quality conformity implications or let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification on the project. If I do not hear anything within two (2) weeks (**by Wednesday, November 20, 2024**) we will assume that you concur that these amendments are exempt from transportation conformity.

IAC Conference Call Notice

This is a notice that a Knoxville IAC Group Conference Call is scheduled for Thursday, November 21 at 10 am ET/9 am CT. The primary purpose of the call will be to discuss the proposed MOVES model inputs in greater detail than on the previous IAC call to support the regional emissions analysis for the TPO's MTP update conformity determination. Additional information and formal agenda will be provided prior to the call and I will send a calendar invitation with Zoom link following this email.

Thanks,

Mike

P.S. I exported my IAC contact list to Outlook as our organization recently switched from the Google/Gmail platform and cleaned up a couple of outdated contacts. If you are receiving this and prefer to be removed from this list please let me know.

--

Mike Conger, PE

Senior Transportation Engineer
865.215.3813



[Knoxville-Knox County Planning](#) | [Knoxville Regional TPO](#)

400 Main Street, Suite 403 | Knoxville, TN 37902