

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., April 22, 2009
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 22 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mike Hammond, Vice Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Doyle Arp	Mayor, Loudon County
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Joe Hultquist	for Knoxville Vice Mayor Bob Becker
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Andrew Sonner	for Mayor Don Mull, City of Alcoa
*Mike Ragsdale	Mayor, Knox County
*Darryl Smith	for Mayor Eddy Ford, Town of Farragut
*Greg Patterson	For Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kathy DeLozier	Blount County Chamber
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Jack Hagerman	Bicycle Advisory Committee
Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Roger Sims	Sevier County
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

1. Approval of March 25, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: Mike Hammond, Vice Chair

Item Summary: Approval of March 25, 2009, TPO Executive Board minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – March 25, 2009, Minutes

A motion was made by Doyle Arp and seconded by Steve King to approve the March 25 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to drop TIP Project # 2008-129 (Alcoa Highway (SR 115) and Wright Road Safety Improvements; (\$120,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding (ARRA)) and add \$120,000 to TIP Project #2008-133 ARRA resurfacing projects, to be equitably distributed among the nine resurfacing projects.

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The City of Alcoa has been awarded additional highway safety funds to complete the Wright Road and Alcoa safety improvements and are no longer in need of the \$120,000 of ARRA funds. The Technical Committee recommends that the \$120,000 be distributed to the ARRA resurfacing project to offset anticipated costs of having these resurfacing projects be built to federal standards including safety improvements and accommodating bicyclist and pedestrian facilities where appropriate.

Background: Attachment #2 - Resolution.

Doug Burton explained that the City of Alcoa was awarded additional highway safety funds for the Wright Road and Alcoa safety improvements and no longer needs the ARRA funding. The Technical Committee had debated the appropriate redistribution of the ARRA funding. Several jurisdictions felt that the estimates that were submitted for resurfacing may be too low as engineering requirements associated with resurfacing using federal dollars was more extensive than originally anticipated. The Technical Committee felt that adding these funds to the resurfacing project would help if cost overruns occur.

Joe Hultquist asked if other alternatives were considered. He was looking for funds for the Regional Transportation Plan and hopes funding can be found for this. Andrew Sonner reiterated the Technical Committee discussed alternatives but it was agreed the resurfacing project was most practical.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Darryl Smith to drop the Wright Road project from the ARRA list and add the funding to the resurfacing project. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Long Range Mobility Plan Update and Draft Conformity Analysis

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: TDOT has completed their review of the Draft 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. Staff has responded to the comments and resubmitted the draft plan to TDOT. The plan should be submitted to FHWA shortly. Staff has also completed the final round of public meetings. The Draft is available on the TPO's website and through a document-sharing site. A brief presentation will also be made on the plan and the draft conformity analysis. **Attachment #3a – Regional Roadway Project List. Attachment #3b - Executive Summary Draft Conformity Analysis**

b. Background: The Plan is updated every four years and is scheduled for approval by the Technical Committee on May 12 and adoption by the Board on May 27. The Draft Plan is open for public review and comment until May 27, 2009.

Katie Habgood led a power point presentation on the Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. The presentation showed existing and future demographic data, transportation system attributes, and statistics on a variety of transportation modes. A review of each mode including transit, biking, and pedestrian/greenway occurred including plan highlights in those subject areas. Key issues such as freight, safety and security, congestion management, and Intelligent Transportation Systems was discussed. Proposed roadway projects were broken down by time periods, including 2014, 2024, and 2034. Most roadway projects are improvements to existing facilities. There are a few new roads planned. Regional transit issues and potential corridors were shown. Funding was discussed, including projected revenues and costs. Katie noted that plan is financially constrained though funding will remain a challenge as revenues are shrinking and costs will continue to escalate.

Mike Conger discussed the air quality determination analysis. The Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan meets air quality conformity. In a sense, the Plan and the proposed projects do not worsen air quality in the Knoxville region and meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Conformity is determined using a travel demand computer model and EPA computer programs.

Katie noted final adoption of the Plan and the Conformity Analysis will occur at the Technical Committee meeting on May 12 and the Executive Board on May 27. These Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings have been advertised regionally as the conclusion of the federally required 30 day public comment notice. Plans are available on the TPO's website and have been distributed to regional libraries.

There were several questions by members of the Executive Board. There were concerns that despite the investment of billions of dollars into the transportation system forecasted data shows the system will be close to capacity. The Executive Board expressed gratitude for the hard work of staff in preparing the plan.

4. Presentation of the Bicycle Plan Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The 2002 Bicycle Plan called for regular updates. Much progress has been made in implementing the 2002 plan. The current draft is the result of review by the Bicycle Advisory Committee in Spring 2008 and public review in January and February 2009. This update is intended to be more concise and easier to read than the previous plan.

Background: Attachment #4 – Draft 2009 Bicycle Plan (shortened version)

Kelley Segars presented the bicycle plan and stated that a lot of progress has been made since the 2002 plan. The plan will be adopted as part of the Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. However, it is a goal to have the plan adopted by each jurisdiction after it is adopted by the Executive Board. They would also like to have a designated liaison in each jurisdiction for bicycle issues. In addition, Kelley distributed the Smart Trips Month brochure and encouraged everyone to participate.

Jim Hagerman, 2222 Island Home Boulevard, Chair of the TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee, stated the purpose of the committee is to encourage bike use to improve health, reduce transportation costs, improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. They are trying to address issues and looking for support. Jim stated the Committee wanted to express their support for the Bicycle Plan and encouraged the plan's adoption.

5. TDOT Proposed Comprehensive Multimodal Program Fiscal Years 2010-2012

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Governor Phil Bredesen released a final list of projects to be funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, proposed bridge bonds and TDOT's regular funding mechanisms. The three-tiered program represents more than 450 projects statewide touching every county in Tennessee. Included in the proposal, which has been presented to the Legislature, are 132 highway and bridge projects in TDOT's Region One alone. These projects are over and above what the TPO has approved to be built with our allocation of ARRA.

Attachment #5 Proposed TDOT Multimodal Project List

Background: The list of proposed projects identified for funding with bridge bonds and TDOT's regular funding mechanism is subject to the state legislature approval of TDOT's budget. The projects identified to be built with ARRA funds will be underway by this summer.

Doug Burton noted that the 3-year list of projects was a result of TDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan efforts undertaken a few years ago. It was desired by Commissioner Gerald Nicely that TDOT begin to prepare a 3-year list of projects than a year-by-year project list. This allows for better planning and programming. Angie Midgett stated that the list of proposed projects was presented to the legislators and would require their approval.

6. Economic Stimulus Discretionary Grant Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: The TPO staff is still awaiting the regulations/criteria that will implement the discretionary grant program. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation has until mid May to announce the program's details. The Technical Committee will then recommend any transportation projects that would meet the criteria for special economic stimulus funding. Three projects were tentatively identified:

US 321 Bridge over Tennessee River (Lenoir City)

Chickamauga Lock and Dam

Pellissippi Place Research Park Boulevard (Alcoa)

Background: The ARRA program provided \$1.5 billion for competitive discretionary grants for surface transportation infrastructure capital improvements.

Doug Burton stated this is a discretionary program and details on how to apply and project eligibility criteria will come out in May. The TPO staff will be tracking the details of this program. Funding is available for projects across the nation so competition for the funding will be tough. Doug noted the Technical Committee identified three possible projects but in a recent list of Representative John Duncan potential earmarks the US 321 bridge over the Tennessee River was targeted for funding. While the projects still has to be passed by House of Representatives and the Senate perhaps it should be dropped as a possible ARRA discretionary project since it maybe funded through another grant program. Mayor Mike Ragsdale felt strongly that he had seen where Representative Zack Wamp had targeted earmarks for the Chickamauga Dam project. Mayor Ragsdale suggested looking at funding Pellissippi Place. He felt that would make a significant regional impact by not only creating short term jobs through construction but also more permanent local jobs through business developing there. Doug asked that the Executive Board let the TPO staff know if they have any other projects.

7. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, May 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Executive Board Meeting May 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Doug Burton noted that an additional TIP amendment to increase 2009-2011 operations utility funds needed action by the Executive Board. These are state dollars that are being programmed.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Steve King to approve the additional TIP amendment #2008-028. The motion carried unanimously.

Joe Hultquist is co-chair with Councilman Bailey of the City of Knoxville Transportation and Mobility Committee. He distributed a brochure about a trip on May 28 and 29 to Charlotte, North Carolina. Joe noted the group would learn about Charlotte's success on integrating land use and transportation, the development of transit and light rail, grassroots' citizen efforts to support transportation and land use reforms and dedicated taxes for transit, and the implementation of Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Charlotte has been a model of success, especially for a southern city. He would like to see all the jurisdictions participate.

Doug stated that this was to be Mayor Eddy Ford's (Town of Farragut) last Executive Board meeting. Unfortunately Mayor Ford could not attend. The TPO staff wanted Daryl Smith to carry a message back to Mayor Ford that conveyed the staff's appreciation for his dedication, service, and support. Mayor Ragsdale stated that he served with Eddy as an alderman before becoming mayor. Mayor Ragsdale asked the TPO staff to draft a resolution for the Board's next meeting honoring Mayor Ford for his service.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.