

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., August 26, 2009
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on August 26 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Don Mull, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Dale Hurst	for Mayor Matt Brookshire, Lenoir City
*Joe Hultquist	for Vice Mayor Bob Becker, City of Knoxville
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County Mayor
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Mike Ragsdale	Mayor, Knox County
*Tank Strickland	Knox County Commission Chair
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Gene Fitzhugh	University of Tennessee Knoxville
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Don Jacobs	Knoxville News Sentinel
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City
Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jim Ullrich	Citizen
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of July 2009, Minutes

Presenter: Chair Mayor Don Mull

Item Summary: Approval of July

Attachment #1 – July 22, 2009, minutes

A motion was made by Tank Strickland and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the July 22 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Resolution Amending the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment # 2 Resolution

a. Amend TIP Project #2008-055 (Old Stage Road/Watt Road Extension) to add \$320,000 L-STP/\$80,000 local in FY2010 funding for ROW and to increase the FY2011 Construction funding from \$1,809,000 to \$2,720,000 STP/\$680,000 local. The total project cost is now \$3,825,000. **Attachment #2a.**

- b.** Add TIP Project #2008-140 (Kingston Pike Greenway in Farragut) allowing construction of a greenway along Kingston Pike from Old Stage Road to Virtue Road, approximately 2,050 linear feet along the frontage of Willow Creek Golf Course. PE (\$80,000 L-STP/\$20,000 local) and ROW (\$240,000 L-STP/\$60,000 local) will be funded in FY2010, and Construction will be funded in FY2011 (\$480,000 L-STP/\$120,000 local). Total project cost is \$1,000,000. **Attachment #2b. Attachment #2b.1 – Letter from Town of Farragut.**
- c.** Add TIP Project #2008-141 (Bridge Bond Bucket). This is a new state funding source for bridge replacement. Rehabilitation, systematic repair and preservation projects in the TPO urbanized area. There is \$100,000 funding for each FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2c.**
- d.** Add TIP Project #2008-142 (I-40 Auxiliary lane). This new project includes Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-N in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state) and Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-D in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state). The total project cost is \$1,800,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2d.**
- e.** Add TIP Project #2008-143 (I-140 weigh station ramp extension). This new project includes Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-N in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state) and Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-D in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state). The total project cost is \$1,300,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2e.**
- f.** Add TIP Project #2008-144 (SR62 widening). This new project widens SR62 to five lanes from w of Schaad Rd to w of I-75/I-640, for a length of 3.9 miles. This includes state funding for Construction in FY2010 (\$18,400,000 state). The total project cost is \$22,500,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2f.**
- g.** Drop TIP Project #2008-032 (Millertown Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2g.**
- h.** Drop TIP Project #2008-033 (Millertown Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2h.**
- i.** Drop TIP Project #2008-052 (Washington Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2i.**
- j.** Amend TIP Project #2008-053 (Washington Pike) to change project termini to "N of I-640 to Murphy Road." Also amend STP funding in FY2009 to \$750,000 for PE and in FY2011 to \$2,596,000 for ROW. This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2j.**

Jeff Welch discussed each amendment.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the resolution amending the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of a Resolution Amending the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) distributing the remaining ARRA funds. Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: There remains \$364,951 of ARRA funds to be programmed. Staff has attached a recommendation from the Technical Committee for allocating this remaining balance. **Attachment #3 - Resolution.**

Attachment #3a – Technical Committee proposal for ARRA funds distribution. Attachment #3b - Staff memo regarding ITS Architecture and Arterial Management System study. Attachment #3c - Proposal for a regional/urban transit corridor study.

Jeff Welch discussed each item. One was a study to analyze bus and rail opportunities along with a land use and socio-economic analysis, and a second study would analyze hardware interconnects and operational strategies in regards to the ITS Architecture that needs to be updated soon. He stated that the Technical Committee looked at other CMAQ projects that may qualify for the funding. These include: Alcoa/Maryville signal upgrade program; purchase of CAC propane vehicles; Lenoir City signal timing plan for Highway 11, and purchase of a KAT bus.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the resolution amending the TIP to distribute the remaining ARRA funds to ITS Architecture study and urban transit corridor study. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to approve Submittal of a Proposal to TDOT for funding for a Regional/Urban Transit Corridor Study

Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a brief proposal to be submitted to TDOT for funding. In part, this proposal seeks to capitalize on the Regional Transportation Alternatives Plan conducted in 2002 and most recently the Transit Development Plan conducted for KAT that identified several corridors for intensive transit opportunities. This study proposes to quickly narrow the corridors/areas to three for detailed analysis. **See Attachment #3c.**

Jeff Welch stated that the Executive Board approved the ARRA funds, and this proposal was prepared by the staff to send to TDOT asking them to help fund the study.

A motion was made by Joe Hultquist and seconded by Tank Strickland to approve the funds for a regional/urban transit corridor study. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to approve Submittal of a Proposal to TDOT for funding for an East Tennessee Quality Growth (ETQG) Toolbox and Plain Talk on Quality Growth Conference

Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff and ETQG Board members

Item Summary: ETQG proposes to the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to contract for the development and dissemination/implementation of a toolbox (Toolbox) that will make available to local governments and other stakeholder groups various tools that will allow them to implement quality growth principals in their communities, the result of which will be future growth that is sustainable, healthy and results in vibrant and desirable communities. Also, ETQG proposes to the TDOT a second regional conference on quality growth to introduce and showcase the Toolbox to the region, highlight specific tools from the Toolbox in conference proceedings and presentations, and continue the regional dialog on quality growth.

Attachment #5 - ETQG Proposal.

Jeff Welch stated that this proposal was presented to the Technical Committee to seek funds for development of a quality growth toolbox for east Tennessee and to help fund a second conference. TPO will be asked to serve as the contract managers if this proposal is funded by TDOT. Jeff and Ellen Zavisca were on the Board of Directors but have resigned to avoid any conflicts.

Joe Hultquist, 2240 Fisher Place, stated that this is a nonprofit corporation in Tennessee. It is a 16-county organization including the same 16 counties as the East Tennessee Development Corporation. He is president, and John Lamb is on the Executive Committee. They are setting up a toolbox which will be beneficial to all local jurisdictions to help them grow and maintain the quality of East Tennessee. In March 2007, a Plain Talk on Quality Growth conference was held, and this proposal grew out of that successful conference. Mayor Mike Ragsdale thanked Joe and John for their work on the project.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Mayor Don Mull to approve a submittal of a proposal to TDOT for funding an East Tennessee Quality Growth Toolbox and Plain Talk on Quality Growth Conference. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement Creating the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council

Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Cities, counties and other organizations in east Tennessee have joined together in an effort to create a regional system of greenways and blueways. This agreement authorizes the TPO to be a voting member of the council and pay appropriate dues. **Attachment #6 – Agreement.**

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee has approved this agreement, and we have been asked to participate.

A motion was made by Joe Hultquist and seconded by Dale Hurst to approve the agreement creating the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion to approve submittal of a letter to our Congressional Delegation explaining the potential impacts that a proposed rescission of federal funds from TDOT will have on our urban area

Technical Committee Recommends Approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: On September 30, 2009, by law, the Federal Highway Administration will reduce the federal contract authority the states use to build-multi-year projects by \$8.7 billion. If this law is not repealed when Congress returns in September, Tennessee will lose approximately \$190 million. Many projects in our urban area could be impacted by this rescission. **Attachment #7 - AASHTO press release.**

Jeff Welch explained the rescission. He received a table yesterday showing the areas that will be impacted and read from the list the funds that will be lost. The Technical Committee asked that a letter be sent to the congressional delegation for support. Mayor Ragsdale suggested that each mayor send a separate letter, also.

A motion was made by Joe Hultquist and seconded by Mayor Mike Ragsdale authorizing that a letter be submitted to our congressional delegation explaining the potential impacts the rescission will have on our community. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion endorsing Loudon County's submittal of a TIGER application to the US DOT for funds to build a new bridge over the Tennessee River on US Hwy. 321

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Loudon County is seeking a portion of the available \$1.5 billion TIGER funds to build a new bridge over the Tennessee River. This project is in the TPO's Long Range Transportation Plan and is on TDOT's bridge replacement program list. No other TPO jurisdiction has advised the staff of their submittal of a TIGER application within our urban area.

A motion was made by Dale Hurst and seconded by Mayor Mike Ragsdale to approve endorsing Loudon's County's submittal to use TIGER funds to build a new bridge over the Tennessee River. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Bearden Greenway Research Results

Presenter: Gene Fitzhugh, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Department of Exercise, Sport and Leisure Studies

Item Summary: Dr. Fitzhugh is studying greenway usage in Knoxville and the impact of the Bearden Village Greenway on the surrounding neighborhood.

Ellen Zavisca introduced Gene Fitzhugh, Ph.D, from UT who presented on the usage and impact of greenways in Knoxville. He discussed the Bearden Village Greenway, which was built along Sutherland Avenue, and its impact on the surrounding neighborhood. His research found that the greenway led to an increase in physical activity and the perception of walkability, as compared with control neighborhoods. Trail counters are also set up along several greenways in Knoxville to count bicyclists and pedestrians. Gene's students will be doing trail intercept surveys to determine the length and purpose of greenway trips, among other data.

Mayor Ragsdale stated that parents are reluctant to let children walk across the street at the crosswalks. The new signs that have been installed in the middle of the crosswalks have helped when the white lines did not.

10. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, September 8 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**
- **Executive Board Meeting, October 28 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**

11. Public Comment

Jim Ullrich, 551 English Village Way, stated that Dr. Fitzhugh was part of the planning for that greenway. We need education for people to realize that sidewalks and greenways are transportation not just for recreation. These should be connected to each other because they are transportation systems. We will see huge benefits from this. We need to encourage people to walk and use money to educate people.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.