

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., May 27, 2009
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on May 27 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.

*Doyle Arp	Mayor, Loudon County
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Bill Haslam	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Dale Hurst	for Mayor Matt Brookshire, Lenoir City
*Joe Hultquist	for Vice Mayor Bob Becker, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County Mayor
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Mike Ragsdale	Mayor, Knox County
*Darryl Smith	for Mayor Ralph McGill, Town of Farragut
*Tank Strickland	Knox County Commission Chair
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Marshall Elizer	Gresham, Smith and Partners
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Steve King	City of Knoxville
Tameka Macon	Federal Highway Administration
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Victor Otero	Federal Highway Administration
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Kim Ramsey	Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kevin Tilbury	Gresham, Smith and Partners
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 April 22, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: Don Mull, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of April 22, 2009, TPO Executive Board minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – April 22, 2009, Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the April 22 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff recognized Tameka Macon, who was representing the Federal Highway Administration.

2. Approval of two Resolutions, one adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan Update and the second finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements.

Staff and TPO Technical Committee recommend approval of both resolutions subject to any additional comments from FHWA and FTA.

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: MPOs must update the guiding long range transportation plan every four years as directed by SAFETEA-LU. This full update has gone through extensive public involvement over the last year including three rounds of public workshops. TDOT and FHWA/FTA have completed reviewing the Draft 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. Additionally, the Conformity Determination Report has been reviewed by the Interagency Consultation group. The Draft Plan is available on the TPO's website (www.knoxtrans.org) and through a document-sharing site that can be accessed from the TPO website.

b. Background: The Draft Plan has been open for public review and comment for more than 30 days.

Attachment #2a – Comments from TDOT and disposition of these comments.

Attachment #2b – Comments from FHWA and disposition of these comments.

Attachment #2c – Resolution adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan.

Attachment #2d – Resolution finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements.

Jeff Welch thanked Katie Habgood, Mike Conger and Amy Brooks for their work on the plan. Katie stated that the plan is updated every four years. After several public meetings and review by federal and state Department of Transportations the plan is ready for adoption by the Board. The plan is financially constrained. A revised handout was distributed concerning FHWA and FTA comments of the plan. The final document will reflect all comments from the state and federal agencies.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Mayor Bill Haslam to approve both resolutions: one adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan Update and the second finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of a Resolution Amending the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution. Attachment #3 – Resolution.

a) Background: Attachment #3a – TIP Project #2008-134

Jeff Welch stated that Attachment #3a is an addition of a slip ramp from southbound I-140 (Pellissippi Parkway) to Northshore Town Center and was requested by a private developer. The construction of this new off ramp will be at the developer's expense. FHWA is requiring that this project be in our TIP.

b) Adjust and amend the following TIP projects to add Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Transit Grant Program) FY2009 Allocation

Adjust TIP Project #2008-074 (KAT Section 5307 Transit Funds) – delete FY2009 placeholder amount (\$4,000,000 Federal, \$500,000 state, \$500,000 local). Funds were amended into the following projects:

- Amend TIP Project #2008-110 (KAT – Transit Enhancements) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$43,740 Federal, \$5,468 state, \$5,468 local). Attachment #3b.
- Amend TIP Project #2008-111 (KAT – Preventative Maintenance) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$3,245,662 Federal, \$405,708 state, \$405,708 local). Attachment #3c.

- Amend TIP Project #2008-112 (KAT – ADA Non-Fixed Route) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$437,400 Federal, \$54,675 state, \$54,675 local). Attachment #3d.
- Amend TIP Project #2008-113 (KAT – Transit Planning Activities) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$227,200 Federal, \$28,400 state, \$28,400 local). Attachment #3e.
- Amend TIP Project #2008-115 (KAT – Farebox System Upgrade) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$256,000 Federal, \$32,000 state, \$32,000 local). Attachment #3f.
- Amend TIP Project #2008-118 (KAT – System Security Cost (E911 Fees)) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$52,000 Federal, \$6,500 state, \$6,500 local). Attachment #3g.
- Amend TIP Project #2008-122 (KAT – Closed Radio System) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$100,000 Federal, \$12,500 state, \$12,500 local). Attachment #3h.
- Add TIP Project #2008-135 (KAT – Upgrade customer service phone system) – add FY2009 5307 funds (\$12,000 Federal, \$1,500 state, \$1,500 local). Attachment #3i.

Jeff briefly explained each of the KAT amendments.

c) Amend the following TIP project to add Section 5309 FY2009 Allocation of High Priority Project (HPP) funds.

Add TIP Project #2008-136 (KAT – Knoxville Station Automated Vehicle Locator System) – add FY2009 5309 funds (\$237,500 Federal). Attachment #3j.

Joe Hultquist asked what the quarter million dollars for transit planning is spent on, and Cindy McGinnis with Knoxville Area Transit stated that a portion of the 5307 funds can be used for program activities to process grants, and planning studies and they can get reimbursed.

A motion was made by Mayor Haslam and seconded by Mayor Ragsdale to approve the amendments to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the TPO, Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), and the Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA)

TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Federal transportation regulations (23 CFR 450.314 (a)) require a MOA between the local MPO (TPO) and the urban area public transit operator (KAT). The MOA specifies cooperation procedures for carrying out planning and programming, including agreeing to work together to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. The KTA, the policy board that oversees KAT, is part of this agreement. The KTA will consider the MOA at their Board meeting on May 28, 2009.

Background: Attachment #4 – Memorandum of Agreement

Doug Burton of the TPO staff stated that an updated MOA is required by federal regulations and he went on to briefly review the MOA.

A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by Mayor Haslam to approve the resolution for the MOA. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of a Resolution Requesting Tennessee's Federal Representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of a proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville and Harrisburg, PA, as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that would bring fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation.

The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The five-state I-81/I-40 Corridor between Harrisburg, PA, and Knoxville is one of the densest truck freight highways in the nation. A multi-state study is necessary in order to identify the feasibility of implementing high-speed rail in this corridor for both freight and passenger trips.

Background: Attachment #5a – Resolution and Attachment #5b -Background paper

Jeff Welch stated that the resolution attempts to look at how best to move people and goods in the multi-state I-81 corridor. States from New York to Tennessee are looking at it. He supports the concept of rail to find a solution to move goods.

Joe Hultquist stated that he has been to some of the meetings, and there is a lot of work still to be done.

A motion was made by Mayor Haslam and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the resolution regarding the "Steel Interstate." The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of a Resolution Honoring the Achievements of W. Edward "Eddy" Ford III, former Mayor of the Town of Farragut.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: At the last meeting Board members requested a resolution be prepared and presented recognizing the achievements of Mayor Eddy Ford. **Attachment #6 – Resolution**

A motion was made by Mayor Ragsdale and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution recognizing the achievements of Mayor Eddy Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of \$1.5 Billion American Recover and Reinvestment (ARRA) Discretionary Grant Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #7 – Summary of Draft Program Guidelines

Background: The U.S. Department of Transportation has released proposed guidelines to implement the \$1.5 billion Discretionary Grant Program. Comments on the guidelines are due June 1, 2009, with applications for funding due September 15, 2009.

Amy Brooks stated that the funds will be awarded to states and local governments. She discussed the list of eligible projects. The purpose of the stimulus money is to preserve and create jobs. Projects have to be ready to go to receive the funds. She asked that the Executive Board send any comments they may have to her during the next week. Final rules will be announced on June 15.

Mike Hammond asked if this money is available nationwide and Amy said it is. Jeff Welch stated that all local or state governments are eligible to make application for the money.

Mayor Ragsdale asked Mayor Doyle Arp about the Highway 321 project across the dam. Mayor Ragsdale thinks this project fits the criteria for these funds, and a strong project should be chosen. Jeff added that the Highway 321 project has been identified, access to a research park in Alcoa, and the Chickamauga Dam lock project. Mayor Ragsdale suggested that TPO staff and the Technical Committee screen potential TIGER applications and present a short list to the TPO Board at the August meeting. Mayor Mull agreed with that approach.

Joe Hultquist asked if there is a process to pick a project. Jeff stated that the Executive Board can endorse the projects at their August 27 meeting if they desire, but it is not required as part of the federal regulations.

8. Presentation of Complete Streets Study

Presenter: TPO Staff and consultants from Gresham, Smith & Partners

Item Summary: Gresham, Smith is wrapping up work on the Complete Streets Study, which includes recommendations for two regional corridors and a set of guidelines for transforming other corridors into Complete Streets that are safe and accessible for all users.

Ellen Zavisca introduced Kevin Tilbury from Gresham, Smith & Partners to present the Complete Streets Study.

Kevin gave a brief presentation on the study.

Jeff Welch stated that at the public presentation of the study, one councilwoman made a comment that she remembers when Kingston Pike was a more “complete” street, with a median, and that those ideas are coming back. Jeff thanked the cities that participated in the study.

9. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, June 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building (may be cancelled)**
- **Transit Oriented Trip to Charlotte, NC, May 28-29 – Attachment #8 – Flyer** – Joe Hultquist announced that 25 people are going tomorrow to look at transit and land use planning.
- **Executive Board Meeting, August 26 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**

Joe Hultquist stated that the legislation allowing creation of regional transportation authorities has passed both houses of the Tennessee Legislature and will be sent to the governor, who is expected to sign it.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.