

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., December 21, 2010
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on December 21 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Don Mull, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Perrin Anderson	for Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
*Estelle Herron	Loudon County Mayor
*Dale Hurst	for Mayor Tony Aikens, Lenoir City
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Ed Mitchell, Blount County
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Brenda Palmer	for Vice Mayor Bob Becker, City of Knoxville
*Cindy Pionke	for Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Maureen Melton Bluhm	Federal Highway Administration
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Don Brown	East Tennessee Development District
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Sabrina David	Federal Highway Administration
Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Pamela Kordenbrock	Federal Highway Administration
Natalie Lester	Shopper-News
Barbara Monty	Community Action Committee
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Dee Anne Reynolds	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against the Beltway Location
Britta Stein	Federal Highway Administration
Gerald Varney	Federal Highway Administration
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

Jeff Welch introduced Pamela Kordenbrock, the new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Administrator, and Sabrina David, Assistant Division Administrator.

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of September 22, 2010, minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: Mayor Don Mull, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 22, 2010, TPO Executive Board minutes. **Attachment #1.**

A motion was made by Mayor Ralph McGill and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the September 22 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Resolution Amending the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Technical Committee recommends approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT recently approved a number of TPO-area projects which need to be included in our TIP. **Attachment #2a** is the resolution with a complete list of the projects. Additional information for items a-l is listed in **Attachment #2b**. These projects will use Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Two Lenoir City projects will be amended into the TIP which will use American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. A City of Knoxville project, which is nearly-completed, needs to be re-inserted back into the TIP in order to close it out. And, two new enhancement projects were recently announced by the Governor and need to be added into the TIP.

- a. Amend TIP Project #2011-014, Ebenezer Rd/N Westland Intersection. This existing project to add turn lanes was approved for \$250,000 CMAQ funding with a \$50,000 local match for PE-D/ROW/CON.
- b. Amend TIP Project #2011-036, US 321 and Hwy 11 Intersection in Lenoir City. This existing intersection modification project was approved for \$400,000 CMAQ funding.
- c. Add TIP Project #2011-064, Broadway Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knoxville. This project will coordinate 20 signals from Jackson Ave to I-640 WB Exit ramp and was approved for \$240,000 CMAQ funding.
- d. Add TIP Project #2011-065, Kingston Pike Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knoxville. This project will coordinate 24 signals from Cherokee Blvd to Bridgewater Rd and was approved for \$288,000 CMAQ funding.
- e. Add TIP Project #2011-066, East Knoxville Sidewalk Improvements (Park City). This project will complete a sidewalk network between a high school and nearby neighborhoods with 1,400 lf of sidewalk and was approved for \$400,000 CMAQ funding and \$100,000 local match.
- f. Add TIP Project #2011-067, Millertown Pike and Mill Rd Intersection Improvements in Knoxville. This project will install a signalized traffic control and was approved for \$210,000 CMAQ funding.
- g. Add TIP Project #2011-068, Signal System Communications Master Plan and Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knox County. This project will coordinate the remaining 14 signals in Knox County along with developing a master plan for all traffic signals in the County's jurisdiction and was approved for \$182,600 CMAQ funding.
- h. Add TIP Project #2011-072, Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture update study for the Knoxville Region. A regional ITS architecture is a long-range plan for how ITS can be deployed, integrated, and operated in a region. An updated and comprehensive regional ITS architecture provides a framework for implementing ITS projects and encourages interoperability and resource sharing among agencies. The current regional ITS architecture for

the Knoxville Region was developed back in 2000. This project was approved for \$200,000 in CMAQ funding.

- i. Add TIP Project #2011-215, Smart Trips Program. The regional ride share program has been approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$664,000 in state CMAQ funding to continue and expand the program including hiring a second coordinator to explore marketing opportunities in Anderson and Sevier Counties.
- j. Add TIP Project #2011-216, regional Bicycle Parking Program. This project provides bike racks at a very low cost to businesses and agencies to help encourage and promote bicycling as an alternative to driving and was approved for \$24,000 CMAQ funding.
- k. Add TIP Project #2011-217, Car Share Program, managed by the TPO with cooperation from the City of Knoxville and UT. The new car sharing program has been approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$125,000 in state CMAQ funding to provide marketing and initial membership subsidies.
- l. Add TIP Project #2011-218, KAT Transit Vehicles. The vehicle replacement program was approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$5,875,000 in state CMAQ funding to purchase up to 10 new buses and five new trolleys, all equipped with Diesel Particulate Filters.
- m. Add TIP Project #2011-069, Adesa Boulevard (Lenoir City) - This is a resurfacing project that was funded through the ARRA (Stimulus) program. Additional funding of \$37,234 (STP/local match) is needed to cover final construction costs due to under-cuts that were encountered on the project. This project was funded out of an ARRA Resurfacing "Bucket" of funds that was included as Project 2008-133 in the previous TIP. **Attachment #2c.**
- n. Add TIP Project #2011-070, Browder Hollow Rd (Lenoir City) - Additional funding of \$31,641 (STP/local match) is needed to cover final construction costs due to under-cuts that were encountered on the project. This project was funded out of an ARRA Resurfacing "Bucket" of funds that was included as Project 2008-133 in the previous TIP. **Attachment #2d.**
- o. Add TIP Project #2011-071, Pleasant Ridge Rd (Knoxville) - This project involved adding a center turn lane and was recently completed. Apparently funds that were added for cost overruns through an adjustment to the 2008-2011 TIP were never officially approved by FHWA as there was a miscommunication that occurred somewhere along the way. In order to close the project out and pay the outstanding obligations to the contractor the project needs to be added to the current 2011-2014 TIP. The previous TIP Project ID was #2008-041. **Attachment #2e.**
- p. Add TIP Project #2011-73, First Creek Greenway – Fulton to Edgewood (Knoxville). Adding \$614,400 in Enhancement funds for Construction in FY2011. **Attachment #2f.**
- q. Add TIP Project #2011-74, Ramsey House Transportation Exhibit. Adding \$541,752 in Enhancement funds for Construction in FY2011. **Attachment #2g.**

Katie Habgood stated that TDOT had recently announced several Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to be funded within the Knoxville non-attainment area. In the past, the Knoxville non-attainment area was sub-allocated CMAQ funding by TDOT and the decision of which projects to fund was determined through a TPO application process and finalized by the TPO Executive Board. After a series of funding recessions by the U.S. Congress, TDOT had decided to retain the CMAQ funding and select the projects statewide themselves. Each MPO was able to submit a slate of projects to TDOT for CMAQ funding. The TPO staff worked with the Technical Committee to develop the slate of projects from the Knoxville area. The Knoxville projects were then presented to a TDOT selection committee. Katie said that the Knoxville area did very well, as TDOT, awarded funding for a majority of the Knoxville projects. Also, in the list of TIP amendments was an ITS Architecture Study. This project was also approved by TDOT to be funded through CMAQ. Katie noted projects M and N was a request by Lenoir City to add local and STP funds to cover cost overruns of these two ARRA funded projects. Project O – Pleasant Ridge Road was a project that was in a previous TIP. To continue to receive funding, the TIP procedures require it to be added into the new TIP. This project needs additional funding to close the project out. Finally, Katie said projects P and Q were two new enhancement grants there were announced by TDOT to fund the First Creek Greenway and the Ramsey House projects.

A motion was made by Mayor McGill and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the amendments to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to approve the Transportation Project Priority list for FY2012-2015 to be submitted to TDOT and our area state legislators

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Technical Committee recommends approval

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Each year, the TPO presents the state legislation with a list of priority transportation projects within our region. **Attachment #3.**

Jeff Welch stated that each year the TPO Executive Board sends to TDOT and our area's State Legislators a priority list of projects. This list helps TDOT prepare their annual budget. The TPO staff, working with the Technical Committee recommends staying with last year's list, except for the Knoxville Parkway project which has been removed. Jeff also noted that there was a companion priority transit project list that went with the roadway projects. Because of the new Governor and the anticipated new TDOT Commissioner, TPO staff was recommending that there would be no Legislative Luncheon this year. The list of Priority Projects would be sent in a packet to TDOT and the area's State Legislators. Later in the year the TPO will host a special meeting with the new TDOT Commissioner.

A motion was made by Brenda Palmer and seconded by Mayor Tom Taylor to approve the Project Priority list. The motion carried unanimously.

4. FY2010 TDOT Transportation Obligations Report

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT has provided to the TPO a list of obligated projects for fiscal year 2010 (October 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010).

Attachment #4. List of obligated projects for Fiscal Year 2010.

Jeff Welch stated that it was a federal requirement that the TPO post an annual list of obligated projects. TDOT has prepared a transportation obligations report for highway projects. TDOT obligated \$27 million in highway funding in the TPO area. The TPO staff was also working with the area transit providers to put together a list of transit obligated projects. The list would be posted on the TPO website.

5. Overview of the Knoxville Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The City of Knoxville working with the Knoxville Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and the TPO staff and other local governments has been awarded a \$4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). **Attachment #5 - Plan East Tennessee (PlanET) Summary**

Amy Brooks made a presentation regarding the PlanET project. The grant application was prepared by a group of regional partners led by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the City of Knoxville. The MPC, including the TPO staff, will be take the lead on the implementation of the grant and will work closely with the City of Knoxville, the grant administrators. The MPC will handle much of the project administration including developing schedules, hiring consultants, leading the public involvement process, fostering a regional consortium of partners, and working on key aspects of the study. The scope of work will involve developing a comprehensive plan for a more sustainable East Tennessee. The regional plan will address a wide range of issues including air and water quality, economic and workforce development, healthy living, housing issues, land use and transportation. The Plan will focus on getting local governments and key

organizations in Knox, Blount, Anderson, Union, and Loudon Counties to develop the region's capacity to work together for a more sustainable future. The TPO staff will seek to utilize the work-efforts, the public participation, and the results as key inputs into shaping the next Mobility Plan update. More information including the grant application can be found on the TPO website at www.knoxtrans.org.

Jeff Welch added he wants to make sure that the East Tennessee Development District is included in this 3-year process. Numerous meetings will be held with many opportunities to participate.

John Lamb stated that in the presentation the matching money and time commitments should be broken out by organizations. A key aspect of the Knoxville proposal was that many of the partners provided funding or in-kind match well over the suggested rate.

6. Comments from Pam Kordenbrock, Division Administrator, of the Tennessee Division of the Federal Highway Administration

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: FHWA

Item Summary: TN FHWA Division staff including Pam Kordenbrock, Division Administrator and Sabrina David Assistant Division Administrator, are visiting the Knoxville TPO to meet with staff and the TPO Board to discuss common issues and concerns.

Jeff Welch introduced Pamela Kordenbrock, who is the new Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration. She will be visiting our area at least annually. She introduced Sabrina David, the new Assistant Division Director. Pamela congratulated TPO on the HUD grant.

Ms. Kordenbrock discussed how excited she was about being the Tennessee Division Director, and she looks forward to working with the TPO staff, the Technical Committee, and the Executive Board. She said she also wants to forge a strong relationship with TDOT. She noted there were many positive things going on in Tennessee and some challenges. She stated that she and her staff were ready to work with the MPOs across the State.

Jeff stated there was a newspaper article about the federal government requiring that some traffic signs to be replaced. Ms. Kordenbrock stated that there is a notice in the Federal Register concerning the need to replace old signs with new ones that have higher retro reflectivity. Anyone who has concerns needs to be sure to comment on the proposed notice. For regulatory and warning signs the deadline is January 2015. By January 2018 street signs must meet new retro reflectivity rules. If a sign meets the requirements then it does not need to be changed. Only the ones that do not meet the minimum requirements are affected. New street signs must be upper and lower case. This is a safety issue.

John Lamb asked what the service life of a sign is, and Ms. Kordenbrock responded that it is how long the reflectivity will last. Steve King asked if there was a change in the size of the letters, and she responded that a change was made on that issue in 2000. Dale Hurst asked how signs will be monitored that are not in compliance. She stated that sign vendors know about regulations, so she does not expect that it is an issue.

Assistant Director Sabrina David discussed the new Federal Every Day Counts initiatives. Both she and Jeff Welch were at a conference in Atlanta on this issue. The three initiatives are shortening project delivery time, accelerating the design and building phases of projects and using technology. The goal is to get projects implemented faster with out compromise on safety and environmental protection. She has been examining the initiatives and best practices and determining which strategies would work for Tennessee.

7. Other business

Technical Committee Meeting, January 11 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Executive Board Meeting, January 26 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Jeff Welch stated that the January Executive Board and Technical Committee meetings may be cancelled if there are no action items.

Jeff discussed SAFETEA-LU and stated that the House of Representative has extended it until September. The Senate wants to extend it to February.

Kelly Segars announced that the Tour de Lights Holiday Bike Ride will be December 21 at 7 p.m. beginning at Krutch Park in downtown Knoxville. The Regional Bicycle Plan has been adopted, and she will prepare a report every December. Some of the goals have been met.

Mike Conger gave an update on air quality. There has been another delay on the new ozone standards. The deadline is now July 31, 2011, so the Environmental Protection Agency can review scientific data for recommendations. Our area is at 76 parts per billion, and we will have to meet between 60-70 parts per billion. We are waiting the final announcement that our area is in attainment.

Andrew Sonner, City of Alcoa, announced that a ribbon cutting for the pedestrian bridge will be held on December 21, and the diverging diamond interchange at US 129 Bypass and Bessemer St. has opened.

Cindy McGinnis, General Manager of Knoxville Area Transit, stated that the new transit station will be named the John J. Duncan Jr. Knoxville Station.

8. Public comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.