

**TPO Executive Board Minutes
9 a.m., June 22, 2011
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on June 22 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. The Chair and Vice-Chair were absent so the voting members present selected Mayor Don Mull to preside. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Perrin Anderson	for Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
*Tommy Hunt	for Mayor Tom Taylor, City of Maryville
*Steve King	for Mayor Daniel Brown, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Ed Mitchell, Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Patrick Phillips	for Mayor Estelle Herron, Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	for Mayor Tim Burchett, Knox County
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Don Brown	East Tennessee Development District
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville

*Voting Member

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of April 27, 2011, minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: Don Mull, Acting Chair

Item Summary: Approval of April 27, 2011, TPO Executive Board minutes. **Attachment #1.**

A motion was made by Ed Shouse and seconded by Perrin Anderson to approve the April 27 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

■ Action □ Possible Action □ Discussion □ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments. The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Attachment #2 Resolution.

- a. Add TIP Project #2011-079 (Maynardville Highway from Temple Acres Drive to Union County line) with \$7,311,700 (*\$5,849,360 federal and \$1,462,340 state*) total HPP funds and \$21,688,300 (*\$17,350,640 federal and \$4,337,660 state*) total STP funds for CON work in 2012. Project description is to widen Maynardville Highway (SR-33) to 4/5 lanes from Temple Acres Drive to Union County line. **Attachment #2a.**
- b. Add TIP Project #2011-080 (Communications Study & Signal Timing Optimization) with \$100,000 total CMAQ funds for PE-D. The project is to develop a plan to upgrade signal timing at 11 intersections in Lenoir City and to prepare a Citywide Communications Master Plan. **Attachment #2b.**

Bryan Berry reviewed the two TIP amendments. John Lamb said he was at one of the PlanET meetings recently and representatives from Union County had concerns about improvements to Maynardville Highway ending at the Union County line and not be continued further. Don Brown of the East Tennessee Development District stated that the East Tennessee North RPO's 3-Year Program of projects does include improving Maynardville Highway from the Union County line to the City of Maynardville, but he did not think it has been included in TDOT's 3-Year Program yet. Jeff Welch said he did not think that project was in TDOT's 3-year program of projects either. Angie Midgett confirmed, upon looking through the TDOT 3-year program of projects, that this section of Maynardville Highway is not currently programmed. She cautioned the Board that TDOT can not fund every RPO project at the same time. John Lamb said it is a question of planning continuity.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Tommy Hunt for approval of the resolution amending the TIP to include Projects #2011-079 and #2011-080. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of a Resolution adopting the conformity determination to an amendment to the Long Range Mobility plan and TIP.

■ Action □ Possible Action □ Discussion □ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Resolution adopting the conformity determination to an amendment to the Long Range Mobility plan and TIP for the following project: widen Maynardville Highway (SR-33) to 4/5 lanes from Temple Acres Drive to Union County line. **Attachment #3.**

Mike Conger discussed the resolution adopting the conformity determination for the Maynardville Highway project. He stated that this project required an updated emissions analysis because the project was moving into a nearer term horizon year (moving from 2024 to 2014) of the Long Range Mobility Plan. When projects move to a different horizon year, you must prove that the Mobility Plan and the TIP can still demonstrate conformity. Mike said he ran the model with the adjusted horizon years and the Mobility Plan and TIP still demonstrates conformity.

Mike said the Executive Board needed to pass the resolution adopting the conformity determination and that it would then be sent to EPA and FHWA for concurrence. Tommy Hunt asked about the pending new ozone standards and whether the TPO would have to re-do the conformity analysis. Mike stated that once the new ozone standard was finalized then at least a one-year clock would start for formal designations of new nonattainment areas and then another one-year clock would start in which conformity would need to be demonstrated for the new standard. Mike stated that the TPO would have to do conformity again, but it should be at least two years from now before it would be due.

A motion was made by Tommy Hunt and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the resolution adopting the conformity determination to an amendment to the Long Range Mobility Plan and the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to approve the submittal of a candidate list of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects to TDOT for possible funding.

■ Action □ Possible Action □ Discussion □ Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO is required to submit applications to TDOT by July 1, 2011, to be considered for CMAQ funding. There is approximately \$20 million of CMAQ funds available statewide. Staff has received 12 applications totaling \$8.4 million for the first fiscal year.

Attachment #4a is a summary of the submitted applications. **Attachment #4b** is a summary of the air quality benefits for each project with a ranking of those benefits.

Mike Conger provided a summary of the projects that were submitted to the TPO staff and the emissions data. He explained that a ranking based on the emission reduction cost effectiveness was given to the projects and that this was one of the major factors that TDOT would consider in selecting projects. Mike noted that projects involving private companies would eventually require a local government to provide a support letter. Mike stated that these projects are due to TDOT by July 1. There will be a workshop in Nashville on August 5 to present the projects. The selections will be picked on September 2.

Steve King asked who would pay the local match for the natural gas fueling center since the application includes one location in Knox County and the other in the City. Mike Conger said that TDOT requires public/private partnership projects to provide a 20% local match from the private sector, and his understanding was this would come from the fueling station landowner. Ed Shouse asked about the KAT vehicles project and wanted a clarification about whether it required a local match or not. Mike stated under current federal law all CMAQ projects were eligible to be funded at 100%. However, if applicants provide a local match, it improves their cost benefit score. Ed Shouse also asked how KAT selects which buses are replaced. Mike Conger stated that at the Technical Committee meeting, Melissa Roberson of KAT had said if the KAT vehicle project was selected, the infusion of these vehicles would bring their fleet very close to being up-to-date. At this time, KAT's bus fleet was behind in a normal replacement schedule. Ed Shouse asked if the funding for CMAQ was federal dollars or state dollars. Jeff Welch stated CMAQ was federal funds that go to TDOT for distribution. Jeff said that TDOT had approximately \$20 million in CMAQ funding for projects statewide this year. Therefore, project selection was going to be very competitive.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Tommy Hunt to approve the candidate list of CMAQ projects to submit to TDOT for possible funding. The motion carried unanimously.

5. State 3-Year/TIP Comparison

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TPO Staff has prepared a comparison of highway related projects that are in the recently approved TDOT 2012-2014 Multimodal Transportation Program and the TPO's 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Attachment #5 - Summary Table Comparison

Jeff Welch briefly went over the table comparison included in the packet. The comparison shows which projects and their various phases are in the State's 3-Year Multimodal Transportation Program and which are in the TPO's TIP. The two lists do not match exactly and Jeff anticipates adjustments or amendments from TDOT in the future to try to bring the two programs more in-line with each other. Jeff noted anytime there is a new administration there will be changes to priorities and the differences were not totally unexpected.

Several Executive Board members were concerned with the description for the Knox-Loudon project which was – “to add a westbound auxiliary lane from I-75 to Lovell Road”. Tommy Hunt asked why it says Loudon County. Jeff said they did not think it would go all the way to Watt Road. Cindy Pionke said her understanding was that it would go to Watt Road, but that interchange is still in Knox County. Angie Midgett said that issue is under discussion as to what the description/project terminus should be.

Pat Phillips asked about the project described for Knox-Loudon as “Knoxville SmartWay ITS Communication Upgrade” and wanted to know what area the project would include. He was hopeful that it would improve the ITS message boards south on I-75 and west on I-40. He said the current sign was too close to the downtown off-ramp for anyone to make an adjustment to their trip. Mike Conger said he saw a presentation about the project and can get more specific information on the project, but that the intention was to put signs in advance of major decision points so that motorists could choose an alternate route.

6. Easter Seals Project Action Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Easter Seals Project Action has selected Knoxville as one of ten cities to participate in the Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative (ATCI). ATCI will help establish a coalition of advocates which seek to improve accessible transportation options for people with disabilities. As part of this event, the group will help update the TPO's Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

Doug Burton stated that Knoxville received a grant through the ATCI. Barbara Monty brought the grant opportunity to his attention. The grant is through Easter Seals Project Action which is an organization that promotes accessible transportation for persons who are disabled. The project is funded in part by the U.S. DOT and FTA. A team consisting of: Cindy McGinnis of

KAT, Stephanie Brewer-Cook of the City of Knoxville, Barbara Monty of Knoxville Knox County CAC, and Doug put together the application. The group that put together the application is also acting as the oversight committee for the project. The grant contains no “real” funding – but it provides one year use of the Project Action staff as a resource for technical assistance, which includes the Project Action staff conducting a two day workshop in Knoxville.

The goal of ATCI is to promote cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities. The two day workshop has several purposes and these include: (1) to help update the Regional Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, (2) to help establish a coalition or advocacy group for accessible transportation, (3) to facilitate group discussion around the urgent issues for accessible transportation resulting in a plan to address those issues (HSTCP); (4) to provide technical assistance regarding best practices to reach solutions; and (5) to teach, through example, a community change process with which the coalition can continue to develop strategies to affect positive change in the future. The two day event will be limited to 25 people and the Project Action staff will come to Knoxville to conduct the workshop on September 20th and 21st. Following the event, ESPA will provide technical support to each team for a year. Doug said several of the Technical Committee members would be invited to the workshop. Doug also invited any of the Executive Board members to participate or to recommend people from their jurisdictions who they thought might be interested in participating.

Pat Phillips asked if ETHRA will be involved in the workshop. Doug answered “yes.” Doug said several members of the Technical Committee will be invited including ETHRA.

Pat Phillips asked if the workshop would address coordination and service duplication issues between ETHRA, Knox County CAC Transit, and KAT. Doug stated that the workshop may not get that specific to solving that issue. Jeff Welch stated he could see the workshop identifying the issue of service duplication or overlap and that an outgrowth of the workshop would be the need to examine that issue in more detail. He further indicated that the Tennessee Legislature passed a bill and was signed into law to create a special transportation coordination committee to study ways to improve delivery of transportation services for populations needing specialized assistance.

7. Regional Transit Corridor Analysis Project Update

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO has received a grant from the TDOT to prepare a Regional Transit Corridor Analysis. The study will look at a variety of corridors in the Region to determine if any can support higher capacity transit in the future. Higher capacity transit could include a variety of options, from very frequent bus service, to Bus Rapid Transit, to possibly passenger rail.

Doug Burton gave an update to the Regional Transit Corridor Study. The study is being funded by TDOT. The TPO staff is administering the study. The consulting firm STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates was selected. STV has a team that includes several sub-consultants. The study is scheduled to be complete by mid-2012.

The goal of the study is to identify up-to-three corridors that can support higher capacity transit. Modes of transit to be considered range from passenger rail, to bus rapid transit, to more frequent bus service. The consultants will use a two Tier evaluation process to analyze the various corridors in the region and to narrow them down to the three that are the most appropriate. Then, the consultants will examine the three corridors in detail and develop alignments, costs, ridership forecasts, and funding strategies. Equally as important, the consultant will develop a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Toolbox. The TOD Toolbox will look at the land use and TOD opportunities within the corridors and make recommendations on how to improve local ordinances to encourage transit friendly development.

The project's public involvement process will officially kick-off in early September. There is both a working committee and a citizens' committee that will help provide input throughout the study. Due to funding constraints the mid-2012 deadline to complete the study is firm. Therefore, staff will need to work diligently to be sure the recommendations of this study are included in the PlanET study that will conclude after this study's deadline.

John Lamb asked if the TPO was aware of a group of citizens that were looking at transit issues in Blount County and whether they had been invited to be included in the project. Doug stated that the group had contacted him and that he had several conversations with them. The group was an outgrowth of a faith based effort to identify common community issues in Blount County and that access to jobs for lower income residents and the need for transit or transportation to link to jobs was one of the top issues identified in that process. Doug stated that the TPO staff would continue to talk with the leaders of that effort to see how they could be involved in the various ongoing TPO transit projects.

8. Update on PlanET Planning Project

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will give an update on the progress to date that the PlanET Consortium has made over the last 5 months and upcoming events.

Jeff Welch gave an update on PlanET. There have been several meetings with the Board of Mayors and the project's consortium. The TPO held a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to hire a consultant team to help facilitate the process and prepare the plan. The RFQs were reviewed by a selection team and interviews were held. A preferred consultant team has been selected and the TPO is in the process of contract negotiations and finalizing the consultant's scope of work. The next PlanET meeting will be held on August 11 at 9:30 a.m. The Board of Mayors will meet in Maynardville to approve the organizational structure. A leadership team with representatives from each of the five counties has been formed.

9. Other business

NOTE: IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE JULY MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELED

Technical Committee Meeting, July 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building (may be canceled, please check with staff).

Executive Board Meeting, July 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building (may be canceled, please check with staff).

Angie Midget said that the TDOT Commissioner Schroer was going to be holding a Summer Project Tour of the State. He will visit all of the Regions and sites of the projects in the new TDOT 3-Year Program of Projects. Right now he is scheduled to be in Region 1 (East Tennessee) in late September (September 26). Angie said there would be an opportunity for a meet-and-greet at that time. Jeff said he hoped to have more details at the Executive Board's August meeting.

10. Public comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.