

TPO Executive Board Minutes
August 28, 2013
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on August 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Chair Mayor Ralph McGill chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*Ralph Comer	TDOT, <i>for Region 1</i>
*Dale Hurst	Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa, <i>for Mayor Don Mull</i>
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

Jeff Welch introduced Ralph Comer, Assistant Bureau Chief of Planning and Environment at TDOT and who is representing TDOT at today's Board meeting.

1. Approval of July 24, 2013 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of July 24, 2013 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Brenda Palmer and seconded by Mayor Beehan to approve the July 24, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously with Mayor McGill abstaining.

2. Motion to Adopt a Memorandum of Agreement Between the TPO and TDOT Related to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Item Summary: This MOA outlines the definition and need for amendments/administrative adjustments to the statewide transportation improvement program and TPO transportation improvement program. Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry reviewed the Memorandum before the Committee and noted it outlined how projects within the four year TIP are to be either adjusted or amended within the TIP. He noted the greatest change in the proposed MOA is Amendments, or major changes, are now based on the *total* project cost where previously, any cost increase of 30% or more of any phase of a project required an Amendment. Mr. Berry then noted that many projects going forward will now be considered and processed as Administrative Adjustments, decreasing the number of amendments that TDOT, TPO and FHWA will have to process.

Jeff Welch noted this effort was occurring statewide in an effort to streamline the process as well as increasing flexibility for the TPOs/MPOs to manage their respective projects.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Brenda Palmer to Adopt a Memorandum of Agreement Between the TPO and TDOT Related to the Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the 4 proposed Amendments. Jeff Welch noted staff has been negotiating with TDOT on the cost overruns for Pleasant Ridge and Campbell Station and further noted that local governments are in agreement with the results of those discussions, bringing closure to these projects. It was agreed that local governments would like to be informed as quickly as possible when there is a cost overrun. In response, Ralph Comer noted Commissioner Schroer is working to strengthen relationships with TDOT's local partners.

A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Rogero to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the FY 2014-2015 Transportation Planning Work Program

Item Summary: TDOT, FHWA and FTA have approved the work program for consistencies with federal regulations. Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the Work Program outlines planning activities that will be undertaken over the next 2 years between TDOT, the TPO and our local partners and briefly touched on the program's contents with regards to what the TPO is required to do and also what has been requested of the TPO by our local partners. He noted it also contains activities that maintain our federal certification.

A Motion was made by Eddie Simpson and seconded by Dale Hurst to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the FY 2014-2015 Transportation Planning Work Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of Draft 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The draft of the 2014-2017 TIP was submitted to TDOT for review on June 3rd. The TPO received comments back from TDOT on July 17th. The TIP was revised accordingly and resubmitted to TDOT on August 2nd for submittal to Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. We are awaiting their comments. The attached TIP summary includes the written portion and table summary of proposed projects. The official 30 day public comment period will begin on September 8, 2013. The current schedule will be to ask the TPO Executive Board to approve the TIP at the October 16th Executive Board meeting. http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/tip/DRAFT_fy14_17_tip.pdf

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted this is our 4 year TIP outlining projects from 2014 through 2017. The attached summary provides an overview of the proposed projects over the next 4 years. Staff has been working with TDOT and local governments over the last 6 months to identify these projects. He clarified that any projects that receive federal money need to be programmed into the TIP. Mr. Welch noted the TIP covers all modes of transportation. He then touched on multiple key programs currently programmed in the Draft TIP. Last fall TDOT sought the TPO's ranking of projects they are considering to program over the next three years in our urban area. The projects were ranked by the TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board and was submitted to TDOT in January 2013. Mr. Comer clarified that this ranking was part of an annual budgetary process at TDOT.

Mr. Welch noted that a new project involving safety improvements along Chapman Highway was added to the list submitted to TDOT and the James White Parkway was removed by the Board. He then briefly touched on the project list and what if any phase of work was programmed to be funded in the proposed FY 2014-2017 TIP. Jeff noted this was a Draft TIP and that staff expect to bring it to the Board for a final vote in October. Mr. Welch noted the public comment period on this Draft will commence next week and last for 30 days.

Mayor Rogero stated she wanted to ask the Board to again vote to remove the James White Parkway extension (TIP Project number 2014-022) from the proposed TIP. This is consistent with the action taken on James White Parkway in January. She noted that the City of Knoxville's position is that safety and operational improvements need to be made to Alcoa Highway and Chapman Highway, a fact acknowledged by Commissioner Schroer. She noted the Knoxville area has changed dramatically since the 1960's and the proposed area for the extension would go right through the Urban Wilderness area, which has become regional asset as well as an economic generator. She further noted the City did not want to divert traffic away from businesses located on Chapman Highway.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Brenda Palmer to remove the James White Parkway extension project (2014-022) from the Draft 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

Further Discussion: It was noted by Mayor Rogero that Mayor Burchett supports this action. Mr. Welch clarified that the project may not move forward if it was not programmed into our TIP as was necessary to ensure federal review and funding. Ralph Comer noted that TDOT understood the concern of local government about this project and that TDOT respects the wishes of this body. He reviewed the history of the project in some detail and stated TDOT wants to ensure everyone was aware of what would take place should this body move forward with removing this project from the TIP. He stated TDOT was slated to move forward with finalizing the environmental impact statement environmental studies and was also planning another round of public input in October. DOT was in receipt of a letter from January 31, 2013 recommending that this project be removed and that improvements to Chapman Highway be substituted. Again noting that TDOT respects and supports local government decisions, he stated that if this project is withdrawn from the TIP, he will notify Commissioner Schroer immediately, at which time the Commissioner's intent will be to cease all work, studies or public meetings to review a modified green alternative. He further stated if at some point there is a decision to reconsider this project it will need to be done and funded completely at the local level. When asked whether or not the Commissioner was still committed to using safety dollars for improvements to Chapman Highway, Mr. Comer noted those dollars are from a different source of funding at the federal level (state and federal participation) and that he was not prepared to speak as to the Commissioner's plans for Chapman Highway at today's meeting. It was clarified by TPO staff that the project was still in the Long Range Mobility Plan (LRMP) for the horizon year of 2029 and that if this action is taken as is being discussed, at some future point the LRMP would need to be amended to remove the project. Mayor Rogero asked that the LRMP be amended as quickly as possible. There was brief discussion on how to improve traffic and enhance safety on existing roads.

Mr. Comer again noted that Board members could consider waiting until TDOT completes the NEPA process to allow for the Federal Highway Administration to render a record of decision. He also noted that there would be a time limit on being able to use what data has been collected on the Parkway extension and beyond that time limit the technical studies would need to be redone and the entire project would need to be completely re-evaluated.

Chair Ralph McGill called for a vote. The Motion carried unanimously with the record showing that TDOT abstained from the vote.

6. Review of Section 5307 and 5339 Grant Application Process

Item Summary: The City of Knoxville has asked the TPO to administer a request for projects to be funded in part with FTA Urbanized Area Section 5307 and 5339 funds. Staff will review key milestones in this process.

Discussion: Doug Burton noted that staff has been working with the City of Knoxville in developing the process to access these funds and that the Application is being released tomorrow. Notice of this has been advertised in several regional newspapers and will also be on our website. He noted Applications will be due back to the TPO in approximately 30 days. He noted staff is amending the TPO's Public Outreach Plan which is part of the process in allowing the TPO to help oversee this process, which is targeted for completion this fall.

7. Other Business

- Jeff Welch noted that Ed Shouse has been appointed to serve on TDOT's Eastern Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) which has been recently established to assist with the direction of Freight Planning in Tennessee.
- **Executive Board Meeting** Wednesday, September 25, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. *Please note the October Executive Board meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 16th, at 9:00 a.m.*
- **Technical Committee Meeting** Tuesday, October 8, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- **Upcoming PlanET Events: See Attachment #6A** For complete and up to date information please visit the PlanET website at: <http://www.planeasttn.org/>
- **Title VI Symposium entitled "Economic Fairness Through Diversity and Inclusion"**. The event is scheduled for September 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. Camille Hazeur, Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, USDOT, will be the keynote speaker. **See Attachment 6B.**

8. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment