

**TPO Executive Board Minutes  
October 16, 2013  
9 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on October 16, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Mayor Ralph McGill chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Brad Anders	Knox County Commission
*Tim Burchett	Mayor, Knox County
*Ralph Comer	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Haslam</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
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Larry Waters	Mayor, Sevier County
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Tom Beehan</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

**Determination of Quorum**

Mayor McGill noted that we had quite a few citizens that have signed up to address the Board today and further noted there will be a time limit placed on each person who speaks.

**1. Approval of August 28, 2013 Minutes**

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Taylor to Approve the August 28, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**  
**Item Summary:** Every three years a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is prepared by the TPO. The new TIP covers the fiscal years of 2014-2017. Comments from TDOT and FHWA have been addressed in the final draft TIP. The 2014-2017 TIP does meet the requirements for conformity with the Clean Air Act Amendments. Attachment 2-C includes public comments on the TIP received through October 8<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Committee recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Bryan Berry reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program and its purpose, background and overall process. Mr. Berry noted the Federal Highway Administration requires MPO's across the county to develop a TIP.

He noted the TIP is a list of projects within our TPO planning area that are expected to start and ideally be completed within a 4 year timeframe. Mr. Berry noted that staff has received 59 comments from the public, primarily concerning the James White Parkway Extension project (JWP) and noted 47 comments opposed the JWP project, and 12 comments supported the JWP project.

Mayor Waters requested that the Board hear from the public in attendance prior to taking any action. Chair Mayor McGill agreed and noted that each speaker is asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes. There were over 20 people signed up to speak.

*Persons opposing the  
James White Parkway Extension*

Nick Pavlis, *representing the 1<sup>st</sup> district*  
Carol Evans, *on behalf of the Legacy Parks Foundation Board*  
Terry Caruthers  
Pat Harmon, *on behalf of the South Haven Neighborhood Assoc.*  
Brian Hann  
Patrick Mulligan  
Robert Hill, *on behalf of the Harvey Broome Group - Sierra Club*  
Jen Robinson  
Scott Smith  
Conrad Plout  
Tina Rosling  
Robin Easter  
Jason Stephens  
Rebecca Husain, *on behalf of the South Knoxville Alliance (Business Assoc.)*

*Persons supporting the  
James White Parkway Extension*

Bill Cox  
Herman Goddard  
Ted Esch  
Boyd Jenkins  
Richard Johnson  
Sylvia Woods  
Rosemary Loveless  
Kathy Getsey  
Max Houser

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Brenda Palmer to Approve the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as Presented to the Board.**

**A Motion was made by Mayor Waters and seconded by Mayor Burchett to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the James White Parkway (JWP) Extension project.**

**Further Discussion:** Mayor Waters noted he felt it was important for TDOT to move forward with the public process. He noted the Commissioner has stated moving forward with the public process did not necessarily mean the JWP extension would be built. He stated he was a supporter of the JWP Extension project for many reasons. He is not opposed to the urban wilderness project and feels these projects coexist nationwide with highways. He is concerned that we do not have a concrete commitment from TDOT concerning Chapman Highway improvements. He also noted that one of the options TDOT would propose is a no build option.

Mayor Rogero noted that at the last public meeting on the James White Parkway extension there was a tremendous amount of opposition to the proposed project. Mayor Rogero stated she felt there had been an extensive amount of public input, not only recently but over the last 50 years. She further stated that the modified route simply curves around a few trails and she did not feel there was a need for continuing the public process at this time. She stated she felt that it was time to vote on this issue. Mayor Rogero then stated she, Vice-Mayor Pavlis and most if not all of City Council agree that having strong redevelopment along the waterfront and our commercial corridors, along with preserving the natural assets of our urban wilderness is key for a prosperous economic future for South Knoxville and the region. She further noted the Governor and key state staff has clearly shown their support of the urban wilderness. Mayor Rogero also stated that regardless of the outcome of any action taken at today's meeting, we all need to work together as a region to make safety improvements to Chapman Highway.

Jeff Welch clarified that if the JWP project is removed from the TIP that it would be removed from the list of projects proposed for consideration of funding by TDOT over the next 4 years. He also noted that taking that action would not remove the project from the Long Range Mobility Plan, which would need to be part of a later discussion by the Board. Mr. Welch noted there had been a number of safety improvement projects identified for Chapman Highway by TDOT that are not reflected in the TIP because of their source of funding. Ralph Comer noted that following the August 28, 2013 vote on the JWP ( at the TPO Executive Board meeting) Commissioner Schroer issued a statement that said TDOT will not continue to support projects that are not supported by local government and members of the TPO. Mr. Comer stated that he had previously noted at the August meeting that should the project remain on the TIP, TDOT would proceed through the NEPA process so that there was an ultimate decision of the type of build/final route or no build. He clarified that TDOT would reinstitute the JWP process should the proposed Amendment to place it back into the TIP pass today. He stated the Commissioner would make the final decision on the project but that he would look for concurrence by the TPO member jurisdictions.

Mayor Burchett stated that TDOT had promised the South Knoxville residents a second meeting, and to not support Mayor Waters proposed Amendment, which Mayor Waters clarified was to allow for the public process to continue regarding the project, would be to cut off public input. Mayor Waters stated regardless of today's outcome Sevier County will work with the City of Knoxville and Knox County in improving the safety of Chapman Highway. He reiterated his concern about the safety of Chapman Highway and that the general public should continue to have input. Mayors Taylor, Mull and McGill expressed that they have each received a significant number of emails concerning this project.

**Mayor McGill then called for a roll call vote on the Motion on the floor to Amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the James White Parkway Extension project.**

<b>Dale Hurst/Lenoir City:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Mark Watson/City of Oak Ridge:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Mayor Rogero/City of Knoxville:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Mayor Burchett/Knox County:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Eddie Simpson/Loudon County:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Mayor McGill/Town of Farragut:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Ralph Comer/TDOT:</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>John Lamb/Blount County:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Mayor Mull/City of Alcoa</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Brad Anders/Knox County Commission:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Brenda Palmer/City of Knoxville:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Ed Shouse/ETDD:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Mayor Taylor/City of Maryville:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Mayor Waters/Sevier County:</b>	<b>YES</b>

**The Motion failed with 10 members voting NO; 3 members voting YES: and 1 member ABSTAINING**

**Mayor McGill then called for a roll call vote on the original Motion on the floor to Approve the 2014-2017 TIP as presented.**

<b>Dale Hurst/Lenoir City:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Mark Watson/City of Oak Ridge:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mayor Rogero/City of Knoxville:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Mayor Burchett/Knox County:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Eddie Simpson/Loudon County:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Mayor McGill/Town of Farragut:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Ralph Comer/TDOT:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>John Lamb/Blount County:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mayor Mull/City of Alcoa</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Brad Anders/Knox County Commission:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Brenda Palmer/City of Knoxville:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Ed Shouse/ETDD:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mayor Taylor/City of Maryville:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Mayor Waters/Sevier County:</b>	<b>NO</b>

**The Motion carried with 12 members voting YES and 2 members voting NO.**

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Mayor Burchett to approve all the Remaining Action Items, Agenda Items #3, #4, #5 and #6 together.**

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the remaining Action Items and asked if there were any questions or need for discussion. There was no need for discussion and no questions posed.

**Chair Mayor McGill called for a vote on the Motion on the floor. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Motion for approval of a Certification that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the Metropolitan Planning Area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.**

**Item Summary:** This self-certification must be done every four years according to the Code of Federal Regulation - 23 CFR 450.334. The certification is to be included as part of the Transportation Improvement Program. The Technical Committee recommends approval.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Motion to Approve the Updated TPO Outreach Plan**

**Item Summary:** This change to the public outreach plan will allow the TIP Public hearing process to serve as the public hearing process for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Program of Projects if the designated recipient of these funds so chooses to follow this process. The Technical Committee recommends approval.

**Public Comment:** Prior to action on the TIP, members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Motion to Approve the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects**

**Item Summary:** TDOT asked the TPO to rank a proposed list of transportation improvement projects in the attached project list (Attachment #5A). The Technical Committee has recommended the ranking of projects as shown on Attachment #5A.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Motion to Approve the TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Bylaws**

**Item Summary:** With the expansion of the urbanized area and metropolitan planning area the TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Bylaws needed to be updated. Staff Amendments to the current Bylaws for each group were submitted in writing at the previous regular meetings. The Technical Committee recommends approval.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Other Business**

- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 12, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board Meeting *Wednesday, November 20*, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Upcoming PlanET Events. For complete and up to date information please visit the PlanET website at: <http://www.planeasttn.org>

**8. Public comment**

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

**9. Adjournment**