

**TPO Executive Board Minutes
February 26, 2014
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on February 26, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in 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
* Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, <i>for Mayor Madeline Rogero</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
* Pat Phillips	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Judy McGill Keller</i>
* Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
* Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Haslam</i>
* Jerry Shattuck	City of Clinton, <i>for Mayor Scott Burton</i>
* Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of December 18, 2013 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of December 18, 2013 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Brad Anders and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the December 18, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

Discussion: Bryan Berry noted there was a minor correction to the numbering of the Amendments as presented. The number/year “2011”, from the previous 2011-2014 TIP, will be changed to “2014” on the actual project numbers to reflect the 2014-2017 TIP. The first 2 Amendments, Attachments #2B and #2C are existing projects in the 2014-2017 TIP. Mr. Berry noted that for these 2 projects, Pistol Creek Greenway – Phase IV and Pellissippi Place Greenway – Phase I, the descriptions, length and termini are being switched between them. Attachment #2D is a new Amendment for Lenoir City CBD Pedestrian Improvements using TAP funds for streetscape improvements along Broadway. This project was in our 2011-2014 TIP but was not added to the 2014-2017 TIP. With regards to Attachment #2D (2014-070) Pat Phillips requested that the length be changed to reflect “between Grand Street and C Street” only.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the Resolution subject to the above noted changes reflecting the correct project number year (2011 to 2014) for all three Amendments and changing the description in 2014-070 to read “between Grand Street and C Street”. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Knox County School Sidewalk Study

Item Summary: The Walk-to-School Prioritization Analysis was conducted by RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC for Knox County's Department of Engineering and Public Works. GIS-based trip modeling procedures developed by the consultant along with KGIS data were used to develop walk trip estimates of the number and most likely locations of walk to school trips for each school in Knox County. These estimates will be used to aid in the determination of sidewalk construction priorities.

Discussion: Cindy Pionke noted this study was commissioned to assist her department in determining where to invest capital dollars for sidewalk projects, further noting they receive many requests for them. She also noted our study here in Knox County was unique with regards to previous similar studies done by these consultants as we were able to provide very specific home and school location points for each student. She noted that we have 86 public schools in Knox County, 35 of which are in unincorporated areas, in total serving over 59,000 children. Ms. Pionke noted this study combines local data with data pulled from a National Household Travel Survey, done every 10 years and last done in 2009. This survey took daily travel habits information from over 1 million households. Nationally, there is only an 85% chance a student will walk to school. The Knoxville study predicts the number of walking the trips to school on a daily basis. Clearly the further the distance a child lives from school, the smaller the chance they will walk. She also noted that nationally the number of children who live within 1 mile of school has decreased significantly since the late 1960's as well as the number who actually walk to school. Ms. Pionke noted the information provided by this study will be used to assist them in enhancing the walkability of schools in the unincorporated areas. Ms. Pionke noted this presentation as well as the full report can be found on the TPO website www.knoxtrans.org

4. Update on Federal Funding

Item Summary: MAP-21 the federal legislation that authorizes federal transportation programs is set to expire Sept. 30th. At the same time federal gas tax revenues in the Highway Trust Fund and Transit Fund will not be sufficient to pay the bills that will be due.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the Federal Highway Trust Fund is funded by federal gas tax dollars. He then noted both the highway and transit accounts of the Fund are basically in crisis mode and at the end of September of this year these accounts will not have enough dollars to pay state DOTs their anticipated reimbursement. Mr. Welch noted this will impact Tennessee and our area as with less revenue we will be either limiting or delaying projects. He noted TDOT's position will most likely be to maintain the current infrastructure and not build any new highways. Mr. Welch noted there has not been an increase in federal gas tax since 1993 and even longer at the state level. He further noted per the current federal legislation MAP-21, the General Fund has been supporting the Highway Trust fund such that we have been continuing to grow and maintain our infrastructure at the current rate. Mr. Welch reviewed several potential scenarios which could occur without any new influx of revenues going forward.

5. PlanET Update

Item Summary: PlanET, the Five County regional planning effort will be coming to a closure in approximately 60 days. Staff will review the highlights of the effort and talk about what will be happening in the future.

Discussion: Amy Brooks began her presentation by sharing a video first played at the ETcompetes! Summit in November. She stated that approximately 10,000 people have participated in the process across the 5-county PlanET region. The central theme was how we address growth and development over the next 30 years, accommodating 300,000 new residents and 240,000 new jobs while still maintaining our region's beauty and quality of life. Ms. Brooks reviewed the major focus areas generated by the process.

She stated PlanET's Regional Playbook is a compilation of over 200 strategies, all voluntary and implementable. These strategies have been generated from 8 goals, listed in the order of importance as noted by the participants: Clean Air and Water, Healthy Peoples, Regional Prosperity, Local Food, Transportation Choices, Efficient Infrastructure, Create Great Places and Housing Choices. Ms. Brooks noted that as a part of the PlanET process 14 Demonstration Projects will have been completed for communities in each of the 5 PlanET counties. Each community involved will receive a poster of the completed project, 8 of which have been completed to date, the rest to follow by the end of the month. All projects employed local talent. She then briefly touched on the projects and their intended goals. Ms. Brooks also noted these projects were designed so that they can be replicated elsewhere in the southeast region. She noted that under the auspices of the projects, multiple communities were well underway in implementing the ideas and strategies developed.

A regional data commons, an exciting tool which will be a publicly accessible data bank, housed within MPC, is being developed with multiple partners; the United Way of Greater Knoxville, MPC and TPO, UT, the Knoxville Chamber under Innovation Valley as well as the Cornerstone Foundation. Ms. Brooks shared that a Local Food Guide was recently published under the auspices of PlanET. Jeff Welch noted that in addition to approximately 75 -80 consortium partners this process gathered, the University of Tennessee remained very involved, particularly the School of Architecture which conducted 5 studio classes throughout the process and generated almost 1 million dollars of in-kind services, faculty and students for some of the demonstration projects. He noted they have stated they want to continue this relationship and process. Additionally, the UT Provost Office has created a Smart Communities initiative, modeled after the University of Oregon which brings together more of the University's departments working collaboratively to offer a well-rounded resource for the region that can target a variety of projects. This presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/feb14/planet_whats_next.pdf

6. Overview of the Transportation Planning Organization

Item Summary: An overview of the major responsibilities, requirements and products of the TPO will be presented and discussed with the TPO Board.

Discussion: Jeff Welch reviewed what is an MPO and its relationship to the larger picture of transportation planning, noting it was a policy-making and planning body consisting of representatives of local, state and federal government and transportation authorities. He noted any area with a census over 50,000 is required to have an MPO. Our area is designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA) with a census of over 200,000. Mr. Welch touched on the growth of our area over the last 12-15 years and reviewed the Administration of our MPO or TPO here in Knoxville, consisting of an Executive Board, Technical Committee and Working and Advisory Groups, with input from TDOT and the Federal Highway Administration as well as the Public. He briefly touched on the Federally Required Products such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program and the Transportation Improvement Program as well as a Public Participation Plan. Mr. Welch also reviewed the federally required planning factors and performance measures as mandated by MAP-21. Mr. Welch closed with a review of our future priorities in transportation planning. This presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/feb14/tpo_orientation_pp.pdf

7. Other Business

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

Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

TPO Executive Board 2014 contact list

Jeff Welch noted TDOT Commissioner Schroer will be presenting to the Farragut Chamber of Commerce at their March 4, 2014 Speaker Series Breakfast event starting at 7:30 a.m.

Jeff Welch also noted there are 2 upcoming ETcompetes! Speaker Series events: Ed McMahon from the Urban Land Institute will be speaking with 2 opportunities to hear his presentation, one on March 26th at the University of Tennessee through the School of Landscape Architecture and the other on March 27th at the East Tennessee History Center. Handouts for the events were provided. Additionally, in early May, there will be a speaker from the National Endowment for the Arts to discuss the role of the arts in tourism. More information will be provided about this event in the upcoming weeks.

Jack Qualls noted the deadline for CMAQ applications is March 14.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.