

TPO Executive Board Minutes
May 28, 2014
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on May 28, 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.

*Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*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 and,</i> Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of April 23, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of April 23, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the April 23, 2014 Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Air Quality Conformity Report for the TIP Amendment. (I-640 / Broadway interchange) Technical Committee recommends approval.

Item Summary: The following Amendment to the TIP was requested by TDOT.

Discussion: Bryan Berry noted this Amendment is for a project involving I-640 / Broadway interchange modifications and was requested by TDOT. The Amendment does not change the project description but is adding funding to it: 11 million dollars to FY 2014 for Right-of-Way and 6.7 million dollars to FY 2015 for construction, increasing the total project cost from 10.6 to 32.9 million dollars. He noted that because this was an air quality non-exempt project, staff had to do an air quality conformity determination for it, which consists of a Short Conformity Report as the project is already included in the Long Range Mobility Plan and the current 2014-2017 TIP, and is accounted for in previous regional emissions analysis and demonstrates conformity.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Mayor Rogero to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Air Quality Conformity Report for the TIP Amendment. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Change the Functional Classification for Queener Road, in Loudon County, from Rural Minor Collector to Urban Minor Collector
Technical Committee recommends approval.

Item Summary: A request has been made by the City of Loudon, Loudon County to formally change the State Functional Classification of Queener Road between SR 72 and River Road (0.66 miles) from a Rural Minor Collector to an Urban Minor Collector. This roadway is now included in the Knoxville Adjusted Urbanized Area and therefore eligible for the change to urban status. The Urban Minor Collector status is necessary to obtain eligibility for federal Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding that is already programmed in the FY 14-17 TIP for a proposed Queener Road improvement project.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted as a result of the expansion of our urban boundaries, some roads that were classified as rural roads would now be classified as urban roads. He noted this classification identifies whether projects involving these roads receive rural or urban transportation funds. He then noted staff is reviewing all of the roads in our urban area but are seeking a classification change for Queener Road now as the funds are available. Pat Phillips noted the current width of the road is approximately 16 feet with no shoulders but it is acting as a major thoroughfare connecting the southeastern end of the City to Highway 72. He further noted TDOT, through its Local Interstate Connector Program, recognized the value of the road and approved the funding for it as well.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Beehan to Approve a Resolution to Change the Functional Classification for Queener Road, in Loudon County, from Rural Minor Collector to Urban Minor Collector. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to Approve the Next Regional Greenway Study
Technical Committee recommends approval.

Item Summary: The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council has requested that the next regional greenway study to undertake is to examine connections between existing greenways in West Knox County and West Knoxville to existing and planned greenways in Oak Ridge. The Council will provide the local match to the TPO's planning funds for a total study cost of \$50,000. The TPO will extend its contract with Equinox Environmental for planning services.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted that this study continues the Council initiative to encourage and facilitate regional greenway planning linking up different jurisdictions/existing greenways, and noted the Council has determined these connections to be the next priority in greenway connections/development. She reviewed a map that showed the existing greenways to be connected: the Ten Mile Creek greenway segment, the Pellissippi Parkway greenway segment and the existing and planned greenway segments in Oak Ridge. An advisory committee for this study had been formed and includes representatives from the Cities of Knoxville and Oak Ridge, Knox and Anderson Counties, TDOT and the TTCDA. Mayor Beehan noted this is a very concrete example of regional cooperation on an amenity that is important to the future growth of our region.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Mayor Taylor to Approve the Next Regional Greenway Study, Examining Connections Between Existing Greenways in West Knox County and West Knoxville to Existing and Planned Greenways in Oak Ridge. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. PlanET Playbook

Item Summary: An overview of the PlanET Playbook and other products that resulted from the PlanET process will be provided by staff.

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted the Playbook is basically the "final plan" from the PlanET project, the vision for the future of our region. PlanET was a 30 month planning process that started in 2011 and focused on 5 counties: Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Union. Through a wide range of community engagement activities, over 10,000 community members gave input surrounding one central question:

How do we accommodate the anticipated growth of 300,000 new residents and 240,000 jobs by the year 2040 without making the challenges we all face in each of our counties worse than they already are. She noted the Playbook is a reflection of that input as are the 40 plus documents/publications generated from the project. Ms. Brooks noted there were 4 basic ideas generated by this project and which guided the goals, objectives and ultimately the strategies for moving forward that were produced by the project, and they are: building strong towns and growing quality places, improving our resident's health and natural environment, expanding housing and transportation options and providing a path to a quality job for everyone. She then reviewed the Playbook in some detail. She highlighted the 15 demonstration projects done in collaboration with the UT School of Design and Architecture, the East Tennessee Community Design Center and individual communities noting these designs and concepts are also replicable across the region and could assist communities in obtaining grant funding going forward. Ms. Brooks then stated ETcompetes! is an umbrella for the Consortium and will serve to continue regional collaboration and sharing of data. She also introduced the *etindex*, a partnership between the Metropolitan Planning Commission, TPO, United Way of Greater Knoxville, Innovation Valley and the Cornerstone Foundation and noted it is an indicator website designed to share data and track our progress as a region over time, allowing us to course correct along the way.

6. East Tennessee Index

Item Summary: Staff will demonstrate the newly launched etindex.org website which contains a variety of data pertaining to the economy and quality of life in the region. This PlanET product contains charts, tables and maps at regional, county and municipal scales.

Discussion: Tim Kuhn noted etindex.org is essentially a public website that offers 87 indicators of the economy and quality of life for an 8 county area of the east Tennessee region, further noting it was basically an assembly of publically available data (and not original research). He noted as we move forward and things in the region change over time, we can see how we are doing, what is changing, the how and where. Mr. Kuhn noted that using "report cards" we can track how we are doing with regards to these key indicators and subsequently see where we need to devote efforts as well as resources. He noted this is not a unique concept and is being used in other communities, further noting we used a template out of Rochester, NY for our website. He then provided a fairly detailed live demonstration of the site. Mr. Kuhn clarified that the 8 counties include the 5 PlanET counties in addition to Jefferson, Monroe and Roane counties as they are supported by one of our partners, Innovation Valley. He noted the site is in soft launch phase and more things need to be added, including data for Sevier County. Mr. Kuhn stated that this website could really be the legacy of PlanET as other partners and organizations leverage this data. Mayor Rogero applauded the website as an incredible resource for agencies and the public. Currently funded by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the TPO, he noted that they will be looking for media and other partners to assist with long term funding of the site. Mr. Kuhn closed noting the intended target audience for the site is, basically, everyone.

7. Other Business

- Federal Transportation Legislation Update. Jeff Welch noted there are still 2 bills to extend MAP-21 beyond its September 30th expiration at the federal level, one from the administration and one from the Department of Environment and Public Works. There is some movement but they will most likely not be passed in time.
- Status of TPO Surface Transportation Funding program. Jeff Welch noted we receive 9 million STP dollars annually for our planning area and currently have a 3 and 1/2 year balance. The state continues to encourage us to spend these dollars as quickly as possible and get projects implemented as best we can. Jack Qualls noted FHWA is also encouraging this at the state level with TDOT.
- Jeff Welch highlighted the SMiles program begun last year in Blount County, which funded by PlanET and TPO Surface Transportation Funds, provides transportation to individuals in need. Counties around east Tennessee are making inquiries about the program and several surrounding counties are working to replicate it in their area. Mayor Taylor noted the program has really begun to grow exponentially and further noted it would not have had the impact it has without PlanET.

- Following the Board meeting today there will be a Board of Mayors meeting with Mayor Jo Ann Graves of Gallatin, Tennessee as a guest speaker.
- Mayor Beehan noted he sat on the Air Pollution Control Board for the state and that there are only 3 counties in the state that are not in compliance and they are Anderson, Knox and part of Roane. He noted this as a clear concern for our area and that he would continue to ask questions, especially surrounding the potentially significant testing inconsistencies recently identified.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

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.