

**TPO Executive Board Minutes
September 24, 2014
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on September 24, 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. Mayor McGill introduced a new member of the Board, Buddy Bradshaw, Mayor of Loudon County and asked Board members to introduce themselves.

*Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*Buddy Bradshaw	Mayor, Loudon County
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Larry Gann	City of Clinton, for <i>Mayor Scott Burton</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, for <i>Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Stephanie Myers	City of Loudon, for <i>Mayor Judy McGill Keller</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, for <i>Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, for <i>Mayor Don Mull</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, for <i>Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, for <i>Governor Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, for <i>Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	ETDD
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of August 27, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of August 27, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Taylor to approve the August 27, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the 9 proposed Amendments to be added to the 2014-2017 TIP which reflect Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grants recently awarded to our region by TDOT. He noted the state awarded a total of approximately \$28 million for these projects statewide, all are of which are listed in Attachment #2J. Mr. Berry noted detailed sheets were attached for locally awarded projects.

Locally, projects awarded were: under Transportation Demand Management was continued funding for Smart Trips Ridesharing (TPO), under Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects was continued funding for the Bike Parking Program, under Cleaner Vehicle Management was Reducing Emissions with UPS and Autogas (partnering with UTK), DHL - Driving Autogas Use for a Cleaner Metro Knoxville (also partnering with UTK) and Improved Air Quality Through Replacement of Diesel Vehicles with CNG Vehicles (Sevier County Utility District), under ITS/Traffic Flow Improvements/Signals were the Sevier County Corridor Traffic Flow Improvement Project, the Knox County Traffic Signal Coordination and Advanced Traffic Management System Phase 1 projects, the Oak Ridge Signal Timing Optimization Program, the Town of Farragut Traffic Signal Improvement Project and the Lenoir City Intelligent Transportation System: Signal System Design, and lastly under Cleaner Transit Buses was the Gatlinburg CNG Powered Trolley.

A Motion was made by Amber Scott and seconded by John Lamb to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

Further Discussion: Jeff Welch noted given the projects approved today as well as some Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds also being utilized by the City of Knoxville there is over \$20 million being invested over the next few years for improvement of traffic management and control on our major arterials. This is in addition to the \$2 - 3 million recently invested by Alcoa and Maryville for traffic signaling improvements.

3. Update on Blount County SMiles Transportation Program

Item Summary: Blount County Community Action Agency's SMiles program has completed one year of operation. The TPO and TDOT provided a combined \$30,000 of federal and state funds to support this senior friendly transportation program.

Discussion: Joani Shafer, Director of the Office on Aging with the Blount County Community Action Agency, expressed appreciation to the TPO for the support and funding they received for this program as without it they would not have been able to pilot SMiles. She noted they had done research and found that the transportation choices seniors had was negatively impacting their quality of life, further noting Blount County expects a balloon of seniors to occur in the next few years. In order for them to remain in their home as long as possible, which affords them a better quality of life, they need dependable and affordable transportation for their everyday needs. The program has been in operation for 1 year and they now feel they have made it sustainable. She also noted that currently they can only provide services in Blount County, Monday through Friday but they recognize the significant need for weekend services and travel into Knox County (particularly for medical appointments). Ms. Shaver then described the program in some detail highlighting how it began and how it is structured. She noted the real beauty of the program rests in the relationships being developed between the riders and volunteer drivers. It was agreed that moving SMiles into a regional program would make it more broadly effective and serve a greater need. It was also noted that there are already similar programs being explored in Roane, Cocke, Loudon and Monroe counties. The complete presentation can be found here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep14/smiles_presentation_sep2014.pdf

4. Discussion of Transit Representation on the TPO Executive Board

Item Summary: MAP-21 requires that representation by provider(s) of public transportation be on the Policy Board of MPO's that have a population of greater than 200,000. There is a compliance date of October 1, 2014. Staff will review options for consideration.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the federal guidelines released approximately 90 days ago noting the intent of the law is that there be representation from actual transit providers on the Board, not just the elected officials to whom they may report. He also noted that there has been much discussion and debate on the issue at both the state and national levels. Mr. Welch then reviewed each Option brought before the Board today for their review for informational purposes only at this time (Attachment #3B). He noted the final federal guidelines/regulations have not yet been issued and will not be finalized for another 60 to 120 days.

Currently the Options would add one to three new members but it was clarified that the law could be satisfied with the addition of just one member. Mayor Rogero suggested that there be another Option: Adding one new member from the region's fixed route provider (KAT) and one rotating new member from the two demand response providers (ETHRA and CAC). She noted this would keep the Board membership at a preferred odd number (19). Addressing possible concern that the addition of a representative from KAT would give the City a greater number of representatives (3) on the Board Mayor Rogero noted there was already significant county/rural representation with 5 from Knox County and 10 from the surrounding 4 counties. Mr. Welch touched on how Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis have addressed this issue, all having already had or have now added transit representation on their Boards. It was noted that all three transit providers are represented on the Technical Committee. John Lamb noted Blount County supported the addition of 2 new members, one from ETHRA and one from the City with KTA and CAC rotating. Cindy Pionke noted Mayor Burchett supported the addition of one rotating transit member. Mr. Welch noted there will be further discussion at the Technical Committee and staff will bring the Committee's recommendation back before the Board. He then noted once a decision has been made the By-Laws will need to be amended.

5. Other Business

- Re-appointment of Ed Shouse to the TPO Executive Board. **Attachment #4 - ETDD Letter**
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- TDOT Commissioner Schroer's 2014 Project Tours: October 14-16, Knoxville/Upper East Tennessee. Jack Qualls noted he will get additional information out soon with regards to his stopping in Knoxville.
- Jack Qualls noted that TDOT released the Multimodal grant application on Monday (September 22nd) which are due December 10th. Jeff Welch noted the application has been shared with members of the Technical Committee.
- Mayor Taylor noted they had a last minute meeting with Senator Lamar Alexander regarding air quality issues and the fact that our region has a non-attainment status is costing us industrial prospects. Another issue discussed is that once an area becomes in attainment it takes quite a long time to become certified as such, furtherer costing the region potential economic development. Mayor Taylor noted Senator Alexander assured them that certification process will proceed as quickly as the law allows and that he would be applying pressure to EPA once the data is processed by TDEC, who will also complete their process as quickly as possible. Mayor Taylor clarified that Senator Alexander is aware of the issues found last year with the actual testing conditions and the potential repercussions. Mayor Taylor indicated a major issue is with the air quality monitor at Look Rock in Blount County as it is downwind from several fossil fuel plants.

6. Public Comment

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

7. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.