

TPO Executive Board Minutes
April 22, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Buddy Bradshaw	Mayor, Loudon County
*Dawn Distler	Public Transit Representative
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Brenda Palmer	Councilwoman, City of Knoxville
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East Tennessee Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Jim Wilburn	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*voting members	

1. Approval of March 10, 2015, Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of March 10, 2015, TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Ed Shouse to approve the March 10, 2015, TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Update the TPO's Adjusted Urbanized Area.

Item Summary: The TPO staff has revised the original 2010 Adjusted Urbanized Area boundary that was first adopted in November 2012. A revision was determined to be necessary as part of the process to update the Federal Functional Classification of Roadways in conjunction with TDOT staff. The adjusted urban boundary can be updated at any time deemed necessary by resolution from the TPO Executive Board. The new boundary is then subsequently forwarded to the FHWA Tennessee Division Office for final approval and incorporation into the official records and GIS.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger reviewed the events leading up to the 2010 Adjusted Urbanized Area, the first boundary smoothing effort adopted in November of 2012, describing the process undertaken to complete the effort in some detail. He then noted staff is recommending another revision in conjunction with an extensive review and update of the functional classification of roadways within the Urbanized Area, also describing that process in detail.

He clarified that these adjustments do not affect the TPO's current planning boundaries. It was also clarified that these adjustments will not affect the way federal transit dollars can be used in our area. Jack Qualls noted the functional classification update, happening statewide, is really a housekeeping effort to classify roads such that they meet the FHWA standards released in 2013. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr15/urban_area_functional_class_presentation.pdf

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Councilwoman Palmer to Approve a Resolution to Update the TPO's Adjusted Urbanized Area. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Update the Federal Functional Classification of Roadways Within the TPO's Metropolitan Planning Area.

Item Summary: The TPO staff conducted a comprehensive review of the existing Federal Functional Classification System along with the 2010 Census urban boundary adjustment process. Current guidance and requirements from the FHWA were utilized to define the functional system and reviewed with each of the TPO jurisdictions. Several upgrades in classification to Local roadways were made along with other adjustments that were determined to be necessary based on new FHWA procedures for the Urban Collector roadway category.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger gave an overview of the purpose and importance of functional classification and also explained the Update process. He noted the functional classification of a roadway determines its eligibility under the federal aid system, further noting any roadway classified as a Minor Collector or above in an urbanized area, or a Major Collector in a rural area qualifies for federal aid. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr15/urban_area_functional_class_presentation.pdf

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Palmer and seconded by Mayor Frank to Approve a Resolution to Update the Federal Functional Classification of Roadways Within the TPO's Metropolitan Planning Area. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.

Item Summary: The TPO received TAP funding for FY 13 and 14, and we have until September 30, 2016, and September 30, 2017, to see the funding obligated or we could lose it. Some of the funding has or will be turned back by the local recipients. We will need to re-allocate the funding to make sure it's all spent.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca gave a brief overview of the history of the TAP program and noted our region stands to have just over \$2 million to re-allocate/allocate providing Congress approves the anticipated FY 2015 funds. She noted staff will be issuing a call for project soon and hope to award projects this summer as they expect to know the final dollar amount available in July. She briefly reviewed the initial allocation of TAP funded projects and their status. Ms. Zavisca clarified that these funds require a 20% local match. She noted Attachment #4B describes the types of projects eligible for TAP funds.

5. State Legislative Update

Item Summary: Legislation that would impact the membership of the TPO Executive Board has passed the Tennessee Senate and is being debated in the Tennessee House. Staff will discuss the differences between the bills, however, each bill would require a new member to be added to the Executive Board.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted legislation has surfaced which would alter the makeup of our Executive Board. He stated the House version, passed yesterday, eliminates weighted voting, adds one member to the Executive Board who must reside within the boundaries of the MPO and who is chosen by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association and thirdly, that the legislation only pertains to MPO's with more than 3 counties, all within the state of Tennessee thereby eliminating the smaller MPO's. It therefore affects only the Nashville and Knoxville MPO's.

The Senate version, which has also passed differs in that the new Executive Board member, also chosen by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association, does not need to live within the boundaries of the MPO and that the legislation pertains to MPO's statewide whose boundaries are totally within the state. It also eliminates weighted voting. Mr. Welch noted at minimum our Board would see a new voting member appointed by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. He also noted we are presently awaiting word of the final outcome.

6. Innovation Valley and Regional Economic Development

Presenter: Doug Lawyer, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Item Summary: Doug Lawyer, Vice President of Economic Development for the Knoxville Chamber, will present on recent achievements of Innovation Valley and regional economic development initiatives currently underway in our area.

Discussion: Doug Lawyer noted he was here to talk about Innovation Valley's approach to regional economic development. He gave an overview of Innovation Valley noting it was managed by the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, further noting it is comprised of 8 regional partners. He highlighted recent announcements identifying numerous national companies coming to our region. He then reviewed Blueprint 2.0, their second 5 year strategic priorities, their current performance goals as well as their budget and marketing strategies. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr15/Innovation_Valley_presentation.pdf

Mayor Rogero noted she has appointed Mr. Lawyer to serve on the Knoxville Transportation Authority Board of Directors as transportation and transit both affect economic development.

7. Other Business

- The 2015 Tennessee Bike Summit: Making Connections is taking place on April 23rd and 24th at the Knoxville Convention Center. Gil Penalosa, keynote speaker and Founder of 8-80 Cities, will give a special address for government staff and local elected and appointed officials at 9 a.m. April 24th, in the Main Assembly Room at the City County Building in Knoxville. Please RSVP to Ellen Zavisca. It was noted that there is continuing education credits available for planners and engineers who attend the Summit. For complete information and to register visit their website: <http://www.tnbikesummit.org/>.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.