

TPO Executive Board Minutes
March 10, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on March 10, 2015 at 10:00 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>
* Dawn Distler	Public Transit
*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>
*Brenda Palmer	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	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 January 28, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of January 28, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the January 28, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan

Item Summary: In response to a request for a TIP amendment that requires a revised regional emissions analysis and air conformity determination, the TPO staff decided to undertake a comprehensive review of both the TIP and Mobility Plan in order to address as many required project amendments as possible under one single action. This review consisted of meeting with each of the TPO member jurisdictions and TDOT to review the current Mobility Plan roadway project list in detail.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger gave an overview of the activities leading up to the proposed amendments as outlined in Attachment #2. He noted the proposed amendments reflect 4 major types of changes: projects moving to a different Analysis year, projects with changes to scope or termini, projects to be eliminated and projects to be added. He then touched on the projects in each category.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve a Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program**
Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.
Technical Committee recommends approval.

Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the 8 proposed amendments to the TIP involving 6 existing projects and 2 new ones. Responding to a request for clarification of the 2 proposed Amendments for the City of Knoxville, Anne Wallace, Office of Redevelopment, stated that the ability to move these funds from the Washington Pike project to the Cumberland Ave. project will serve 2 purposes. The City can then look at allocating construction dollars in future fiscal years once they have actually secured the right of way. Additional funds were needed to allow the Cumberland Ave. project to proceed.

A Motion was made by Dawn Distler and seconded by Mayor Taylor to approve a Resolution to Amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.**
Item Summary: The project amendments approved in items 2 and 3 above required an air quality conformity determination due to the TPO's current air quality attainment status. The TPO conducted a revised regional emissions analysis that has determined that the projected emissions from the proposed transportation system resulting from the project amendments are less than the allowable amount for each of the required analysis years and thus conformity for all applicable air quality standards has been demonstrated. The TPO coordinated the conformity determination with stakeholder and regulatory agencies through its Interagency Consultation process and held a 14-day public review and comment period.
Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger gave an overview of the air quality conformity regulations, highlighting ground level ozone and particulate matter (PM2.5) as these are 2 of the 6 "criteria" pollutants identified by the Clean Air Act which our region has had issues in meeting the established standards. The EPA has to review the standards every 5 years to ensure they are set at an appropriate level based on their review of scientific and health data and as a result the standards have changed over the years. Mr. Conger then touched on the Air Quality standards addressed by Conformity and briefly reviewed our region's Air Quality status for each standard. He then noted that Transportation Conformity is required as it is the link between Air Quality and Transportation Planning. Mr. Conger also briefly reviewed how conformity is demonstrated and concluded by touching on future air quality issues. He concluded stating that this process was coordinated with the stakeholder group process known as the Interagency Consultation Group where preliminary drafts of this report were reviewed by EPA and TDEC along with other partners, noting this draft reflects their comments. The complete presentation has been posted on the TPO website and can be found here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/Conformity_20150312.pdf

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve a Resolution to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the amendments to the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

- 5. Presentation on Attitudes Toward Safe Routes to School in Tennessee.**
Item Summary: Dr. Everett, Research Director at UT's Center for Transportation Research conducted

focus groups and surveys across Tennessee to learn about parents' opinions about walking and bicycling to school. He'll present an overview of his findings.

Discussion: Dr. Everett noted this work was funded by TDOT's Safe Routes to School Program. He gave a brief background on what makes a Safe Routes to School Program successful. He then touched on why these types of programs are important in Tennessee. After reviewing the project goals, survey methodologies, demographics and areas covered, Dr. Everett presented the results in some detail. The complete presentation has been posted on the TPO website and can be found here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/EverettPresentation_20150310.pdf

6. Other Business

- The 2015 Tennessee Bike Summit: Making Connections is taking place on April 23rd and 24th at the Knoxville Convention Center. For complete information and to register visit their website: <http://www.tnbikesummit.org/>.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- The ETindex Livability Report Card 2015 was released by the MPC and TPO last Friday, March 6th. The report gives an update on key indicators throughout our region and now covers 9 counties. Staff is preparing a broad distribution of the report across the 9 counties as well as to key legislators in our region. He encouraged Board members to visit the website www.etindex.org.
- Update on state legislation impacting MPO/TPO Board structure. Jeff Welch reviewed the proposed legislation changes. He noted the original bill that was introduced to the state legislature, which would have precipitated significant changes to our existing TPO Board structure, has been amended. Mr. Welch then reviewed the amended bill now before the legislature, clarifying that the amended bill would support our current Board structure, with each Board member/elected official having one vote. There are 3 MPO's in the state who have a weighted voting option that they can use if indicated. He noted this amended bill would prohibit weighted voting based on population percentage. The second aspect of this amended bill would add a voting member seat on the Board who would be chosen by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. Thirdly, this legislation would only apply to MPO's whose boundaries are located entirely within the state of Tennessee. It was clarified the only impact to our Board would be the one additional voting seat. Mr. Welch's noted it would be staff's preference that any additional voting member be chosen locally.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the whether or not the Board should send a letter to Senator McNally expressing the Board's thoughts on this bill, and perhaps to directly to the legislature as well. Mr. Welch stated staff would provide talking points for any communication.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to direct TPO staff to send a letter to the legislature stating the that Board opposes this legislation [Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 1326 and House Bill No. 1275] and further that the Board does not see that any change that would affect our region is necessary.

Further Discussion: There was further discussion surrounding whether not it was in the best interest of our region to send a letter because as amended, the bill does not have the same negative impact that the original legislation would have had.

Mayor Rogero called for a voting roll call on the Motion on the floor:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 5

Abstain: 1

The Motion carried.

Further Discussion: Jeff Welch noted he would draft a letter from the Board to be signed by Mayor Rogero as Board Chair. Mayor Rogero shared that she felt if we are going to take a position on legislation as a Board that the Board consider there be a higher bar of consensus than 6 to 5.

A Motion was made by Ed Shouse and seconded by Brenda Palmer for the Board to reconsider their previous Motion [to send a letter to the legislature on behalf of the Board].

Mayor Rogero called for a voting roll call on the Motion on the floor:

Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1

The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Pat Philips and seconded by Dawn Distler to direct TPO staff to send a letter to the legislature stating the that Board opposes this legislation.

Mayor Rogero called for a voting roll call on the Motion on the floor:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 7

Abstain: 1

The Motion failed.

There was general consensus suggesting each Board member contact their legislators individually.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.