

TPO Executive Board Minutes
February 24, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on February 24, 2016 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.

*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation Representative
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, <i>for Councilwoman Brenda Palmer</i>
*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>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dave Wright	Knox County Commission
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Motion to Approve December 16, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of December 16, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the December 16, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Request the Governor and the Tennessee General Assembly to seek funding solutions to our States Transportation Needs

Item Summary: At the request of the Executive Board the TPO staff was asked to prepare a Resolution and general list of transportation needs in support of increased transportation funding.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted staff have prepared a Resolution which includes 2 lists generated by TDOT and provided by the Commissioner at the December 2015 meeting; “Current Backlog Projects List” and “New Projects List”, both for the Knoxville Regional TPO planning area and summarized by staff, a list generated by staff entitled “Other Major Project Needs on State Routes” that was approved by the Executive Board and submitted to TDOT in January of 2015, as well as a summary of ongoing operating and capital needs in our region for public transportation and multimodal programs. Mr. Welch reviewed each Attachment included as part of the Resolution in some detail. He clarified that the Resolution identifies priority projects only and is not intended to be a complete list of regional projects.

A Motion was made by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve a Resolution to request the Governor and the Tennessee General Assembly seek funding solutions to our states transportation needs. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Overview of the Transportation Planning Process and the Long Range Mobility Plan (LRMP) Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide a review of the transportation planning process, key products and outcomes of this process and then provide an overview on the process to update the Long Range Mobility Plan. Discussion on what selection criteria to use for including projects in the Mobility plan will also occur.

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted the TPO is in the process of an update to the LRMP, required every 4 years and due in 2017. She then noted information gathered over the last several years through multiple public surveys is guiding how staff are proposing to structure the project selection process for the 2017 Update. She further noted the collective priorities identified based on this input were generated through the PlanET project, a body of work endorsed by the Board in 2014. Kelley Segars then reviewed a Proposed Project Evaluation Framework, which is based on all of the input gathered which evaluates projects through 2 different geographic scales, either “Within Community” which are smaller, locally important projects, or “Community to Region”, which involve larger, regionally significant projects. A short discussion on driverless cars (autonomous vehicles) and their potential impact on transportation planning ensued and staff noted they were staying abreast of the research as it becomes available. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/feb16/MobilityPlan.pptx>

4. Transportation Legislation Update

Item Summary: Updates will be provided on a few legislative bills that have been introduced or could possibly be introduced that could impact planning and implementation of transportation projects.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted there are multiple bills before or going before the legislature that can impact transportation funding and noted staff are monitoring this activity as best possible given the specifics of some of these bills are changing almost daily. One bill out of Hamilton County and recently narrowed in scope, SB1716 / HB1650, would limit or restrict the ability to use state gasoline taxes for bicycle improvements along roadways. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of this bill given the need to continue to expand our mobility options and maintain/increase safety with alternative forms of transportation versus the impact of increasingly limited amounts of funds presently being received for roadways. There was consensus by the Board that long term sustainable funding and a plan for how to fund all of our transportation needs is vital for our state and region.

5. Other Business

- Jeff Welch noted that Secretary Foxx announced the release of the 2016 round of TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants yesterday with approximately \$500 million available nationally. These are primarily for construction related projects that can be moved quickly into implementation. Technical Committee members have been notified.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

- East Tennessee Quality Growth is hosting a conference “Plain Talk 2016 Connecting Competitive Communities” which will be held on April 28, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel - Airport, Alcoa, TN. For more information contact Julie Graham at julie.graham@etqualitygrowth.org or visit their website at <http://etqualitygrowth.org/newsite/plaintalk2016conference/>
- Jack Qualls noted that Neil Hanson with TDOT’s TAP Program is requesting that any municipality that has received 2013 funds ensures that all of the required documentation pertaining to those funds is approved and in receipt by Linda Dunn no later than July 1st so they can be processed to FHWA by the end of September so these MAP-21 funds do not lapse.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.