

TPO Executive Board Minutes
June 22, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on June 22, 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.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation Representative
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*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>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Dave Wright	Knox County Commission
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Motion to Approve May 25, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of May 25, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Mull and seconded by Mayor Frank to approve the May 25, 2016 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 are proposed Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. A short conformity report was prepared since these amendments involve air quality non-exempt projects.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger reviewed the two proposed amendments noting both were requested by TDOT and both are included in the FY 2017 portion of the 3-year state TIP adopted by the legislature annually. The first project, Relocated Alcoa Highway (SR-115 / US-129), is amending in funding for the Right-of-Way phase for FY 2017 for construction of 4 new lanes from SR-162 (Pellissippi Parkway) to South Singleton Station Road.

The second project, Western Avenue (SR-62), is amending in funding for the Construction phase for FY 2017 from Texas Avenue to Major Avenue. As these 2 projects are air quality non-exempt and as they are already included in the regional Long Range Mobility Plan, a short conformity report was prepared by staff to demonstrate that we can rely on a previous regional emissions analysis to determine conformity for these 2 projects. Mr. Conger noted the report has been out for review by the Interagency Consultation Group and there has not been any major comments on it. Mr. Conger then noted no public comment has been received during the public comment period for the Short Conformity Report. In closing he noted staff are requesting approval of the 2 above-outlined projects as well as approval for the Short Conformity Report.

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

3. Overview of the Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The FY 2017-2020 TIP is being updated in two separate phases due to the need for alignment with the schedule for the update of the TPO's Mobility Plan 2040. The first phase of the FY 2017-2020 TIP consists only of a direct carry-over of projects from the previous FY 2014-2017 TIP that have phases of work which have not yet had funding obligated. The draft FY 2017-2020 TIP is currently being reviewed by TDOT and comments are expected in mid-July. The complete Draft 2017-2020 TIP can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jun16/TIP Phase 1_draft.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jun16/TIP_Phase_1_draft.pdf)

Discussion: Mike Conger noted the entire state of Tennessee is on the same schedule for adoption of the statewide and individual MPO TIPs and subsequently, staff are preparing an interim TIP [first phase] for adoption later this year to coincide with the statewide schedule. After staff addresses TDOT's comments it will be sent to the Federal Highway Administration for their review. He noted staff have met with individual jurisdictions to get their feedback on what needs to be carried forward, further noting no new projects are being added at this time. He noted the full project selection [second phase] for the new TIP will occur in conjunction with finalizing the 2017 Mobility Plan Update next spring.

4. Overview of the May 10, 2016 Technical Committee Transit Workshop

Item Summary: An overview of the TPO Technical Committee Workshop will be provided by staff. Discussion on next action items is requested.

Discussion: Doug Burton noted staff held a Transit Workshop with members of the Technical Committee. The Workshop served several purposes, including wanting to build a transit vision for the ongoing 2017 Long Range Mobility Plan Update. He then noted staff had also wanted to update Committee members on some recent studies and ongoing improvements. He also noted throughout all of the various outreach efforts the public has consistently demonstrated that they want alternative transportation options and this workshop afforded an opportunity to start a regional discussion on how to move forward in that direction. Mr. Burton briefly described the 5 regional transit studies that have been done between 2000 and 2013 noting the results of them were actually quite similar. From them, staff created lists of short, intermediate and long term shared visions identified in these studies, which he then reviewed. He noted the most recent transit study, done in conjunction with the PlanET process and which was highly driven by public input, again reflected very similar issues and concerns as well as called for enhanced and increased transit services and coordination. Mr. Burton further noted there have been 3 RTA studies done, the most recent in 2014 and also as part of the PlanET process, with all 3 identifying that there were no models for a region only coordinating human services transit.

Comments from the workshop centered on the 5 following themes: inform and engage the public, seek local community and leadership support, coordination of existing services, create partnerships and to continue to work on our land use and development policies to make them more focused on transit. A discussion then ensued surrounding the development of an RTA as well as how one would be funded given that there is not currently a dedicated funding source for one. It was noted that the development of an RTA would not itself leverage more federal funds into our region. Jeff Welch noted the East Tennessee Mayors Caucus, which met just a few weeks ago, could be an avenue to begin discussions at the local elected official level. A question was asked whether partnerships could be formed with private transit companies. An example of B&C Bus Lines out of Alcoa, which operated during the 1970s and 1980s was discussed. Discussion continued surrounding possible solutions to increase transit options going forward. The complete presentation is available online and is located here.

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jun16/Transit_Workshop_overview.pdf

5. Presentation on Residence County to Workplace County Flows - 2014 Data

Item Summary: Where workers live and work is always an interesting and important piece of information to know about our region. An update on 2014 data on this topic will be presented.

Discussion: Terry Gilhula, MPC, gave an overview of regional commuter flows throughout Anderson, Blount, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Roane, Sevier and Union Counties, noting commuter data are good representation of the economic interconnectedness of our counties and demonstrates that we really do have a regional economy. He noted the commuter data are also a good barometer of the economic welfare of those residing in our region giving us dialogue on transportation infrastructure and household wealth. Staff look at this data in terms of impacts on air quality and quality of life. Mr. Gilhula then described and reviewed 2 products used to look at commuter data, a map and chart based on data from the US Census Bureau's job counts, provided to them monthly by employers and then a new web-based map product available from Mark Evans, which is people (census tract) based, not job based. Mr. Gilhula demonstrated the site which is located here: <http://bigbytes.mobyus.com/commute.aspx>

6. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- TDOT is having a groundbreaking event on Friday, June 24th, at 2:30 p.m. at the Sevier Heights Baptist Church (3232 Alcoa Highway). This event is for the section of Alcoa Highway already under reconstruction between Woodson Drive and Maloney Road.
- Mayor Rogero introduced the new TDOT Region 1 Community Planner Jerome (Trey) Joiner who will be representing TDOT on the Board.
- Ellen Zavisca noted Ian Lockwood, a transportation engineer with Toole Design Group based in Orlando, Florida will be speaking at the July 27, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Lockwood encourages leaders to think differently about how streets interact with the fabric of our cities and towns. He will be speaking about rethinking the way we do transportation planning and policymaking and about other investments in our communities. She will be forwarding more information as it becomes available.
- Jerome Joiner noted that TDOT opened the application process for the Transportation Alternative Program grant funds yesterday with an October 3, 2016 deadline.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.