

**TPO Executive Board Minutes  
September 27, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City County Building  
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on September 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Tom Taylor chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jim Hagerman	Public Transportation, <i>for Dawn Distler</i>
*Jeff Headrick	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, <i>for Mayor Don Mull</i>
*Harold Pitner	Tennessee County Highway Officials Association
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Knoxville City Council
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Randy Smith	Knox County Commission
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*James Temple	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**1. Motion to Approve July 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the July 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve the July 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**Mayor Taylor welcomed Knox County Commission Chair Randy Smith to the Board.**

**2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Item Summary:** A short conformity report was prepared since five of these amendments involve air quality non-exempt projects.

**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins noted 10 of the proposed 13 projects before the Committee reflect projects included in the IMPROVE Act and that are also in TDOT's 3 year program, and which need to be amended into our TIP.

She then noted of the 13 proposed Amendments, 8 involve adding new projects which are already included in our Long Range Mobility Plan but as they are now funded they need to be added to our TIP, 2 projects are to be removed and 3 existing projects are being modified by clarifying termini and/or adding funding. Lastly, of these 13 projects, 8 projects are air quality exempt and 5 are air quality non-exempt. Ms. Watkins noted the proposed Amendments total \$43.4 million of added funding and encompass 3 different funding sources, primarily NHPP and S-STBG. She then reviewed each project. Air quality exempt projects for consideration: Added: Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) ITS Expansion, I-75 ITS Expansion, I-40 ITS Expansion, Northshore Drive (SR-332) at Kingston Pike (SR-1) Intersection Improvements and Chapman Highway (SR-71/US-441) Operational and Safety Improvements; Removed: J. Carmichael Greer Pedestrian Bridge and Old Stage Road/Kingston Pike Greenway Connector; Modified: Kingston Pike Sidewalk in Farragut. Danny Oliver, TDOT, noted that there will be several sections of the Chapman Highway project that will move forward upon receipt of the planning report, anticipated in December. They will prioritize the sections where there are the most crashes and they anticipate moving right into the engineering phase after receipt of the report. It is anticipated that construction would be underway in 3 to 3 ½ years. It was also clarified that the J. Carmichael Greer Pedestrian Bridge project has been removed due to the bridge having been deemed not built to current standards and that remediation of those deficiencies would have been cost prohibitive. Air Quality non-exempt projects for consideration: Added: Emory Road (SR-131), Edgemoor Road (SR-170) and I-640/I-275/I-75 Interchange; Modified: 2 Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) widening/other improvement projects. All of the projects are summarized in a PowerPoint presentation which is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/TIP\\_2017-20\\_amendments.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/TIP_2017-20_amendments.pdf)

Mike Conger noted the 5 non-exempt projects were required to go through air quality conformity determination. Fortunately, all of these projects had been included in our most recent Mobility Plan Update, and subsequently accounted for in the in the regional emissions analysis done in conjunction with the Plan Update and 2017-2020 TIP Amendments, both adopted by the TPO Executive Board in April of 2017. Therefore, staff were able to do a Short Conformity Report, which he briefly explained and reviewed, and which documents that these projects demonstrate conformity. He noted this report has been reviewed by the Air Quality Interagency Consultation group which consists of representatives from FHWA, EPA, TDOT and TDEC and has approved it. Mr. Conger noted the 14 day public comment period ended today and that no comments have been received by staff.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Councilman Saunders to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. PM2.5 Attainment Status Designation Announcement**

**Item Summary:** Staff will provide information regarding the recent EPA final approvals of the re-designation to Attainment status for the 1997 Annual and 2006 Daily PM2.5 standards for the Knoxville Region.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger noted our entire Knoxville region is in now Attainment for all of the EPA Air Quality Standards for the first time since June 15, 2004, based on “Clean” data for a 3-year period from 2013-2015, further noting that the entire state of Tennessee is now in Attainment for all EPA Air Quality Standards as well. He briefly touched on the Attainment process and the benefits, including cleaner air for better health and environment of the region, elimination of the stigma of Non-Attainment status for recruiting of new industries to the region and elimination of the Transportation Conformity Requirement for the PM2.5 Annual Standard also touching on sources of the air quality improvements.

He then noted there are anti-backsliding requirements established by the EPA to ensure established controls are maintained. There was discussion surrounding monitor placement noting they have not been moved. The presentation is available online and can be found here:  
[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/air quality.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/air%20quality.pdf)

#### 4. **Presentation on TDOT Safety Performance Factors/Targets**

**Item Summary:** Federal regulations require states and MPO's to establish safety performance targets for five performance measures. The state DOT establishes their targets first and then the MPO's have 180 days to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for a safety performance measure specific to our region. TDOT will present their targets and methodology for our review.

**Discussion:** Josh Suddath, TDOT, Office of Community Transportation, gave a presentation which encompassed the federal legislative background resulting in establishment of these targets, definitions and target setting methodology, a review of TDOT's Safety Targets which have been formally accepted by FHWA, and the key factor considerations surrounding their development, a review of the role of MPOs in achieving the targets and the timeline for completion of adherence to this federal mandate. He stated this mandate encompasses all public roads. He stressed that although MPOs have a significant role in this process, individual states are directly responsible to FHWA for ensuring overall compliance. MPOs, TDOT and transit agencies will need to cooperatively develop a process and written agreement for developing and sharing performance data and reporting targets and performance. Jeff Welch noted staff have begun internal discussions on a recommendation for response to the mandate which they will bring before the Technical Committee and Executive Board and have invited input from Technical Committee members. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/safety targets.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/sep17/safety%20targets.pdf)

#### 5. **Parking Video**

**Item Summary:** Providing parking for automobiles is a major public and private expense and consumes a significant amount of land. This short video explores many of the issues around parking and impact on urban areas.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch introduced the video which is available inline and can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Akm7ik-H\\_7U&t=318s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Akm7ik-H_7U&t=318s). Mayor Rogero noted we need to ensure that we control any new technology [autonomous vehicles] and not let it take us in the wrong direction.

#### 6. **Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Transportation for America and the American Public Health Association are holding a symposium on MPOs and health from noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 8 in Atlanta. Ellen Zavisca from TPO staff will be attending, and the organizers encourage each participating MPO to also send a Board member. If you're interested in representing our TPO at this symposium, contact Ellen at [ellen.zavisca@knoxtrans.org](mailto:ellen.zavisca@knoxtrans.org), or 215-4014.
- The next Open Streets Knoxville will be Sunday, October 29 connecting downtown to South Knoxville along Sevier Ave. It runs from 2 – 6 p.m. Check [openstreetsknoxville.com](http://openstreetsknoxville.com) for more details.

**7. Public Comment**

Town of Farragut Alderman Louise Povlin was present and wanted to address Mr. Suddath. She noted she embraced these safety initiatives especially as we embrace walkability in our communities. For more than 2 decades the Town of Farragut has been working hard to build and connect their sidewalks and trails to be a walkable community. She stressed that until TDOT and other transportation engineers look at road design that would embrace pedestrian and bicycle friendliness we will never be able to effectively deal with safety issues. Speed on our streets will continue to be a safety issue and road design needs to address that.

**8. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.