



# September 10, 2019

9:00 A.M. | Small Assembly Room  
City County Building, Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on September 25, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Tom Taylor presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Board members were asked to introduce themselves.

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|-----------------------|--|
| *Terry Frank          | Mayor, Anderson County                                 |
| *Jeff Harris          | Mayor, City of Loudon                                  |
| *Glenn Jacobs         | Mayor, Knox County                                     |
| *Hugh Nystrom         | Chair, Knox County Commission                          |
| *Jeff Ownby           | Sevier County, for <i>Mayor Larry Waters</i>           |
| *Billy Pickel         | Loudon County, for <i>Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>         |
| *Melissa Roberson     | Public Transportation                                  |
| *Madeline Rogero      | Mayor, City of Knoxville                               |
| *Mike Russell         | State of Tennessee, for <i>Governor Bill Lee</i>       |
| *Finbarr Saunders     | Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville                          |
| *Ed Shouse            | Knox County Trustee representing East TN Dev. District |
| *Andrew Sonner        | City of Alcoa, for <i>Mayor Clint Abbott</i>           |
| *Tom Taylor           | Mayor, City of Maryville                               |
| *Mark Watson          | City of Oak Ridge, for <i>Mayor Warren Gooch</i>       |
| *Ron Williams         | Mayor, Town of Farragut                                |
| TPO Staff             |  |
| Partner Agency Staff  |  |
| Members of the Public |  |
| *voting members       |  |
| *non-voting members   |  |

## 1. Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum
- b. Introductions
- c. Amendments to the Agenda

## 2. Motion to Approve July 24, 2019, TPO Executive Board Minutes

**Item Summary:** Approval of the July 24, 2019, TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Finbarr Saunders and seconded by Ron Williams to approve the July 24, 2019 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. **Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Draft FY2020-2021 Transportation Planning Work Program**

**Item Summary:** TDOT, FHWA and FTA have approved the Work Program for consistencies with state and federal regulations. The Draft FY 2020-2021 Transportation Planning Work Program is attached for review.

#### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL**

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch, TPO Staff gave an overview of the Work Program noting the addition of the Oak Ridge study as reflected on the handout.

Commissioner Hugh Nystrom inquired about the status of the Northshore Corridor Study. Mayor Terry Frank also inquired about the status of the Air Quality Study.

A Motion was made by Terry Frank and seconded by Ron Williams to approve a Resolution to adopt the amended Draft FY2020-2021 Transportation Planning Work Program to include the addition of the Oak Ridge. The Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. **Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Item Summary:** Locally requested amendment for an air quality exempt project. Amend the TIP to revise this project. The project description is revised to include the intersection of Norris Freeway and Emory Road. The project length is revised from 3.3 miles to 3.7 miles, the project schedule is revised, and the construction cost is increased from \$1,180,000 to \$1,490,000 (\$1,490,000 federal) in FY 2020. The total project cost is increased to \$1,738,000.

#### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL**

**Discussion:** Craig Luebke, TPO Staff, described the amendment.

A Motion was made by Mark Watson and seconded by Mayor Jeff Harris to approve a Resolution to amend the FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. **Overview of FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program**

**Item Summary:** The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is updated on a 3-year cycle. This Draft TIP covering fiscal years 2020-2023 will supersede the current FY 2017-2020 TIP. An air quality conformity determination has been prepared demonstrating conformity of the new TIP as required. Comments from TDOT have been addressed and FHWA review concluded on September 20th. A 30-day Public Comment Period was advertised beginning September 23rd. A

final draft TIP incorporating FHWA and Public comments will be presented for adoption at the October TPO Executive Board meetings. Technical Committee recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Craig Luebke, TPO Staff

**Presentation:**

Craig Luebke, TPO Staff, gave a brief presentation highlighting on items within the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Final Draft of the 2020-2023 will replace the FY 2017-2020 TIP. An Air Quality Conformity Determination has been prepared demonstrating conformity of the new TIP as required. Craig provided comparison between the existing projects and new projects, funding for the projects, and the overall approval timeline of the TIP. Comments from both TDOT and FHWA have been addressed and Staff will prepare the final draft of the TIP to go before the TPO Executive Board in October 23, 2019. The full presentation is available on our website and here: [Presentation](#)

## 6. **Presentation: Chapman Highway Implementation Plan**

**Item Summary:** The Chapman Highway Implementation Plan was developed to provide a specific list of prioritized projects that can be implemented to improve safety and operations for all modes of travel on Chapman Highway in the 6-mile section within the Knoxville City Limits. A presentation summarizing the recently completed final report for the project will be provided.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger, TPO Staff

**Presentation:**

Mike Conger explained that Chapman Highway Implementation Plan began in September of 2018. The process was managed by TPO Staff and Knoxville-Knox County Planning on behalf of the City of Knoxville. Therefore, the study covers the portion of Chapman Highway within City limits. Mr. Conger briefly touched on the safety and operation concerns of Chapman Highway. The City of Knoxville was looking for more than a study, more of an implementation process for determining which projects are the highest priority. The implementation plan will touch on the cost of the projects and which projects should be highest priority while also looking at all modes throughout the process. Chapman Highway is a huge regional commuter route for motor vehicles, but there is also room for improvement in regards to pedestrian and bike-friendly safety as well. The full presentation is available on our website and here: [Presentation](#)

## 7. **Presentation: Hardin Valley Mobility Study**

**Item Summary:** Commissioned by Knox County, the Hardin Valley Mobility Study assessed existing and future conditions to identify short, mid and long-term improvements in this rapidly growing part of the urban area.

**Discussion:** Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator, Jeff Welch, TPO Staff

**Presentation:**

In May of 2018, the Planning Commission hired KCI Consultants to examine future and existing mobility needs in the Hardin Valley area. The study identifies and prioritizes the needs to improve safety and mobility for all users on the major corridors. The study area is bounded by I-

40, I-75 in the south, Pellissippi Parkway and the Technology Corridor to the east, and Knox County line to the north and west. The Hardin Valley area has seen tremendous growth over the last ten years and part of its appeal is its location and relation to Maryville, Farragut, Knoxville and Oak Ridge. Reliance upon regional mobility is evident through the study areas development patterns, with more development occurring at higher densities, particularly along Pellissippi Parkway access points along the I-40 and I-75 interchanges. The Northwest County Sector Plan was updated in 2016. However, the number of rezoning requests, have far exceeded the rest of Knox County. The full presentation is available on our website and here: [Presentation](#)

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager, brought to attention the importance of the reconstruction of the Solway bridge entering into Oak Ridge. Mr. Watson stated that the Solway bridge tends to get lost from region to region due to its location bordering both Hardin Valley and Oak Ridge. The bridge is essential in providing a safe route for workers to enter and exit Oak Ridge. While the Edgemoor Road project is now on the TIP, which is a step forward, he still feels that the importance of the reconstruction of the Solway bridge is being left out. Mr. Watson explained that the bridge needs a considerable number of updates including the widening of the road, and if the project is a ten-year process, it would be wise to start now.

Mayor Terry Frank asked that if the TIP includes the Solway exchange, is the bridge not included in the project as well? Mr. Welch answered by stating that TDOT and the Improve Act is addressing Edgemoor Road which is on the west side of the bridge and also addressing the Oak Ridge/Pellissippi Parkway interchange which is on the east side of the bridge. However, nothing is specifically addressing the Solway bridge. Mr. Welch explained that this specific area needs to be emphasized at the TPO level hopefully leading into further investment of this bridge.

## 8. Other Business

- Melissa Roberson congratulated Mayor Madeline Rogero on being selected as the recipient of the 2019 American Public Transportation Associations Local Distinguished Service Award for North America. Ms. Roberson announced that Mayor Rogero will be accepting this prestigious award at their October meeting.
- Introduction of new AmeriCorps member, Sharath Rereddy
- 2019 TDOT Multimodal Access Grant- Eligible to Submit an Application: Town of Farragut, Blount County, Knox County, City of Alcoa and City of Knoxville
- 2019 TDOT CMAQ Call for Projects  
[Attachment #4- Timeline and Evaluation Criteria](#)
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

## 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment

## 10. Adjournment.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 AM.