



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Small Assembly Room

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on June 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building. Acting Chair Larsen Jay presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum.

- *Amber Scott
 - *Jim Snowden
 - *Jeff Harris
 - *Indya Kincannon
 - *Gwen McKenzie
 - *Larsen Jay
 - *Issac Thorne
 - *Don Walker
 - *Jeff Ownby
 - *Ron Williams
 - *Ed Shouse
 - *Troy Ebbert
 - *Billy Pickel
 - **Matt Meservy
 - **Sean Santalla
 - **Pamela Kordenbrock
 - TPO Staff
 - Partner Agency Staff
 - Members of the Public
 - *voting members**
 - **non-voting member**
 - ***interested parties**
- City of Lenoir City, *for Mayor Tony Aikens*
 - Knox County, *for Mayor Glenn Jacobs*
 - Mayor, City of Loudon
 - Mayor, City of Knoxville
 - Vice-Mayor City of Knoxville
 - Knox County Commission
 - Knoxville Area Transit, Public Transportation
 - Blount County, *for Mayor Ed Mitchell*
 - Sevier County, *for Mayor Larry Williams*
 - Town of Farragut
 - Knox County Trustee
 - TDOT, Region 1
 - Loudon County, *for Mayor Rollen "Buddy" Bradshaw*
 - TDOT Director, Long Range Planning Division
 - Federal Highway Administration, TN Division
 - Federal Highway Administration, TN Division

1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum.
- b. Election of an Acting Chair for today's meeting

A Motion was made by Mayor Ron Williams and seconded by Mayor Indya Kincannon to elect Commissioner Larsen Jay as Acting Chair for today's meeting. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

- c. Introductions.
- d. Amendments to the Agenda. There were no amendments.

A Motion was made by Mayor Ron Williams and seconded by Mayor Indya Kincannon to set the agenda for today's meeting. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0

- e. List of Commonly Used Acronyms attached as a last page.

2 Motion to Approve April 28, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the April 28, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Indya Kincannon and seconded by Amber Scott to approve the April 28, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

3 Motion to Approve a Proclamation Recognizing the Years of Transportation Planning Service that Cindy Pionke of Knox County has Provided to this Region

Item Summary: Proclamation recognizing the years of Transportation Planning Service that Cindy Pionke of Knox County has provided to this region.

Discussion: Acting Chair Larsen Jay and the TPO Executive Board presented Cindy Pionke of Knox County with a Proclamation recognizing the years of Transportation Planning Service that she has provided to this region.

4 Motion to Approve on First Reading an Amendment to the TPO Executive Board Bylaws

Item Summary: Add Section VI. 5, allowing for the use of Virtual meetings for the Executive Board.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared a proposed Amendment to the TPO Executive Board Bylaws, adding Section VI.5 allowing the use of Virtual meetings. The draft document is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Mayor Ron Williams and seconded by Mayor Indya Kincannon to approve on first reading an amendment to the TPO Executive Board Bylaws. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

5 Motion to Approve a Resolution Adopting Amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being Followed

Item Summary: Locally requested amendments for three (3) air quality exempt projects.

Discussion: Craig Luebke shared amendments requested by the City of Knoxville for three (3) existing, air quality exempt projects. The projects consist of the Woodland Avenue Complete Street, Liberty Street Multimodal Project, and the First Creek Greenway - Broadway Streetscape. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

A Motion was made by Mayor Indya Kincannon and seconded by Mayor Ron Williams to approve a Resolution Adopting Amendments to the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement

Program and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being followed. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

6 Motion to Approve the Section 5310 Program of Projects

Item Summary: The TPO is the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 funds can be used for both operating and capital funding for projects that support seniors and persons with disabilities. Often non-profits utilize this funding to buy vans to provide transportation for their clients. The TPO held an open and publicly advertised Call-for-Projects. The attached table and draft Program-of-Projects show the recommendations for funding. Staff recommends approval. Project applications can be viewed at this link: [Project Applications](#)

Discussion: Doug Burton specified that the TPO is the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds. Mr. Burton went on to explain that the TPO held an open and publicly advertised Call-for-Projects, then shared the draft Program of Projects and staff's recommendation for the funding of the submitted projects. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

A Motion was made by Mayor Ron Williams and seconded by Mayor Indya Kincannon to approve the Section 5310 Program of Projects. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

7 Presentation of TDOT 3-Year Program of Projects

Presenter: Dexter Justice and Troy Ebbert, TDOT Staff

Item Summary: Dexter Justice, Director, TDOT Region One Project Development, and Troy Ebbert, Planning Supervisor, TDOT Long Range Planning Division, Office of Community Transportation, presented on the 3-Year Program of Projects adopted by the Tennessee legislature. Mr. Ebbert touched on project criteria and criteria weight used to rank projects. Mr. Justice reviewed project phase development and summarized the 2020 project rankings and the 3-Year Plan for the Knoxville TPO jurisdictions. He then gave an update on the Blount County Relocated Alcoa Highway project. Mr. Justice entertained questions from Board members. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners

Item Summary: Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners.

Discussion: Sean Santalla, Federal Highway Administration, TN Division, highlighted the RAISE notice of funding opportunity. This is a Discretionary Grant program that was announced a few months ago from USDOT, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER programs. MPO staff statewide have been notified. The deadline for this is grant is July 12th. Next week FHWA is hosting a webinar on the effectiveness of performance-based planning and programming for state DOT's and MPO's. This will be showcasing the results of a long-term research study on performance

planning and programming practices. FHWA is currently reviewing the Knoxville Regional TPO FY22-23 Transportation Planning Work Program. Lastly Mr. Santalla applauded the TPO's efforts to hold hybrid meetings which enhance public input and participation, a priority for FHWA.

Matt Meservy, Director, TDOT Long Range Planning Division noted that last week it was announced that Knox County and Blount County were two of the awardees of the most recent round of a Multimodal Access Grant, each receiving \$950,000 for multimodal projects. He also noted that TDOT received 38 applications / letters of interest for the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) Call for Projects for this year's cycle. Thirty-five of these will be moving forward to full applications which are due July 12th.

9 Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room.

10 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 A.M.