



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

# Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Telemeeting via Zoom

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on March 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by telecommuting via Zoom. Chair Terry Frank presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum.

- \*Amber Scott
  - \*Megan Brooks
  - \*Terry Frank
  - \*Glenn Jacobs
  - \*Mark Watson
  - \*Jeff Harris
  - \*Harold Cannon
  - \*Troy Ebbert
  - \*Larsen Jay
  - \*Isaac Thorne
  - \*Don Walker
  - \*Louis Povlin
  - \*Ed Shouse
  - \*Billy Pickel
  - \*\*Sean Santalla
  - \*\*\*Beth Ostrowski
  - TPO Staff
  - Partner Agency Staff
  - Members of the Public
  - \*voting members
  - \*\*non-voting member
  - \*\*\*interested parties
- City of Lenoir City, *for Mayor Tony Aikens*
  - City of Alcoa, *for Mayor Clint Abbott*
  - Mayor, Anderson County
  - Mayor, Knox County
  - City of Oak Ridge, *for Mayor Warren Gooch*
  - Mayor, City of Loudon
  - City of Knoxville, *for Mayor Indya Kincannon*
  - State of Tennessee, *for Governor Bill Lee*
  - Knox County Commission
  - Knoxville Area Transit, Public Transportation
  - Blount County, *for Mayor Ed Mitchell*
  - Town of Farragut, *for Mayor Ron Williams*
  - County Trustee
  - Loudon County, *for Mayor Rollen "Buddy" Bradshaw*
  - Federal Highway Administration
  - KCI Consultants

## 1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum. Roll call was taken.
- b. ***With no objection Chair Mayor Terry Frank moved by acclimation that the Executive Board indicates that conducting this meeting by electronic means is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.***
- c. Amendments to the Agenda. There were no amendments.

## 2 Motion to Approve February 24, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the February 24, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

***A Motion was made by Amber Scott and seconded by Mayor Jeff Harris to approve the February 24, 2021 TPO Executive Board Minutes. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 14-0.***

### **3 Motion to Approve Resolution Recognizing the Years of Service that Melissa Roberson of Knoxville Area Transit and Terry Bobrowski of East Tennessee Development District have Provided to this Region**

**Item Summary:** Mayor Terry Frank presented Resolutions to Melissa Roberson of Knoxville Area Transit and Terry Bobrowski of East Tennessee Development District recognizing the years of service they provided to this Region.

### **4 Review of Draft Mobility Plan 2045: Major Projects, Financials, Air Quality Conformity and Round 3 Public Involvement**

**Item Summary:** Staff submitted a draft of the Plan to our state and federal partners and have responded to their comments which were relatively minor. The draft plan will be out for a 30-day public comment period beginning March 8, 2021. Staff will present to the Executive Board the major transportation projects, financial constraint, air quality conformity and Round 3 Public Involvement process.

**Discussion:** TPO staff shared the Draft Mobility Plan 2045 that was submitted to our State and Federal partners for review, specifically touching on major projects, financials, Air Quality Conformity and Round 3 of Public Involvement. Staff reminded Executive Board Members that the 30-day public comment period began on March 8, 2021 and will last 30 days. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

### **5 Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Update**

**Item Summary:** The Knoxville Regional ITS Architecture Update process is nearing its conclusion. A representative of the consulting firm KCI Technologies will provide a summary overview of the Regional ITS Architecture and major outcomes.

**Discussion:** Beth Ostrowski with KCI Technologies provided an overview of the Regional ITS Architecture and how it provides a coordinated opportunity for stakeholders to develop a plan and framework for implementing ITS projects across the region. Ms. Ostrowski also presented major outcomes that have taken place now that the process is near conclusion. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

### **6 Overview of Possible Changes by the Census Bureau on How an Urbanized Area is defined**

**Item Summary:** The U. S. Census Bureau is considering redefining how an urbanized area will be defined. Proposed changes in methodology were recently released by the census bureau and comments must be submitted on the suggested changes by May 20, 2021.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch shared that the U.S. Census Bureau is considering redefining how an urbanized area will be defined. The proposed changes were recently released by the Census

Bureau and was made available for the public to provide comments until May 20, 2021. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

## 7 TIP Quarterly Report

**Item Summary:** Staff will provide an update on recent TIP Administrative Modifications and project cost overrun funding approvals. The status of projects regarding schedule delays and the Local-Surface Transportation Block Grant program balance will also be reviewed.

**Discussion:** Craig Luebke presented TIP Administrative Modifications and project cost overrun funding approvals to the Technical Committee. Mr. Luebke specifically touched on the status of projects, schedule delays, and Local-Surface Transportation Block Grant program balances. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

## 8 Overview of the Possible Return of Congressional Earmarks

**Item Summary:** The U. S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is creating a formal process that will allow members of Congress to submit requests for highway and transit project designations.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch shared that the U. S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is creating a formal process that will allow members of Congress to submit requests for highway and transit project designations and how this can make a positive impact on local jurisdictions project designations. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

## 9 Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners

**Item Summary:** Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners.

**Discussion:** Sean Santalla, FHWA, reiterated Craig's conversation on the passing of the Coronavirus Relief Bill and stated that they are in coordination with TDOT and MPO's on proper programming and obligation of that funding. Mr. Santalla went on to say that the President signed another Covid Relief Bill, however, there was mention of funding for other surface transportation but it did not reference the FHWA at that time. Mr. Santalla also recognized Executive Board Members concerns on the time frame for project delivery, and explained that it is FHWA's responsibility to expedite that process and encouraged members to reach out if they needed assistance. Lastly, Mr. Santalla recognized Knox TPO for all of the work put into the Long-Range Plan and Air Quality Analysis. Mr. Santalla stated that during the Federal Certification Review at the Planning Process last year, the FHWA recognized and commended the Knox TPO for their top-notch work on the Air Quality Conformity Process.

Kwabena Aboagye, TDOT, provided an update on the efforts on congestion effort management. Mr. Aboagye explained that TDOT has designated a Commissioner to focus on congestion in Metropolitan areas and provide suggestions for solutions to help in those problem areas. Lastly, Mr. Aboagye wanted to recognize the work of the Knox MPO for developing a detailed analysis

with a planning and environmental approach to better assist TDOT in finding solutions and making recommendations in reference to corridor studies.

## 10 **Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically. Public Comment

There was no public comment

## 11 **Adjournment.**

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