

TPO Technical Committee
April 8, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on April 8 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Darryl Smith, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Curtis Henry	Sevier County
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kenneth Carter	IdleAire
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Carol Doty	IdleAire
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Hayzlett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Michael Silence	Knoxville News Sentinel
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

1.Approval of February 12, 2008, Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of February 12, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – February 12, 2008, Minutes.

Jeff Welch pointed out some revisions to Item 10 in the February minutes that were distributed.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the February 12 minutes with the revisions. The motion carried with Darryl Smith abstaining because he did not attend the last meeting.

2. Recommendation of Approval of Amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Add new project TIP 2008-123: KAT Capital Improvements. The capital Job Access allocation comes from a 2006 statewide Job Access earmarked money that can only be used for capital.

Background: Attachment #2.

Jeff Welch discussed the TIP amendment for KAT Capital Improvements. Also, an additional \$300,000 was added from TDOT for streetscape improvements near the Tennessee Theatre on Gay Street.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by John Lamb to recommend approval to the Executive Board of the TIP amendment for KAT Capital Improvements. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Draft

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a draft 2009 UPWP for the upcoming fiscal year beginning Oct. 2008. The draft is currently under TDOT and FHWA review.

Background: Attachment #3.

Jeff Welch discussed with Angie Midgett how PL dollars were being impacted by Federal rescissions. The Long Range Transportation Plan will be finished in spring 2009, and if there are any additions or corrections, please tell the staff. Jeff stated that there may be some additional money for special studies that will require a 20 percent local match.

4. Projects submitted for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO received eight new project applications and two existing multi-year project applications totaling \$4.2 million. The TPO anticipates receiving \$1.6 million in CMAQ funds.

Background: Attachment #4.

Katie Habgood, TPO staff, has received the applications for CMAQ funding, and there are eight projects that have been submitted. Jeff Welch stated that staff will assess the projects once the amount of CMAQ funds the TPO will be allocated is known. Last year the TPO distributed \$1.6 million in CMAQ funds.

5. Regional Mobility Plan Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will present the Mobility Plan's Public Participation approach including dates for the first round of public workshops and a project timeline.

Background: The next update of the region's long range plan is due in May of 2009.

Katie Habgood stated staff has been working on the Public Participation Plan for the 2035 Mobility Plan. Eight public workshops are being scheduled for the last week in May and the first week in June. These meetings will affect how the TPO approaches the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She told the committee to let the staff know if they knew of a group that would like the staff to speak to inform the public of the LRTP. There have been over 300 responses to the online survey.

6. Presentation on IdleAire Advanced Travel Center Electrification Facilities Funded by the TPO

Presenter: IdleAire Representative

Item Summary: IdleAire representative will discuss the Advanced Travel Center Electrification facilities installed in the urban area including fuel savings, and utilization rates, etc.

Background: The TPO has awarded \$2 million of CMAQ funds to IdleAire under two contracts that have resulted in the installation of 200 units at truck stops in Knox County.

Cindy Pionke stated that she suggested IdleAire speak to the Technical Committee about the positive impact their company has had on the community.

Carol Doty, Manager of Strategic Affairs for IdleAire, stated that she is reporting how the CMAQ funds distributed by the TPO. IdleAire was incorporated in 2000, and in 2002, they requested CMAQ funding from the TPO. They received support letters from some members of the Executive Board and were approved for CMAQ and STP funding. In 2004 the second phase of funding was approved by the TPO. The National Transportation Research Center did a before and after study when 51 units were installed at Watt Road and Lovell Road. IdleAire send out people to do a survey at the truck stops to see when the units are occupied. They now have 8,500 parking spaces nationwide. The units were built for driver comfort and are an idling alternative. It initially costs the drivers \$10 for a window adapter and then \$1.85 an hour to use the service.

Darryl Smith thanked Carol for her presentation. John Lamb asked Jeff Welch if a survey had been conducted to ask truckers why they use the system. IdleAire representative responded that this is an ongoing effort. Jeff asked the status of the Jefferson County truck stop that TPO provided IdleAire with funding. John Knight of IdleAire stated they have received a building permit and are waiting on Pilot to decide where the 51 new units will go. A discussion ensued on how IdleAire presents their utilization data. It was recommended that they report the occupancy data like hotels do.

7. Update on Urban Land Use Allocation Model (ULAM)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: A progress report will be made on the ULAM land use model development.

Background: The consultant preparing the ULAM model for the TPO will return and provide an update on the project's progress. Some preliminary results from the model will be presented for review and comment by the Technical Committee.

Mike Conger, TPO staff, stated that the consultant did not have enough information to report to attend today's meeting. Several meetings were held during the week in March when the consultant was here including one with area developers in which we asked them to rank market factors like what influences their decisions to place residential and commercial developments. The factors were ranked in importance by the developers which will be used in the ULAM model to help determine the most likely areas to be developed. Since we had limited participation at the developer meeting, we are also planning to mail a survey form to developers for additional input.

Mike stated that another item discussed was the testing of land use alternatives that we will want to do with ULAM. The consultant will develop three different land use scenarios as part of our contract. We have defined some ideas, but we would like additional feedback for what should be tested. One we will definitely look at is a historic growth scenario in which we will assume continuing the pattern of development that has occurred in our area over the last 20 years. We would also like to look at a sustainable development scenario where areas are developed at higher densities and forcing growth within urban growth boundaries.

John Lamb stated he thinks that the population projections may be too high and asked if they could be lowered. Mike stated that it is possible to change the control totals and that we could probably do a sensitivity analysis to see how much difference would result from changing them. Mike noted, however, that the developers we met with think the projections are actually too low.

Kathryn Baldwin asked how the model could force development into specific areas and if the intent of the land use alternative testing was to require new land use policies in the region that may or may not be realistic. Jeff Welch stated that ULAM is only a tool to help show what might happen under different growth scenarios.

8. Other Business

- An Overview and Comparison of Tennessee Environmental Evaluation Report (TEER) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – Attachment #5. Jeff Welch stated that this five-page summary explains how TEER relates to the NEPA process. Suzanne Herron is director of the environmental division at TDOT, if anyone has any questions on this process.

Jeff congratulated Melissa Trevathan Roberson on her recent marriage.

- Jeff Welch stated that a TDOT Public Meeting on corridor improvements to I-40/81 in East Tennessee was held on Monday, April 7, at 5:00 p.m. at TDOT Region 1 offices. TDOT is considering several long term improvements in the 500 mile corridor from Bristol to Memphis. This information will be posted on TDOT's website.
- **Executive Board Meeting, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, May 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

TDOT's policy regarding the flexing of CMAQ funds from FHWA to FTA was discussed and a handout was provided.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- 10.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.