TPO Technical Committee
February 10, 2009
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on February 10 at 9 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
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Greg Patterson	Sevier County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bill Hammon	City of Alcoa
Chris Jenkins	Town of Farragut
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Amanda Snowden	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Nathan Vatter	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Barry Wilder	Portland Cement Association
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of November 18, 2008, Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair
Item Summary: Approval of November 18, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1, November 18, 2008, Minutes.

A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by John Lamb to approve the November 18 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

Presenter: Technical Committee Chair
Item Summary: The Bylaws of the Technical Committee require an annual election of officers: Chair and Vice Chair. The terms of office are for one year and an officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The bylaws require an election to be held at the first meeting of the year.
Background: Chair Darryl Smith and Vice Chair John Lamb have served two one-year terms already.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to nominate Bruce Wuethrich as Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Chris Hamby to nominate John Lamb as Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Economic Stimulus Update

Presenter: TPO Staff
a. Item Summary: Staff will discuss the latest information on the economic stimulus package under consideration by the US Congress. TPO Staff submitted a draft list of "shovel ready" projects to TDOT on Feb. 2, 2009.
Attachment #2 - Shovel ready projects

b. Background: The US House of Representatives has passed a stimulus bill and the US Senate is debating a bill.

Jeff Welch stated that the green sheet is clarification of what projects need to have completed before it is shovel ready. Pending final outcome of the bill projects may have to be let to contract in 90-120 days.

Chris Hamby asked about the stipulation that projects need to be on the functional classification system to be eligible for economic stimulus funding. Jeff stated that a highway must be classified as a collector or above for eligibility of federal funding. Chris asked that TPO staff determine whether the Research Park Road in Blount County can be added to the functional classification system. Jeff stated that there may be other streets that need to be considered functional classification. TPO staff will work with TDOT to begin this process.

Darryl stated that the Town of Farragut would like for Campbell Station Road project to be added to the Economic Stimulus list of projects as it is scheduled to be let for contract in June of 2009.

Jeff discussed other handouts. If the stimulus money becomes available, staff recommends that projects that are in the current TIP should be considered first for economic stimulus funding. Staff is considering spending existing STP funds on resurfacing and pedestrian related projects. TPO has to send to TDOT a tentative list of shovel ready projects by February 17. Jeff stated Campbell Station Road and Research Park Road in Maryville Alcoa are eligible to add. If a project is ready, it should be accompanied by a letter signed by Engineer/ Public Works Director or Director level position. Angie Midgett stated that all the ES money may have to be spent in one year.

The proposed list of specific highway projects that are definitely shovel ready add to $7+ million. There is a project checklist from TDOT to help define what a shovel ready project is. This committee will meet again next week when it is convenient for everyone. The date and location will be announced.

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Presenter: TPO Staff
a. Item Summary: The proposed amendments to the TIP will be geared to the anticipated Economic Stimulus program. New TIP buckets for TDOT and the TPO will be added to the TIP. Also a couple of new projects will be added to the TIP.

b. Background: Projects that can be shovel ready in 120 days will be considered for TIP amendments. At this point TPO staff is asking the Technical Committee to consider only adding Economic Stimulus (ES) buckets to the TIP. Specific highway projects will be added once the details of the final economic stimulus legislation are signed into law.   The TIP does have appropriate projects for additional funding for mass transit projects.

Add the following to the 2008-2011 TIP:
4a. TDOT ES Bucket- State Route 3 R Improvements - $500,000
4b.TDOT ES Bucket- Interstate 3R Improvements - $500,000
4c. TDOT ES Bucket- Bridge repair/Replacement - $500,000
4d. TPO ES Bucket Greenways and Sidewalks - $100,000
4e. TPO ES Bucket Safety and Operations - $100,000
4f. TPO ES Bucket Reconstruction and Resurfacing (3R) - $100,000
4g. TPO ES Bucket Transit Capital - $100,000

Jeff discussed the TIP amendments. Action on these items will be postponed until the meeting next week.

5. Annual Listing of Projects for FY08

Presenter: TPO Staff
Item Summary: Annually the TPO must prepare a listing of projects that funds were obligated to during the past fiscal year. The listing is attached and has been made available to the public.
Background: Attachment #3 - Annual listing of obligated projects.

Jeff Welch stated that the list of obligated projects for 2008 is on the TPO website.

6. Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: TPO Staff
Item Summary: Staff must submit a draft 2010 UPWP to TDOT by the end of February. If there are any planning studies that your jurisdiction is interested in please let us know as soon as possible. There will be additional time to add to the UPWP over the next couple of months.
Background: Attachment #4 – SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors.

Jeff Welch stated that members of the committee should let the staff know as soon as possible what projects they want included in the draft work program. If you have a special planning project for your area, there may be additional funding available for that effort.

7. Long Range Mobility Plan Update (LRMP)

Presenter: TPO Staff
a. Item Summary: Staff will review the proposed highway project list and discuss financial constraint.

b. Background: Attachment #5- List of proposed projects to be included in 2009-2034 Long Range Mobility Plan

Mike Conger, TPO staff, stated that an updated roadway project list for the mobility plan was included in the packet for today's meeting. The project list was updated based on comments received from the last workshop and information was added including a new project ID number and the horizon year was clarified to note the timeframe

proposed for completion rather than a single year. He noted that the project list needs to be finalized so that the air quality conformity analysis can be performed. He asked that the committee members review the list a final time and let him know if something needs to be changed or added as soon as possible. Mike stated that a postcard was distributed today that listed the seven public input meetings that have been scheduled for the LRMP and he encouraged the members to attend as many meetings as possible.

Katie Habgood, TPO staff, stated that the draft LRMP is going to TDOT on March 2 and will be available online then.

8. Discussion of Enabling Legislation for the Creation of Regional Transportation Authorities in the State and Supporting Resolution

Presenter: TPO Staff
a. Item Summary: An effort is underway to amend Tennessee Code, Title 64, Chapter 8 - Regional Transportation Authorities, to allow the creation of regional transportation authorities by any combination of two or more adjacent local governments with a combined population of 200,000 or more.

b. Background: **Attachment #6a – Summary of Legislation, Attachment #6b – Resolution**

Jeff Welch stated that current state allows only one Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to exist in the state. There is statewide interest to create state enabling legislation that will allow areas of population of greater than 200,000 to create an RTA.   Local governments would have to vote to create an RTA and submit it to the Secretary of State. This will allow local governments to come together to provide regional public transportation. Legislation will be introduced next week.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend to the Executive Board to approve a resolution supporting enabling legislation for the creation of regional transportation authorities in the state. The motion carried unanimously..

9. Other Business

Jeff Welch stated there will be a called meeting of the Technical Committee on February 18. He will let the committee know when the time and place has been set.

- **Executive Board Meeting, February 25 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, March 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

10. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.