

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
May 12, 2009
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on May 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. John Lamb, 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
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*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
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Becky Bottoms	Cannon & Cannon
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
David Craig	Ross/Fowler
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Dale Hurst	Lenoir City
Chris Jenkins	Town of Farragut
Ralph McGill	Town of Farragut
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Donna Young	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of April 14, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of April 14, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 - April 14, 2009, Minutes

A motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the April 14 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of Resolutions Adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan (LRMP) Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: MPOs must update the guiding long range transportation plan every four years as directed by SAFETEA-LU. This full update has gone through extensive public involvement over the last year including three rounds of public workshops. TDOT has completed their review of the Draft 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan, and the plan is now undergoing FHWA review. Additionally, the Conformity Determination Report has been reviewed by the Interagency Consultation group. The Draft Plan is available on the TPO's website (www.knoxtrans.org) and through a document-sharing site that can be accessed from the TPO website.

b. Background: The Plan is scheduled for adoption by the Board on May 27, 2009. The Draft Plan is open for public review and comment until then. **Staff recommends that the LRTP update be recommended for approval to the Board subject to comments from FHWA and FTA. Attachment #2a – Comments from TDOT and disposition of these comments. Attachment #2b – Resolution adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. Attachment #2c - Resolution finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements.**

Jeff Welch discussed the LRMP and summarized what is included in the plan. Several public meetings were held in the surrounding jurisdictions. Housing, congestion, energy, etc. had to be considered for the plan. It meets conformity for air quality for the nonattainment area. TDOT has finished their review, and currently FHWA is reviewing the plan. We are waiting on their final comments. The plan is subject to amendments. Total spending for the life of the plan is about \$5 billion.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Cindy Pionke to add this statement to the Knoxville Regional Bicycle Plan Executive Summary: "It should be noted that the Knoxville Regional Bicycle Plan is subject to fiscal and policy decisions made by each local government." The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Steve King to recommend approval of both resolutions to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend approval of an Amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program: Add TIP Project #2008-134 (add off ramp from south bound I-140 to Northshore Town Center) at no public expense.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT and FHWA have approved the addition of a slip ramp requested by a private developer. The construction of this new off ramp will be at the developer's expense. FHWA is requiring that this project be in our TIP.

Background: Attachment #3 - TIP Project #2008-134.

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT and FHWA have approved the addition of the slip ramp, and FHWA is requiring that it be added to TIP at no public expense.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend to the Executive Board approval of adding the project to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

Katie Habgood stated they are allocating place holder funds.

A motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Barbara Monty to recommend to the Executive Board approval of the TIP Amendment for the I-140 and Northshore Drive interchange. The motion carried unanimously.

Cindy Pionke stated Knox County wants to change resurfacing projects on Martin Mill Pike. They want to transfer from two projects to this project. Two resurfacing projects will be moved to this project.

A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Steve King to recommend to the Executive Board approval of this change. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the TPO, Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), and the Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA).

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Federal transportation regulations (23 CFR 450.314 (a)) require a MOA between the local MPO (TPO) and the urban area public transit operator (KAT). The MOA specifies cooperation procedures for carrying out planning and programming, including agreeing to work together to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. The KTA, the policy board that oversees KAT, is part of this agreement. The KTA will adopt the MOA at their Board meeting on May 28, 2009.

Background: Attachment #4 – Memorandum of Agreement

Doug Burton stated that federal regulations require an MPO to have an MOA between the local MPO and the urban area public transit operator (KAT). These are projects that are in the Work Program. The Executive Board will vote on the MOA at their May 27 meeting.

Kathryn Baldwin asked whether KAT has plans to provide service outside of Knox County. Melissa Roberson stated that KAT receives 5307 federal funds for local transit planning, and that most of the local funding for KAT comes from the City of Knoxville. Kathryn was disappointed that the express buses between Knoxville and Oak Ridge were discontinued. Melissa stated that this was funded by CMAQ and Y-12. Jeff Welch added that if legislation allowing the creation of regional transit authorities passes, we can look at a regional approach to funding and providing transit service.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Mark Donaldson to recommend to the Executive Board approval of the MOA between TPO and KAT. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion of a resolution requesting Tennessee’s federal representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of a proposed “Steel Interstate” rail system pilot project between Knoxville and Harrisburg, PA, as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that would bring fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The five-state I-81/I-40 Corridor between Harrisburg, PA, and Knoxville is one of the densest truck freight highways in the nation.

A multi-state study is necessary in order to identify the feasibility of implementing high-speed rail in this corridor for both freight and passenger trips.

Background: Attachment #5a - Resolution and Attachment #5b - Background paper.

Jeff Welch has attended a meeting concerning this. The I-95 traffic is shifting to I-81, which is making the congestion worse. This resolution will go to the board.

A motion was made by Andrew Sonner and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend to the Executive Board approval of the resolution requesting federal representatives sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed “Steel Interstate.” The motion carried unanimously.

6. Status of TPO funded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff is requesting an update from jurisdictions on the status of their ARRA project(s). Also on behalf of MPOs throughout the state, TDOT is required to submit reports to the US House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the status of the ARRA funds allocated to the state and to MPOs.

Background: Attachment #6 - ARRA Accountability Letter

Jeff Welch stated that he will keep the committee updated on ARRA. We are working closely with TDOT to move projects along and get contracts as quickly as possible. We are doing monthly reports on each project.

7. Discussion of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Fund Balance

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Knoxville TPO is carrying a fund balance of \$27,409,141. This represents almost four years of STP allocation. In the attached letter and in a conference call with TDOT on Feb. 13, 2009, TDOT is asking for a plan of action on how we will spend down this balance. There is no immediate threat of losing any of these federal funds.

Background: Staff is requesting that this item be postponed until the June meeting.

Jeff stated that staff needs more time to work on a plan for spending down STP funding. Additional projects can be suggested for the use of these funds.

8. Challenges Implementing Greenway and Sidewalk Projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: At the last Technical Committee meeting, we discussed the concerns of local governments, raised via the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council (GSMRGC), about the many hoops to be jumped through to construct greenway and sidewalks with federal funding. TPO and City of Alcoa staff has drafted a letter to TDOT and FHWA to start a dialogue on the issues.

Ellen Zavisca stated she met with the GSMRGC and greenways and sidewalks were discussed. TPO staff would like to work with local governments, TDOT and FHWA to make it simpler to move projects through. She distributed a draft letter that will be sent to Chris Christianson and Paul Degges of TDOT stating that a regional greenway council representing several local governments has made TPO aware of some regulatory barriers that are delaying construction of greenways and sidewalks funded by federal dollars, primarily Transportation Enhancement grants.

A motion was made by Russ Newman and seconded by Andrew Sonner to approve sending a letter to TDOT regarding greenways and sidewalks. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Business

- **Public Presentation of Complete Streets Study, 7 p.m. on May 26 at the Knox County Health Department Community Room, 140 Dameron Ave.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, May 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.**
- **Transit Oriented Trip to Charlotte, NC, May 28-29 – Attachment #7 – Flyer**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, June 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**

Jeff Welch announced that May is Smart Trips month. Ellen Zavisca stated there is a walk tomorrow night at UT and tonight in Mechanicsville. Next Friday is Bike to Work Day.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.