

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
December 14, 2010  
9 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 14 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville. Chairman John Lamb was unable to attend the meeting. And, since the Vice-Chair position is vacant the Technical Committee voted Darryl Smith to chair the meeting. Darryl Smith called the meeting to order. Doug Burton introduced Don Brown who will be representing the East Tennessee Development District and is also a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) representative.

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|-----------------------|---|
| *Kathryn Baldwin      | Anderson County   |
| *Brian Boone          | City of Maryville                                       |
| *Don Brown            | East Tennessee Development District                     |
| *Rich DesGroseilliers | Lakeway Area TPO  |
| *Mark Donaldson       | Knoxville/Knox County MPC                               |
| *Chris Hamby          | City of Alcoa for Andrew Sonner                         |
| *Leslie Johnson       | Lenoir City   |
| *Steve King           | City of Knoxville                                       |
| *Phil Layman          | East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski |
| *Angie Midgett        | Tennessee Department of Transportation                  |
| *Barbara Monty        | Knox County Community Action Committee                  |
| *Ted Newsom           | Knoxville Commuter Pool                                 |
| *Greg Patterson       | Sevier County   |
| *Pat Phillips         | Loudon County   |
| *Cindy Pionke         | Knox County for Dwight Van de Vate                      |
| *Melissa Roberson     | Knoxville Area Transit                                  |
| *Blake Sartin         | Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority                |
| *Darryl Smith         | Town of Farragut  |
| Nathan Benditz        | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| Bryan Berry           | Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff                  |
| Amy Brooks            | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| Doug Burton           | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| Mike Conger           | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| Terry Gilhula         | Metropolitan Planning Commission                        |
| Katie Habgood         | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| John Hunter           | City of Knoxville                                       |
| Kelley Segars         | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |
| Anne Wallace          | City of Knoxville                                       |
| Charlotte West        | Transportation Planning Organization Staff              |

**\*voting members**

**Determination of Quorum**

## 1. Approval of November 9, 2010, minutes

■ Action    □ Possible Action    □ Discussion    □ Information

**Presenter:** Darryl Smith, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of November 9, 2010, TPO Technical Committee minutes. **Attachment #1.**

**A motion was made by Leslie Johnson and seconded by Brian Boone to approve the November 9 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## 2. Recommend approval of Amendments to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program

■ Action    □ Possible Action    □ Discussion    □ Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** TDOT recently approved a number of TPO-area project for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds which need to be included in our TIP. Items a-k are projects using CMAQ funds and can be found on **Attachment #2a**. Additional project attachments follow. We had requests come in regarding American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds for two Lenoir City projects; a request to re-insert a nearly-completed project in order to close it out, and the TPO received approval from TDOT to use funding for ITS architecture study.

- a. Amend TIP Project #2011-014, Ebenezer Rd/N Westland Intersection. This existing project to add turn lanes was approved for \$250,000 CMAQ funding with a \$50,000 local match for PE-D/ROW/CON.
- b. Amend TIP Project #2011-036, US 321 and Hwy 11 Intersection in Lenoir City. This existing intersection modification project was approved for \$400,000 CMAQ funding.
- c. Add TIP Project #2011-064, Broadway Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knoxville. This project will coordinate 20 signals from Jackson Ave to I-640 WB Exit ramp and was approved for \$240,000 CMAQ funding.
- d. Add TIP Project #2011-065, Kingston Pike Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knoxville. This project will coordinate 24 signals from Cherokee Blvd to Bridgewater Rd and was approved for \$288,000 CMAQ funding.
- e. Add TIP Project #2011-066, East Knoxville Sidewalk Improvements (Park City). This project will complete a sidewalk network between a high school and nearby neighborhoods with 1,400 lf of sidewalk and was approved for \$400,000 CMAQ funding and \$100,000 local match.
- f. Add TIP Project #2011-067, Millertown Pike and Mill Rd Intersection Improvements in Knoxville. This project will install a signalized traffic control and was approved for \$210,000 CMAQ funding.
- g. Add TIP Project #2011-068, Signal System Communications Master Plan and Signal Timing Optimization Program in Knox County. This project will coordinate the remaining 14 signals in Knox County along with developing a master plan for all traffic signals in the County's jurisdiction and was approved for \$182,600 CMAQ funding.
- h. Add TIP Project #2011-072, Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture update study for the Knoxville Region. A regional ITS architecture is a long-range plan for how ITS can be deployed, integrated, and operated in a region. An updated and comprehensive regional ITS architecture provides a framework for implementing ITS projects and encourages interoperability and resource sharing among agencies. The current regional ITS architecture for the Knoxville Region was developed back in 2000. This project was approved for \$200,000 in CMAQ funding.

- i. Add TIP Project #2011-215, Smart Trips Program. The regional ride share program has been approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$664,000 in state CMAQ funding to continue and expand the program including hiring a second coordinator to explore marketing opportunities in Anderson and Sevier Counties.
- j. Add TIP Project #2011-216, regional Bicycle Parking Program. This project provides bike racks at a very low cost to businesses and agencies to help encourage and promote bicycling as an alternative to driving and was approved for \$24,000 CMAQ funding.
- k. Add TIP Project #2011-217, Car Share Program, managed by the TPO with cooperation from the City of Knoxville and UT. The new car sharing program has been approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$125,000 in state CMAQ funding to provide marketing and initial membership subsidies.
- l. Add TIP Project #2011-218, KAT Transit Vehicles. The vehicle replacement program was approved for funding in FY2011, 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$5,875,000 in state CMAQ funding to purchase up to 10 new buses and five new trolleys, all equipped with Diesel Particulate Filters.
- m. Add TIP Project #2011-069, Adesa Boulevard (Lenoir City) - This is a resurfacing project that was funded through the ARRA (Stimulus) program. Additional funding of \$37,234 (STP/local match) is needed to cover final construction costs due to under-cuts that were encountered on the project. This project was funded out of an ARRA Resurfacing "Bucket" of funds that was included as Project 2008-133 in the previous TIP. **Attachment #2b.**
- n. Add TIP Project #2011-070, Browder Hollow Rd (Lenoir City) - Additional funding of \$31,641 (STP/local match) is needed to cover final construction costs due to under-cuts that were encountered on the project. This project was funded out of an ARRA Resurfacing "Bucket" of funds that was included as Project 2008-133 in the previous TIP. **Attachment #2c.**
- o. Add TIP Project #2011-071, Pleasant Ridge Rd (Knoxville) - This project involved adding a center turn lane and was recently completed. Apparently funds that were added for cost overruns through an adjustment to the 2008-2011 TIP were never officially approved by FHWA as there was a miscommunication that occurred somewhere along the way. In order to close the project out and pay the outstanding obligations to the contractor the project needs to be added to the current 2011-2014 TIP. The previous TIP Project ID was #2008-041. **Attachment #2d.**

Katie Habgood stated that TDOT had recently announced several Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to be funded within the Knoxville non-attainment area. In the past, the Knoxville non-attainment area was sub-allocated CMAQ funding by TDOT and the decision of which projects to fund was determined through a TPO application process and finalized by the TPO Executive Board. After a series of funding recessions by the U.S. Congress, TDOT had decided to retain the CMAQ funding and select the projects statewide themselves. Each MPO was able to submit a slate of projects to TDOT for CMAQ funding. The TPO staff worked with the Technical Committee to develop the slate of projects from the Knoxville area. Then, Jeff and Katie went to Nashville to present the Knoxville projects to a TDOT selection committee. Katie said that the Knoxville area did very well, as TDOT, awarded funding for a majority of the projects. Also, in the list of TIP amendments was an ITS Architecture Study. This project was also approved by TDOT to be funded through CMAQ. Katie noted projects M and N was a request by Lenoir City to add some additional ARRA funding to these projects whose budgets had come in a little higher than anticipated. Project O – Pleasant Ridge Road was a project that was in a previous TIP. To continue to receive funding, the TIP procedures require it to be added into the new TIP. This project needs funding to close the project out. Finally, Katie distributed two new TIP project sheets for enhancement grants there were just announced by TDOT to fund the First Creek Greenway and the Ramsey House projects.

**A motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Cindy Pionke to recommend approval of the amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. Motion to recommend Transportation Project Priority list for FY2012-2015

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Each year, the TPO presents the state legislation with a list of priority transportation projects within our region. **Attachment #3.**

Nathan Benditz discussed the priority projects list. Nathan stated, except for the Beltway (Knoxville Parkway), which has been deleted, the rest are the same as last year. They will be sent to the Executive Board for final approval. Doug Burton stated that there is a transit sheet that goes with the list which is being finalized by the local transit providers, including the Smart Trips program. Doug noted that there will not be a legislative luncheon this year because of funding and the fact there will be a new Governor, a new TDOT Commissioner, and some turnover in the State Legislators. A letter and packet will be sent out that showcases the Priority of Projects. Later in the year the TPO will try to do an event with the new TDOT Commissioner.

**A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Brian Boone to recommend approval to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

### 4. Motion to approve David Harper to serve on the Bicycle Advisory Committee

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Technical Committee has the authority to appoint members to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. **Attachment #4.** Bicycle Committee Application for David Harper.

Kelly Segars stated that a member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee has resigned and David Harper has volunteered to be an official member. David is willing to be on the board.

**A motion was made by Brian Boone and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve David Harper as the new member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

### 5. FY2010 TDOT Transportation Obligations Report

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** TDOT has provided to the TPO a list of obligated projects for fiscal year 2010 (October 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010). Staff is asking local jurisdictions to review this list for accuracy.

**Attachment #5.** List of obligated projects for Fiscal Year 2010.

Doug Burton stated that federal law requires a list of obligated projects be published each year. TDOT has provided the TPO a list of projects that have been obligated. Doug asked that the committee members review this list and let the staff know if there is something to add or delete and to send the comments to Katie Habgood. Angie Midgett asked about transit funds. Doug stated there is not a list of transit funds. Doug said he would work with the local transit providers to put together a list of transit projects that have been obligated. Doug noted there was a federal requirement to publish a list of New Freedom and Job Access and Reverse Commute projects and that they should be added to the transit list.

## 6. CMAQ Quarterly Report

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** In an effort to better track projects' progress and ultimately obligate funds more efficiently, the TPO is now reporting the status of CMAQ projects regularly to TDOT. **Attachment #6.**

Katie Habgood stated she will be submitting a report in January and will contact each person who is listed on the project list. She will update the Technical Committee in January.

## 7. Other business

Doug Burton noted Jeff Welch was at a conference in Atlanta called – Every Day Counts. The meetings were about shortening project delivery without compromising safety and environmental protections.

Mike Conger gave an update on air quality. The EPA has again postponed the announcement of the new ozone standard to sometime in July 2011. The new standard is being proposed between 60 and 70 parts per billion whereas the current standard is at a level of 84 parts per billion. The current monitoring data shows the area is at around 76 parts per billion so it will be a major challenge to meet the new standard. The announcement of the new standard has been postponed several times so it is uncertain what the timeframe for actual implementation will be, the TPO staff will keep the Technical Committee posted on any new information as it comes available.

Mike also mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is sponsoring a Planning for Operations workshop in February.

Kelly Segars distributed the Bicycle Performance Measures and discussed them with the Technical Committee. She noted that we are meeting our target.

Doug noted there will be a special called Executive Board meeting on December 21 to vote on CMAQ projects to be included in the TIP. Doug said there will be guests from FHWA including the new State of Tennessee Division Administrator Pam Kordenbrock and the Assistant Division Administrator Sabrina David.

Executive Board Meeting, December 21 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Technical Committee Meeting, January 11 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

## 8. Public comment

There was no public comment.

## 9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.