

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
July 10, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on July 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Andrew Sonner, presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville-Knox County MPC
*John Hunter	City of Knoxville, <i>for Jim Hagerman</i>
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Blake Sartin	Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Corbin Davis	Federal Highway Administration – TN
Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
Lori Goerlich	City of Knoxville, Parks and Recreation
Monika Miller	TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee
Mike Russell	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Jeff Welch	Director, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Dori Caron	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Alan Huff	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

1. Approval of June 12, 2012 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of June 12, 2012 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

Attachment #1 – June 12, 2012 Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Darryl Smith (Town of Farragut) and seconded by Blake Sartin (Knoxville Airport Authority) to approve the June 12, 2012 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommended Approval of Amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The following Amendment to the TIP was requested by our state or local governments and staff recommends approval.

- a. Add TIP Project 2011-087 (City of Knoxville feasibility and assessment greenway project feasibility and assessment). Amend the project by adding FY2013 STP funds in the amount of \$250,000 (\$200,000 state and \$50,000 local). The City of Knoxville will use the funding to do assessment and routing studies of several greenway corridors that are in the Knoxville/Knox County Park, Recreation, and Greenway Plan. This will include analysis of existing and needed property or easements, preliminary environmental documentation, and preliminary design work.
Attachment #2 – TIP Project 2011-087

Discussion: Bryan Berry (TPO) reviewed the proposed Amendment. He clarified the project would be funded by Local Surface Transportation Program funds. This request was accompanied by several letters of support from the Directors of the City Parks and Recreation and City Engineering Departments as well as from the Mayor. Angie Midgett (TDOT) asked a question regarding if the money was going to be used for existing planned projects or to identify new greenway projects. Lori Goerlich, Parks and Greenways Coordinator for the City of Knoxville, noted that there are 4 extensions/connections of existing greenways that are currently being targeted for review. These greenways are all part of the Master Planning process that the City has done for greenways.

Action: A Motion was made by Pat Phillips (Loudon County) and seconded by John Hunter (City of Knoxville) to approve the Amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Quarterly TIP Project Status Update

Item Summary: Staff will begin a quarterly email to municipalities and entities with projects in the current Transportation Improvement Program and ask for project status updates. The first report will cover the period ending in June 2012 and will cover STP, CMAQ, and Enhancement related projects.
Attachment #3 – Quarterly Project Update

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated the nature and intent of the Quarterly Update is to keep the Technical Committee, Executive Board, and our federal, state, and local partners informed of the status of projects identified in the TIP. Once the Update is established, TDOT will be invited to participate in the Updates as well. This initiative will also serve to identify shortcomings/issues with existing projects and assist in expediting moving them through to completion.

4. Regional Mobility Plan Updates

Item Summary: Staff continues to move forward with efforts to update the Regional Mobility Plan. Staff presented an initial draft Project Application form in May and made updates based on comments received as well as based on research of other practices.

- a. Updated Timeline – The Mobility Plan timeline has been updated to reflect the latest information.
Attachment #4a – Mobility Plan Timeline
- b. Draft Plan Outline – A major objective of this update will be to make the Plan more accessible to a broader audience so that those interested in understanding the TPO process, are able to. The attached Draft Outline reflects that objective. The content will essentially be an updated version of the current Plan, however will be repackaged to make it clearer to understand and will reference denser material, moved to the appendices. There will be a high

emphasis on visualization to communicate complex ideas and processes, and the format will attempt to more clearly identify priorities and include educational elements pertaining to important issues in the Plan.

Attachment #4b – Draft Mobility Plan Outline

- c. Branding – As a part of making the Mobility Plan more accessible to the public, we have developed branding, a practice used by MPOs across the country. This will be used to clearly identify the Plan in TPO efforts.

Attachment #4c – Draft Mobility Plan Branding

- d. Project Application – We will formally open the call for projects in the next month or so and as promised we will give everyone 60 days to submit, to allow time to bring in projects that are in the current Plan.

Discussion: Alan Huff (TPO) reviewed the updated Mobility Plan Timeline and pointed out key dates identified. He noted staff has set side approximately 6 months after the Draft Completion Deadline for final review prior to the Plan Update Deadline. Staff plans to put the Mobility Plan on the TPO website seeking input within the next month and will be sending out an electronic survey also seeking input. Mr. Huff then discussed the Draft Mobility Plan Outline touching on the focus of each chapter. TPO staff is proposing that the Outline be a general overview with the appendices for each chapter containing more detailed information. Mr. Huff further noted that the goal is to make the document succinct and readable for the general public. It was clarified that the Mobility Plan will include the new urbanized areas and further noted that the new jurisdictions will also be receiving Project Applications to complete. The Plan will coincide with other ongoing long range planning initiatives. Referencing Attachment #4c, Mr. Huff stated that staff wants to make the Plan visual and recognizable. He lastly noted that once the Project Application is posted on TPO's website, jurisdictions will be notified and have 60 days to complete and return them.

5. Draft FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)

Item Summary: Discussion and update on the draft FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program. A draft of the work program will be distributed at the meeting. The TPO will be asked to approve the work Program at their August meeting.

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated that staff will be seeking approval for the Draft FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) at the August 2012 meetings of both the Technical Committee and Executive Board. He noted this is a 2-year program and it reflects the recent approval of MAP-21 legislation. The Program will be flexible recognizing that there will be changes forthcoming from FTA and FHWA as well. The Program is comprehensive and reflects major activity for the first year including adoption of the Long Range Mobility Plan, working in sync with PlanET, the expansion of the MPO, and air quality planning for the Nonattainment areas. There may be additional special planning studies done as part of the Program. Mr. Welch noted the TIP will probably feel the most impact from the new MAP-21 legislation but staff will be investigating how the new legislation will impact all of the TPO.

6. Bicycle Advisory Committee Update

Item Summary: The TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) was created in 2001 to advise the Technical Committee and Executive Board on bicycle issues. The committee has recently begun an effort to be more active, beginning with revision of the BAC bylaws and continuing with development of an annual work program.

Attachment #5 – Draft Bicycle Advisory Committee Bylaws

Discussion: Kelly Segars (TPO) stated the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) was started in 2001 to advise the Technical Committee and Executive Board on bike issues. The BAC is currently working towards enhancing their presence and effectiveness in fulfilling their mission and is in the process of updating their bylaws. The BAC can amend their bylaws independently with a 2/3 vote. One revision is that the BAC can vote in new members independent of the Technical Committee.

Monika Miller, BAC Chair, reiterated the BAC is restructuring themselves in order to refocus energy back to the intent of the Committee, which is to support and advise not only the TPO but also local private and public entities. The overall goal is to encourage bicycling within the community and increase all avenues for enhanced community involvement in that initiative. The BAC is also looking to increase their own accountability in achieving their goals and though the BAC will continue to report to the TPO, it will become more self-driven. Ms. Miller stated they plan to vote on the revised draft bylaws at their July meeting. It was clarified that the BAC will report to the TPO a minimum of quarterly.

7. Update on PlanET Process and Upcoming Meetings

Item Summary: The PlanET Transportation and Working Group meeting was held on Tuesday, June 12th. Participants discussed how various drivers impact transportation and infrastructure across the region. Participants reviewed vision themes collected from the Round Two Public Forums in April with particular emphasis on themes focused on transportation and infrastructure. Participants were then engaged to identify any additional vision theme ideas for consideration.

Attachment #6 – Transportation and Infrastructure Working Group Meeting #2 Key Findings

Discussion: Amy Brooks (TPO) stated the second round of working groups met on June 12th and 13th. The 5 working groups have the following focuses: Transportation and Infrastructure, Community Health, Environment, Economy and Workforce, and Housing and Neighborhoods. Ms. Brooks noted the purpose of the working groups is to get people across the region, with specialized knowledge or interest, to come to the table with input for each phase of the PlanET process. In this round of meetings the groups were asked to evaluate the 8 broad regional drivers, as identified in the Livability Report Card, and discuss the impact these drivers have on their focus area. Each group also discussed a “vision for the future” referencing ideas that emerged from the second round of community forums and were themselves asked for additional input.

Cindy Pionke, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Working Group stated their group had a great turnout with good representation which included someone from the utilities side. Of the 8 broad drivers identified, their group rated the following as the top 3: the dispersed development pattern and separation of land use types, few transportation options, and local decisions, which are in fact all intertwined. Because of the dispersed development, we have to drive everywhere and we don't meet the minimum standards for even basic bus service. This also presents limited opportunities to walk and bike to needed services as well. This then also affects the local location decisions. They discussed funding for infrastructure and noted the need for a cost analysis comparing greenfield, brownfield, and greyfield development. Ms. Pionke further noted that the group also felt there was a need to link economic development to transportation as well as services like water and sewer. Ms. Pionke asked everyone to actively explore and identify groups that could host a Meeting in a Box session this summer. She also asked if Committee members could identify a current, successful either local or regional project that could demonstrate a positive example of the PlanET initiative. Lastly, Ms. Pionke challenged members to identify any local champions for the PlanET process in regards to transportation and infrastructure. It was clarified that the type of projects the group would be looking for would show cooperation and collaboration between parties; perhaps TIP projects that would address some of the issues identified such as the dispersed development, lack of connectivity, and lack of bicycle and pedestrian options. It was further noted that a public/private partnership would

provide a great example for this as well. Ms. Brooks noted that an application had been distributed seeking Demonstration Projects, though further noting this process was ongoing and input would be welcome throughout the entire PlanET process. Jeff Welch (TPO) stated the PlanET initiatives needed to be applied across all of the planning initiatives in order to be sustained. Kathryn Baldwin (City of Oak Ridge) discussed the successful initiatives in Nashville where there is clear demonstration of leadership fostering a cultural change regarding transportation, reiterating the need for the identification of a local champion to be identified here in the Knoxville area. Ms. Brooks stated the third round of working groups would be held on August 20th and 21st.

8. Federal Legislation Update

Item Summary: Congress passed a new 2-year transportation bill called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

Attachment # 7 – AMPO MAP-21 Summary

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) discussed the new transportation bill, MAP-21, signed into law on Friday July 6th. Noting that there were a lot of last minute edits, there are a lot of unknowns with the bill and details are still forthcoming. Mr. Welch referenced AMPO's interpretation of the bill (Attachment # 7). It was noted that this is a 27-month bill and that funding stays approximately the same for highway and transit. He briefly reviewed the Summary highlighting areas of regional interest, specifically with regards to MPOs, Project Delivery, and Environmental Streamlining. Mr. Welch noted federal funds were tapped to completely fund the bill. Angie Midgett (TDOT) and Corbin Davis (FHWA) both noted their respective agencies were also reviewing the final bill for complete details.

9. Other Business

TDOT Update: Angie Midgett noted the dates for Commissioner Schroer's Bus Tour for Region I are October 15th through October 18th. It was also noted that Jim Osmond is currently the Interim Environmental Director for TDOT. The phone number and mailing address are the same.

Corbin Davis (FHWA) noted that once they have had a chance to digest MAP-21 in its entirety, they will have a better feel for the implementation schedule and rule-making process.

Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, July 25, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. Jeff Welch stated that as there is only one Action Item for the Agenda he will recommend cancellation of the July meeting. The next Executive Board meeting would be Wednesday August 22, at 9 AM in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, August 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Jeff Welch congratulated Cindy Pionke on her achievement of being presented with the Marbel J. Hensley Award. This award is for service performed at the 9-state southern district level and is one of only 2 major awards presented in the district.

10. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

11. Adjournment: There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.