

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
September 10, 2013
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on September 10, 2013 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves. It was determined that there was a quorum.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Beth Collins	Lenoir City
*Rich DesGroseilliers	LAMTPO
*Mark Donaldson	MPC
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of August 13, 2013 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of August 13, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Andrew Sonner to approve the August 13, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of an 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. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted that due to fact that bridge projects are a part of a series of groupings TDOT is adding into the new TIP (to be discussed in more detail later in the Agenda) this TIP Amendment can be withdrawn from the Agenda as it will not require Action today.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Beth Collins to withdraw this TIP Amendment from the Agenda. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of an Amendment to the TPO Technical Committee Bylaws

Item Summary: This would be the second reading of an Amendment to the Technical Committee Bylaws. This would be an Amendment to Article VII - Meetings - by adding Item 4 as follows: **“Each Technical Committee member shall have one vote, unless they have a proxy letter from another Committee member – in this case, a Committee member may have up to two votes.”**

Discussion: Jeff Welch reviewed the proposed Amendment.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Darryl Smith to approve the Amendment to the TPO Technical Committee Bylaws. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Overview City of Knoxville/TPO FTA Section 5307 and 5339 Application Process

Item Summary: The City of Knoxville has requested the TPO to help facilitate the program of projects selection process for FTA Section 5307 and 5339. Staff will briefly review this process.

http://www.knoxtrans.org/rfp/fta_aug2013/index.htm

Discussion: Doug Burton noted the City of Knoxville was the designated recipient of these funds and that Mayor Rogero asked TPO staff to develop an application. He noted the application was made available on August 29th via the TPO website and public notices and completed ones are due back to the TPO by September 24th. Mr. Burton noted that when a Program of Projects (how the funds will be divided) is selected, there is a federal requirement that there be a Public Hearing on the Program. Previously, as KAT was the only recipient of these funds, that Public Meeting was held by the Knoxville Transportation Authority. He stated that if that responsibility is transferred to the TPO it must be explicitly stated in the TPO’s Public Involvement Plan as well as in our Transportation Improvement Program. Amending the Public Involvement Plan requires a 45 day Public Comment period, which has been initiated. Also, Mr. Burton noted, the Program of Projects needs to be published 14 days before the Public Hearing. He noted that although the City can proceed with the selection process, the new TIP will be essentially frozen until an acceptance letter is received from FHWA. He noted that with all of the above-mentioned parameters, amending these projects in to the TIP could be pushed out to late November or even early December.

5. Overview of a Proposed Change to the TPO Outreach Plan

Item Summary: This change to the public outreach plan will allow the TIP Public hearing process to serve as the public hearing process for the FTA Section 5307 Program of Projects if the designated recipient so chooses to follow this process. The Technical Committee will be asked to vote on this change in October.

Attachment #4 – Amendment Language for the Proposed Change to the TPO Outreach Plan

Discussion: Doug Burton reviewed the attached language outlining the proposed change to the TPO Outreach Plan. He noted the language states “the City of Knoxville *may*”, leaving some flexibility with regards to the required public participation process. Mr. Burton also noted that a Public Notice needs to be published identifying which public participation process will be followed for the Program of Projects Public Hearing. He noted a Public Notice has been published and the information is on the TPO website initiating the Public Comment process.

6. Review of 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Time Line

Item Summary: The official 30 day public comment period for the TIP began on Sunday, September 8th. The Technical Committee will consider the new TIP at their October 8, 2013 meeting. The Executive Board will consider the TIP at their October 16, 2013 meeting. Staff asks that Technical Committee members review the online version of the full TIP located here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/tip/DRAFT_fy14_17_tip.pdf

Discussion: Mike Conger gave a brief overview of timeline of the TIP development. He noted the TIP has been developed over the last 6 months beginning with a Call-for-Projects back in February. Staff has already addressed TDOT's comments and the Draft has gone to FHWA. Staff expects to receive FHWA's comments by September 17th. He noted there are copies of the Draft TIP in the MPC library and it is also available on the TPO website. He pointed out the TIP Project Summary handout and noted that this summary table shows the project name, description and termini and in addition, the corresponding Long Range Mobility Plan (LRMP) Project ID and Horizon year, required as part of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Referencing the handout on Air Quality Conformity Determination, Appendix D, he noted we were able to demonstrate conformity for the TIP by relying on a previous regional emissions analysis that was performed for the LRMP, as the TIP is a direct subset the LRMP. He stated staff has made the draft conformity determination available for comment by the Air Quality Interagency Consultation Group, the air quality partners in our region including FHWA, EPA, TDEC, TDOT and others, and there was agreement that it was in an acceptable format to initiate the 30 day formal Public Comment period. Mr. Conger noted any significant changes to the TIP at this time such as adding or deleting projects would necessitate staff having to return to the Interagency Consultation Group to reaffirm our conformity determination process as well as restart another Public Comment period. Mr. Conger also highlighted recent changes to the TIP and referenced the handout outlining TDOT's Metropolitan Groupings Crosswalk, which details the project groupings in the TIP as requested by TDOT. He reviewed the document in some detail noting the types and scopes of projects eligible for funding under these Groupings, which do not need to be individually identified in the TIP. Mr. Conger noted that there are certain eligibility requirements are based on the functional classification of roadways under the STP and NHPP groupings and that staff is in the process of updating the roadway functional classification list which will be reviewed with each jurisdiction individually in the coming months.

Ms. Ann Spears, citizen, asked to address this Agenda Item. Ms. Spears indicated she was here to ask questions concerning the recent Executive Board vote removing the James White Parkway extension project from the list of projects. She stated she became aware that there is indeed a lot more information that she did not initially have and wanted to become part of the process so she is more informed. She posed 2 questions. Why did the Technical Committee recommend its removal to the Executive Board back in January and what went into that decision; and secondly, where are the Chapman Highway improvements now scheduled into the Program?

Jeff Welch clarified that at the January 2013 meeting, the recommendation was to remove that project from TDOT's annual list of projects it is considering for programming into the TIP for our urban area over the next 3 years and that TPO staff, Technical Committee and Executive Board are asked by TDOT to rank them. This locally ranked list, really more of a "guidance" is then submitted back to TDOT. He noted this ranked list is not actually part of the TIP itself. Mr. Welch then noted the recommendation in January 2013 included adding a project to this ranked list for consideration by TDOT for operational and safety improvements to Chapman Highway. Mr. Welch again clarified that these recommendations made in January did not constitute any changes to the TIP. He further noted that TDOT then considers all of the priorities statewide and then proceeds to the state legislature with their recommendations for the Program of Projects. He further clarified that as the legislature only approves funding for one year at a time this is an annual undertaking. Mr. Welch noted he would follow up with TDOT concerning the status of safety improvement projects on Chapman Highway. Mr. Welch further clarified that it was at the last Executive Board meeting when the Draft 2014-2017 TIP was under review that an action was taken by the Board to remove the James White Parkway extension project from the Draft TIP.

7. Other Business

Jeff Welch referenced a handout dated 9-6-13, received late last week from TDOT, for this fall's annual ranking, as noted above. This chart denotes projects under consideration by TDOT for our urban area for FY 2015, and FY2016-2017. He briefly reviewed the list and noted TDOT has asked staff to rank them by October. He stated staff will bring the list back to the Committee.

Jeff Welch noted staff has received clarification that TDOT is opening up the statewide funding that is available for the Transportation Alternatives Program to all eligible jurisdictions. Local governments should go to the TDOT website for further information: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm>. Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, September 25, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. This meeting may be cancelled. Please remember the October Executive Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 16th at 9:00 a.m.**

Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 8, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Upcoming PlanET Events. For complete and up to date information please visit the PlanET website at: <http://www.planeasttn.org>. Jeff Welch noted there was another opportunity to meet with Jeff Speck this Friday, the 13th at 10:00 a.m. at the East Tennessee History Center for a discussion of the nuts and bolts of walkability.

Karen Estes noted CAC has set a Public Meeting for October 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the O'Connor Senior Center for their Inclusive Transportation Grant. They also have an online survey available for Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Union counties.

Camille Hazeur, Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, USDOT, will be the keynote speaker at an upcoming Title VI Symposium entitled "Economic Fairness Through Diversity and Inclusion". The event is scheduled for September 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. Staff will forward registration information by email as soon as it becomes available.

8. Public comment

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

9. Adjournment

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Karen Estes to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.