

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
Decembers 8, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MPO
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration TN Division
**Elisabeth Martin	Federal Transit Administration, Region IV
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
**non-voting members	

Chair Cindy Pionke proposed a change in the Agenda, hearing Agenda Item #6 before Item #5. Committee members were in agreement with the proposed change.

1. Motion to Approve October 13, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of October 13, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded Jim Hagerman by to approve the October 13, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Report

Item Summary: A short conformity report was prepared since this amendment involves an air quality non-exempt project. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger reviewed the proposed TIP Amendment for a project to widen Lovell Road (SR-131) between Cedardale Lane and Middlebrook Pike from 2 to 4 lanes, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Knox County has requested the addition of \$48,600.00 of L-STP funds to initiate the PE-NEPA phase of the project. He noted that as this project is considered an air quality non-exempt project an air quality conformity determination was required. Subsequently, a short conformity report was developed to document that this project has been previously accounted for in a regional emissions analysis, demonstrating conformity. Mr. Conger recognized 2 guests from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region IV office in Atlanta present at today's meeting, Ms. Kelly Sheckler and Mr. Richard Wong. He noted that EPA and our other review partners, TDOT, FHWA, FTA and TDEC agree with the findings of the conformity report, which is now available for public comment.

He then noted that today's Committee meeting is also serving as an opportunity for public comment on the short conformity report. It was noted for the record there was no one from the public wanting to comment.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Gerald Green to recommend approval of an Amendment to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Report. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. TDOT's Annual Listing of Projects

Item Summary: Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

Discussion: Bryan Berry reviewed the genesis and reasoning for the Annual Listing of Projects along with a brief historical overview. He then discussed the FY 2015 obligations, reviewing them as summarized by programming authority, funding source and system type. He also noted that this information is available on the TPO's website, www.knoxtrans.org. Jeff Welch referred Committee members to the attached detailed Knoxville Regional TPO listing of FHWA obligated projects for FY 2015. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec15/Annual_Obligated_Presentation.pdf

4. TDOT Multimodal Access Grants

Item Summary: TDOT has a call for projects for its Multimodal Access Grants, which fund infrastructure for people walking and bicycling. The TPO has been asked to submit two projects from the region. Project applications are due to the TPO at 4 p.m. today. A review committee will make recommendations to the Technical Committee, to be voted on at the January meeting.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted these grants are 95% state funded with a 5% local match. She then updated Committee members on the grant application process, reviewed the timeline and briefly touched on the membership of the review committee. She further noted that 2 City of Knoxville projects have been funded in the 2 previous rounds of these grants, one involving pedestrian and transit improvements along Clinton Highway and Merchants Ave. improving access to transit, the second one was for improvements to the pedestrian, transit and bicycle infrastructure along Kingston Pike in the Papermill area. Ms. Zavisca also noted that in past years TDOT had heavily weighted awarding of these grants to projects with locations that had fixed route transit but they have tweaked the rules somewhat to make the application process more competitive for those jurisdictions submitting applications that don't have fixed route transit. She noted staff has received 2 applications and are expecting a third today. The maximum project amount is \$ 1 million.

5. Presentation on Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

Presenter: Eric Wilson, TDOT Region 1

Item Summary: An update on the standard the TDOT has adopted for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Discussion: Eric Wilson, TDOT Region 1 Project Development, presented on PROWAG, the Public Accessibility Guidelines for Public Right-of-Way. He gave a brief history of the development of these guidelines. Although not yet a legally enforceable standard, he noted they are being adopted by many agencies, including TDOT. He noted that the federal government has asked city and county jurisdictions to develop an ADA transition plan at minimum to demonstrate that they are aware of where the needs/deficiencies are and that there is a plan to address them. Mr. Wilson entertained questions from Committee members. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec15/prowag.pdf>

6. Federal Certification Overview

Item Summary: Federal regulations require the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration to jointly review and evaluate the metropolitan transportation planning process no less than every four years. This process will be reviewed by FHWA staff and the Technical Committee members will be allowed to comment on the transportation planning process in our area.

Discussion: Scott Allen, Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division gave a brief overview of the certification purpose and process. He stated that the Environmental Protection Agency was also participating in the review process with regards to air quality. He noted the public meeting, held last night, was well attended with the general consensus from the public body being overwhelmingly positive, particularly with regards to public involvement. He stated today's Technical Committee meeting is serving as a listening session for the review team. Committee members were asked to state their name and the jurisdiction they represent. Mr. Allen noted these comments will be incorporated into the final report, which they project to be completed by March of 2016. Comments from Committee members were consistently extremely positive citing such things as excellent communication, coordination and collaboration, fairness and professionalism, the helpfulness of the staff and also their superior relationship building and lastly that they are a tremendous resource for navigating transportation funding and planning in general. There was a brief discussion on the need for access to transit in outlying areas and how growing into it could be a benchmark for our region and its commerce. The certification site review will begin immediately following the meeting today.

7. Other Business

- Jeff Welch stated briefly that Congress has passed, and the president has signed a 5 year surface transportation bill which covers both highway and transit programs along with a new freight program. Final details are not yet available but staff will share them as they become available. The funding levels appears to be relatively similar with possibly a 1 to 2 % increase.
- **2016 TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings schedule. Attachment #6.**
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building. *Please note this meeting is being held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month due to the holidays.*
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Gerald Green to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.