

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
May 10, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met May 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Kathryn Baldwin presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

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| *Kathryn Baldwin | City of Oak Ridge |
| *Brian Boone | City of Maryville |
| *Don Brown | ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i> |
| *Houston Daugherty | Anderson County |
| *Karen Estes | Knox County CAC Transit |
| *Gerald Green | Metropolitan Planning Commission |
| *Jim Hagerman | City of Knoxville |
| *John Lamb | Blount County |
| *Jeff Ownby | Sevier County |
| *Janice Osborne | Knoxville Commuter Pool, <i>for Deanna Flinchum</i> |
| *Mike Patterson | EHTRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i> |
| *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 |
| **Scott Allen | Federal Highway Administration, TN Division |
| TPO Staff | |
| Partner Agency Staff | |
| Members of the Public | |
| * voting members | |
| ** non-voting member | |

Jack Qualls introduced Trey Joyner, the new Community Transportation Planner with TDOT Region 1.

1. Motion to Approve April 12, 2016 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of April 12, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the April 12, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Item Summary: Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger briefly reviewed the 3 proposed Amendments to the TIP. The first Amendment, project 2014-032 (South Knoxville Waterfront Roadway Improvements) amends the Project Description by removing the originally proposed side street improvements leaving only improvements to the main corridor of Sevier Ave. The City has now requested the Project Description be further modified to remove some of the specific improvement items. The Amended Description that will be considered by the Executive Board will consist of streetscape improvements along Sevier Ave. including utility relocations and a roundabout to be constructed at the intersection of Foggy Bottom/Sevier Ave./Island Home Ave. The second project, 2014-033 (Chapman Highway (SR-71) Improvements), located in the Seymour community of Sevier County, from Macon Lane to Boyd's Creek Highway, adds the funding phase for construction in FY 2017. This project is included in TDOT's 3-Year Multimodal Program recently adopted by the state legislature. The third project 2014-034 (Intersection Improvements – Lenoir City) at the intersection of SR-73 (US-321) and SR-2 (US-11). The cost of the original Project Scope (new interchange) was much higher than expected and the project was scaled down to intersection improvements only. This Amendment reduces the amount of previously programmed funds by \$14 million, reducing the total project cost to \$17,405,000.00 and includes the project length of 0.13 miles.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Jeff Ownby to recommend approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Presentation on the 2016 Knoxville TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Review**
Item Summary: Scott Allen will present the results of the 2016 Knoxville TMA Certification Review. The Federal review, done every 4 years, was conducted last December.

Discussion: Scott Allen, Federal Highway Administration, TN Division presented the results of the 2016 Knoxville TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Review. Mr. Allen thanked the TPO staff for all of the work they have done and noted the review was a collaborative effort. He touched on the purpose of the review as well as the participants which consisted of FTA, FHWA, EPA, TDOT, TPO staff, regional transit agencies and the public. He described the review process and what planning products are reviewed and then summarized the final report which states that the Knoxville Regional TPO substantially meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450 and 49 CFR 613, further noting that no corrective actions were found. Mr. Allen then stated that the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify the TPO's metropolitan transportation process. There was a brief question and answer period. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/may16/TMA_Review.pdf

- 4. Walkability Action Institute Update**

Item Summary: The TPO sent a team to the Walkability Action Institute at the end of April in Decatur, GA. The WAI was sponsored by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, part of the CDC. Our team will be creating recommendations for zoning changes that will enhance walkability. We will be asking local governments to designate staff members to review our recommendations, and to let us know which local governments are planning to work on their zoning codes within the next year.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca updated Committee members on the recent training that occurred in Atlanta. The training focused on chronic disease prevention through changes in zoning which would enhance walkability, given that chronic disease is often linked to physical inactivity. The team will formulate a plan to bring recommendations back to the region specifically focused on changes to zoning. She noted the team plans to develop a suite of recommendations for local governments, whether they are looking at wholesale revamping of their zoning ordinances or just making minor tweaks that would assist them in

making changes that would enhance walkability. She requested that member jurisdictions let her know of any municipalities that will be undertaking zoning changes in the near future.

Ms. Zavisca also requested that member jurisdictions suggest staff who regularly administer zoning codes that could participate in a technical advisory group who could review draft recommendations and provide feedback to the team. It was noted that public education at all levels will be a key component to increasing walkability.

5. Lovell Road Corridor Presentation

Item Summary: Presentation on alternatives for proposed corridor improvements for SR 131, Lovell Road, from Cedardale Ln. to Middlebrook Pike (SR 169).

Discussion: Jeff Mize, CDM Smith noted they are in the very early NEPA planning stages for the project and are to the point where they need to select a preferred alternative, hence the public meeting which will be held on May 24, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Providence Church, 1432 Lovell Road, Knoxville, TN 37932. He then noted there were 2 options they would like public input on which he briefly reviewed; one a 5-lane typical section with a center dual left turn lane and the second which involves replacing the center lane with a 14 ft. raised grass median which with the additional 2 ft. on either side of that would allow for enough room to carve out turn lanes at the intersections. Both options have 4 ft. bike lanes and 7 ft. sidewalks on both sides. The impacts of both of these options will be presented at the public meeting. A significant discussion ensued regarding the reasoning behind, and the pros and cons of building this (any) 5-lane [typical cross-section] road. It was also noted that historically roads with medians are safer for both motorized and non-motorized travelers. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/may16/Lovell Road Corridor.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/may16/Lovell%20Road%20Corridor.pdf)

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Open Streets Knoxville, Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Central Street between the Old City and Happy Holler. For more information visit <http://openstreetsknoxville.com>
- TDOT has announced a request for grant applications to fund eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ). There will be a webinar on this CMAQ proposal competition from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CDT (12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ETD) on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. **See Attachment #4 – CMAQ General Call for Projects**
- Jeff Welch highlighted the State of Transportation in East Tennessee report which is a snapshot of transportation in our region. Staff hope to update this report at least every 2 years. It is also available online.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Brian Boone to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.