

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
December 12, 2017
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 on December 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Jeff Ownby presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Wayne Blasius	City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MTPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT, Region 1
*Chico Messer	Blount County
*Ashley Miller	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Motion to Approve November 14, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the November 14, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Gerald Green to approve the November 14, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of TDOT 2019-2021 3-Year Program Highway Project List Ranking to the Executive Board

Item Summary: TDOT has provided the TPO with the list of candidate projects for the next 3-Year Work Program for ranking which is used as one of the inputs for TDOT's project selection process. The TPO staff has compiled the rankings that were submitted by Technical Committee voting members and these will be presented for a final recommendation to the Executive Board so that the rankings can be submitted to TDOT by their deadline of 12/31/17. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted TPO staff had shared their recommended rankings with the Technical Committee last month and asked for their input.

He reiterated the difference with this year's list is there were additional projects to be ranked as a result of the IMPROVE Act being passed, making the ranking somewhat more challenging. Staff received input from approximately half of the Technical Committee voting members, the majority of which supported staff recommendation. He noted at the November Technical Committee staff stated that no response from a member jurisdiction would be considered support of the staff recommendation. After averaging all of the input staff's recommendation had remained unchanged. Also presented last month was a list of projects considered other priority needs in our planning area that are not on TDOT's list. In previous years this list contained 10 or 11 projects, 7 of which have now moved forward as a result of the IMPROVE Act, leaving 4 projects remaining. Staff have identified other projects on state roads that are in the Mobility Plan and also asked the Technical Committee to consider these for addition to the other needs list. After considering input for these 4 projects staff's recommendation has changed slightly and this is reflected on Attachment #2B. A fifth project was added from the Mobility Plan list and is ranked last. Jeff Welch acknowledged 2 projects TDOT has requested be included that are not in our Mobility Plan and subsequently received the lowest rankings. Mr. Welch also referenced Attachment #2C, submitted with the project ranking lists over the last several years, which reflects support for continued funding for public transit and multimodal projects in the region.

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend approval of the TDOT Proposed 2019-2021 3-Year Program Highway Project List, the Other Highway Project Needs List, and the Public Transit and Multimodal Priority Needs List to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of Safety Performance Targets and Possible Recommendation to the Executive Board

Item Summary: Federal regulations require states and MPOs to establish performance targets for five separate safety factors. TDOT established statewide targets effective on 8/27/17 and now the TPO has 180 days (until 2/27/18) to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for a safety performance measure specific to our region. Staff will review the targets established by TDOT and discuss options for establishing regional targets or supporting the state targets.

Discussion: Mike Conger began noting MAP-21 established 7 National Goals; Safety, Infrastructure Condition, Congestion Reduction, System Reliability, Freight Movement and Economic Vitality, Environmental Sustainability and Reduced Project Delivery Delays. He stated that there are three major Performance Measurement areas established to implement the national goals; Safety, Pavement and Bridge Condition Measures and Performance of the NHS, Freight and CMAQ Measures. The first of these Performance Measures is Safety, with the National Goal being "To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads". Mr. Conger then reviewed the 5 required safety performance measures: Number of Fatalities, Number of Serious Injuries, Fatality Rate, Serious Injury Rate and Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. He noted these targets are to be assessed annually on a rolling 5 year average, with TDOT establishing their targets by August 31st of each year and MPOs responding 180 days later, or no later than February 27th of the following year. He reviewed the 8 step target setting process, noting key factors considered, and then shared data analysis TDOT utilized in the setting of their targets, which he also reviewed.

He then reviewed the role of MPOs in this process, which is to establish their own targets or adopt the ones set by TDOT, monitoring and reporting them to the state and coordinating them with their Long Range Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs. Discussion ensued regarding the complicated nature of developing our own targets notwithstanding the nearing deadline for adoption. Mr. Conger reiterated that this is to be done annually and we could move to adopt TDOT's targets at least for this year affording staff, member jurisdictions and Region 1 staff to ensure adequate time to explore setting our own targets, also noting that the three other large MPOs in the state are adopting all of state targets at least for this year. Further discussion ensued regarding the overall process and the best way to move forward. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec17/safety performance.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec17/safety%20performance.pdf)

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Jack Qualls to recommend adoption of the Safety Performance Targets established by TDOT to the Executive Board.

Jim Hagerman noted once we get data, the danger with this approach is the consistency in what happens in our area compared with the rest of the state. We may be way better or worse, and he feels that long term, we need to dive more deeply into what is happening in our planning area.

Chair Jeff Ownby called for vote on the Motion on the floor. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on FTA Section 5310 Grant Activities

Item Summary: The TPO is the Designated Recipient of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant funds. The TPO distributes these funds through a competitive application process to agencies and non-profits who need funding assistance to provide transportation to seniors or individuals who are disabled. The TPO staff will present an update on the 5310 program including information on past awards and recent program management activities.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an overview of the grant program noting since the TPO began managing this program for our planning area we have awarded just over \$2.6 million of federal funds for operating and capital (primarily vans) projects. Staff have been working for the past several months to update the Program Management Plan for these funds as well as standardize required reporting and compliance documents in preparation for the next round of Call-For-Projects in the spring of 2018. To date, these funds will have assisted with the purchase of 37 vehicles, and along with the operating funds awarded, will result in an average of over 125,000 annual trips, a number that will continue to grow. Unfortunately, TDOT has indicated they will no longer provide a match (has been 25%) for operating projects. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec17/section 5310.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec17/section%205310.pdf)

5. Presentation on Automated and Connected Vehicles

Kelley Segars, TPO staff

Item Summary: Overview of advancing vehicle technology and the challenges and opportunities that this significant change will place on communities in the coming years.

Discussion: Kelley Segars began reviewing the five levels of autonomy from driver assistance (cruise control, lane guidance) to complete autonomy with vehicles that can operate without human driver or occupant. Ms. Segars noted that for full autonomy to occur, these vehicles will also need to be connected, communicating to each other and to the infrastructure, both receiving and sending information. She touched on barriers going forward, a projected timeline over the next 50 plus years and potential economic, environmental and social impacts. In review of next steps she noted there will be challenges in how these vehicles are regulated on local, state and federal levels. She closed noting staff's current priority is staying informed and sharing information with stakeholders. The presentation is available online and can be found here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/dec17/cav.pdf>

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building. ***Please note this meeting is being held the 3rd Wednesday of the month due to the holiday.***
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Jack Qualls to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.