

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes**  
**June 13, 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 June 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Vice 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.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MTPO
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT Region 1
*Chico Messer	Blount County
*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
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**1. Motion to Approve April 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the April 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Gerald Green to approve the April 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Presentation on the Updated Americans with Disabilities Plans of Local Governments**

**Item Summary:** Staff will provide an update on member jurisdictions' progress in achieving ADA compliance milestones.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the status of ADA compliance of our member jurisdictions noting all members have met the December 2016 deadline for establishing an ADA coordinator and a grievance procedure, which is posted. Going forward, she highlighted the mandated timelines and subsequent requirements beginning with December 2017 and ending with the December 2019 deadline for final submission of Transition Plans statewide, also noting members' progress in these next steps. It was clarified that all jurisdictions are also required to have a budget line item for ADA to demonstrate progress with their Plan. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/ada-localgovt.pdf>

**3. Presentation on the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan Quarterly Status Reports Process**

**Item Summary:** Staff will report on the process for collecting information on projects funded with Local Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives funds. The information will be shared quarterly starting in July 2017.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the process that will be implemented by staff to track all of the projects in the current FY 2017-2020 TIP funded with L-STBG or TAP funds, presently reflecting 35 projects. The Technical Committee and Executive Board will be updated on these projects quarterly. Noting the intended outcome of this initiative is stewardship of regional funds, she touched on other benefits of collecting this information. The presentation is available online and can be found here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/tip-qtrly.pdf>

Jeff Welch noted that there was a large amount of unobligated STP grant funds statewide and that Paul Degges from TDOT is urging the 4 large MPO's in the state, Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga to get these funds obligated as quickly as possible. He further noted this new tracking tool will assist the TPO and member jurisdictions in monitoring projects and in being responsive to TDOT as we all work together to move projects along.

**4. Presentation on Bike/Pedestrian Crashes for the Planning Area**

**Item Summary:** TPO staff has analyzed several years of pedestrian/bicycle crash data in the region, and has prepared reports on crashes for most of the TPO jurisdictions.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca reported on the results of staff's analysis of bike/pedestrian crashes over a 5 year period in our planning area, reviewing the data sources utilized by staff as well as sharing a regional overview of these crashes with more detailed data on multiple member jurisdictions. She touched on crash factors stressing the need for continued education and infrastructure improvements, and lastly highlighted resources for counter-measures for high-crash locations. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/bike-ped crash data.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/bike-ped%20crash%20data.pdf)

**5. Presentation on ORNL Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Research**

**Item Summary:** Dr. Aziz has published several studies on street design and how it can affect the safety of people walking and bicycling, and also whether people choose to walk or bicycle.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca introduced Dr. H.M. Abdul Aziz, ORNL Urban Dynamics Institute who shared results of his research on street design, safety and mode choice of commuters in New York City. Dr. Aziz noted the objective of their research was to model transportation mode choices at a very fine resolution to identify what is actually going on at the block level in each of the 5 boroughs, which can demonstrate where an infrastructure investment would make the highest impact. Dr. Aziz noted demographic data for these studies was available. A question and answer period ensued. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/home-to-work trans mode choice.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/home-to-work%20trans%20mode%20choice.pdf)

## 6. Presentation on Recent AmeriCorps Service With the TPO

**Item Summary:** Jon has worked with the TPO since August 2016 through the AmeriCorps program. His term of service ends in June 2017. He will present on the work he conducted while serving at the TPO, including bicycle and pedestrian counts, community engagement for the Mobility Plan, revising the bicycle map, and serving as volunteer coordinator for Open Streets Knoxville.

**Discussion:** Mr. Sharp spoke on his experiences with the TPO touching on his many responsibilities which also included educational initiatives and assisting with the planning and implementation of the annual Tour de Lights and Bike Month events. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun17/americorps-jsharp.pdf>

## 7. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building. *This meeting has been cancelled.*
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Jeff Welch noted that the Southern District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers has awarded Cindy Pionke the Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award for 2016. This award recognizes persons who untiringly and unselfishly contributed to the profession and the organization, and who by personal integrity, leadership and example inspired fellow professionals to greater service.
- Mr. Welch also recognized the American Council of Civil Engineering Companies 2017 Award winners in our area: Gresham, Smith and Partners was the Grand Iris and Transportation Category winner for their Interstate 40/State Route 66 Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project, and CDM Smith, the grand winner in the Studies and Consulting Category for their Knox County Strategic Transportation Safety Plan.
- Mr. Welch also noted that the Knoxville Smart Trips Program will be awarded TDEC's Environmental Sustainability Award by Governor Haslam this Friday in Nashville.
- Melissa Roberson invited everyone to participate in Try Transit Week. Mayor Rogero will be kicking the week-long event on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Friday, June 23, will be Free Fares Friday. This is a great opportunity to try transit.
- Gerald Green noted the MPC has been working with the City of Knoxville Engineering staff and Knox County Department of Public Works staff on a Walkability Ordinance. There will be a public Open House Thursday morning, June 15, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am at the Bearden Panera Bread where staff will be sharing information as well as seeking public input. Coffee and pastries will be served. Location: 4855 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

## 8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 9. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.