



The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on July 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by telecommuting via Zoom. Chair Brian Boone presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

- *Wayne Blasius
- *Chico Messer
- *Amy Brooks
- *Megan Brooks
- *Karen Estes
- *Mike Patterson
- *Jack Qualls
- *Brian Boone
- *Terry Bobrowski
- *Rich DesGroseilliers
- *Jacob Wright
- *Kathryn Baldwin
- *Michelle Christian
- *Deanna Flinchum
- *John Sexton
- *Harold Cannon
- TPO Staff
- Partner Agency Staff
- Members of the Public
- *voting members**
- *non-voting members**

- City of Oak Ridge
- Blount County
- Knoxville Knox County Planning
- City of Alcoa
- Knox County CAC Transit
- ETHRA, for Gary Holliway
- City of Loudon, Loudon County
- City of Maryville
- ETDD
- Lakeway MPO
- Knoxville Area Transit
- Anderson County
- TDOT, Region 1
- Knoxville Commuter Pool
- Knox County, *for Jim Snowden*
- City of Knoxville Engineering

1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum
- b. Introductions (suspended)
- c. Amendments to the Agenda. Amendment to the Motion on Item #3 (Noted below in Italics).

2 Motion to Approve April 14, 2020 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the April 14, 2020 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHRYN BALDWIN AND SECONDED BY WAYNE BLASIOUS TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2020 TPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17-0.

3 Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to Certify that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being followed to the Executive Board.

Item Summary: Locally requested amendment for one (1) air quality exempt project.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Craig Luebke briefly reviewed the one air quality exempt project in the City of Loudon for the reconstruction of Queener Road to include widening and the reduction of curves. There was a substantial increase in project costs as reflected in this amendment. He further noted staff were requesting that the Technical Committee certify that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being followed. He noted this reaffirmation of the planning process will be included with every TIP amendment going forward as requested by the Federal Highway Administration. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Harold Cannon to recommend approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to Certify that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being followed. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

4 Review of Local TIP Project Summary Report /Update of TIP Administrative Modifications

Item Summary: Staff will review the Local FY 2020-2023 TIP projects Summary report prepared for each jurisdiction. Staff will also provide an update on the TIP Administrative Modifications conducted by staff since its adoption.

Discussion: Craig Luebke gave an overview of the local project summaries sent to member jurisdictions for their projects in early June. These identify the number of programmed projects and their funding allocations by source, highlight projects scheduled to obligated funds in FY 2020 and include all local project TIP sheets in addition to TDOT programmed projects by county. He also reviewed TIP Administrative Modifications, formerly identified as Administrative Adjustments. The TPO has had modifications made to 20 local and 8 TDOT projects in the FY 2020-2023 TIP since its adoption approximately 5 months ago. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

5 Presentation on Crashes & COVID-19

Item Summary:

Staff will share information about recent local and statewide trends in traffic crashes, and how they differ compared with the time prior to the pandemic.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca reviewed trends in crashes she has been studying since March 1, 2020 of this year with the onset of the pandemic for Anderson, Blount, Knox and Loudon counties. Overall, there has been a substantial reduction in crashes through April, with a 60% reduction in Knox County alone. However, she noted that we have seen a steady increase in traffic fatalities across the region, with fatal crashes up as a share of all traffic crashes, again more so in Knox County. She touched on statewide data involving an increasing number of deaths with teen drivers and pedestrians. Jeff Welch shared that since the beginning of this year 35% of the traffic fatalities occurred to unrestrained occupants in vehicles. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

6 Update on Mobility Plan 2045

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief review on the major planning tasks to update the Mobility Plan 2045 and related elements.

Discussion: Jeff Welch gave an overview on the update which will take us out to 2045. He noted staff are in the process of completing the first round of public engagement, done virtually, however, the response has not been what they had hoped. He touched on the Draft Financial Plan and the Performance Measures which while complying with federal mandates, staff are looking to streamline where possible. The next step will be project submittal and selection along with an update of the ITS and Congestion Management Process. A separate Northshore Drive Corridor Study will be undertaken during this timeframe as well. Mr. Welch stated staff hope to have a draft document by the fall of 2020 with a final document by the spring of 2021. [Presentation](#)

7 TDOT Proposed FY 2021 Resurfacing List

Item Summary: TDOT staff will provide an overview of the routes in the TPO area proposed to be resurfaced by TDOT in fiscal year 2021 and information regarding how local jurisdictions can request possible enhancements such as striping changes to provide bike lanes and other similar modifications during resurfacing.

Discussion: Michelle Christian, TDOT Region 1 OCT, reviewed their upgraded outreach efforts regarding current and proposed paving projects will now be listed on the TDOT website the summer prior to their implementation, as these lists are finalized at that point. Also, TDOT will be communicating with each individual jurisdiction with project details. This communication will also be copied to regional and state transportation partners. Additionally, she touched on projects and changes that will be considered noting at minimum they would need to meet all appropriate standards and guidelines and may include cost sharing from that jurisdiction and/or

stamped engineering drawings. Randy Bustler, TDOT Region 1 Paving Coordinator was also in attendance and briefly touched on the current list for our region. He encouraged member jurisdictions to reach out to him or any Region 1 staff with any questions. The list of paving projects will be shared with the Technical Committee members. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 9 a.m.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 9 a.m.
- Jeff Welch introduced and welcomed Harold Cannon, Director, City of Knoxville Engineering and Amy Brooks, the Interim Director for Knoxville-Knox County Planning, who are both now sitting members of the Technical Committee.

9 Public Comment

There was no public comment

10 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 A.M.