

Minutes

9:00 AM | Small Assembly Room
City County Building, 400 Main Street

1. Call to Order

- A. Determination of a Quorum
- B. Introductions
- C. Introduction of Zoom Participants
- D. Amendments to the Agenda
- E. **List of Commonly Used Acronyms**

***Brian Boone**
City of Maryville

***Chico Messer**
Blount County

***Jack Qualls**
City of Loudon/Loudon
County

***Tom Clabo**
City of Knoxville
Engineering

***Rich DeGroseilliers**
Lakeway MPO

***Jeff Welch**
Knoxville-Knox County
Planning

***Larry Gann**
City of Clinton

***Blake Sartin**
Airport Authority

***Nancy Welch (proxy
for Karen Estes)**
CAC

***Kathryn Baldwin**
Anderson County

***Dakota Gentry**
City of Alcoa

***Rebecca Styers**
KAT

***James Temple**
Sevier County

***Patrick Berge**
City of Oak Ridge

***Darryl Smith**
Town of Farragut

***Mike Patterson
(proxy for Gary
Holiway)**
ETHRA

***Troy Ebbert (proxy
for Michelle Christian)**
TDOT Region 1

TPO Staff

****Partner Agency
Staff**

Members of the Public

* Voting Members

** Non-voting members

2. Minutes

Approval of the April 11, 2023 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

Approved 17-0-0

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Chico Messer to approve the April 11, 2023, TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

3. **Transportation Planning Work Program***



There are two amendments for the Fiscal Year 22-23 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). The first amendment adds specific language concerning the TPO's intention to hire a consultant to assist in preparing the Mobility Plan 2050. The funding to hire the consultant had already been included, but based on a TDOT recommendation additional task-related language needs to be added in order to be approved to hire a consultant. The second amendment is in response to Knoxville Area Transit and the City of Knoxville receiving a Federal Transit Administration - Areas of Persistent Poverty Program grant. This amendment will add the project and funding into the TPWP.

Discussion

Jeff Welch reviewed the two amendments for the FY 2022-2023 TPWP.

Approved 17-0-0

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Brian Boone to recommend approval of the amendments to the Transportation Planning Work Program to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

4. FTA Section 5310 Program of Projects*

The TPO is the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 funds can be used for both operating and capital projects that support seniors and/or persons with disabilities. Often non-profits utilize this funding to buy vans to provide transportation for their clients. The TPO held an open and publicly advertised Call-for-Projects. A sub-committee of the Technical Committee reviewed the applications and developed a slate of draft projects for funding consideration. The attached draft Program-of-Projects and funding table show the sub-committee's recommendations. Project applications can be viewed online.

Discussion

Jeff Welch referred to Rebecca Styers of KAT to present the subcommittee's recommendation for FTA Section 5310 Program of Projects to be funded.

Approved 17-0-0

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Chico Messer to recommend approval of the FTA Section 5310 Program of Projects to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

5. Regional Roadway Safety Action Plan *

Staff is asking the Technical Committee to recommend adoption of the plan by the Executive Board.

Discussion

Ellen Zavisca presented the Regional Roadway Safety Action Plan and discussed the next steps for submitting applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All.

Approved 17-0-0

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Tom Clabo to recommend approval of the Regional Roadway Safety Action Plan to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

6. FY 2023-2026 TIP *

Locally requested amendments for two (2) air quality exempt projects. The first amendment adds the Oak Ridge Signal Timing Optimization Ph. 2 for construction in FY 2023. The second amendment adds a local Travel Congestion and Clean Air Improvement Grouping to the TIP. The grouping contains funding for two projects in FY 2023.

Discussion

Craig Luebke reviewed the two locally requested amendments to the FY 2023-2026 TIP and affirmed that the metropolitan planning process is being administered correctly.



Approved 17-0-0

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Chico Messer to recommend approval of the Resolution Adopting Amendments to the FY 2023-2026 TIP and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being followed to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 17-0.

7. **TDOT Air Quality Office Updates**

TDOT Air Quality Office staff will provide an update on the new IIJA programs, including NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure), Carbon Reduction Program, and the PROTECT program. Additionally, TDOT staff will discuss scheduling impacts to local projects funded with the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) improvement program based on a need to maintain fiscal constraint for that program statewide as part of the FY 2023-2026 STIP.

Discussion

Andrea Noel, TDOT Air Quality Programs Office Staff, shared updates on the IIJA programs NEVI, Carbon Reduction Program, and PROTECT Program, as well as an update on the CMAQ improvement program need to maintain fiscal constraint for the FY 2023-2026 STIP. A Power Point presentation provided by Ms. Noel was shared with Committee Members.

8. **TDOT FY 2024–2026 3-Year Program Update**

The FY 2024-2026 TDOT 3-Year Program was adopted by the State Legislature in April and includes the phases of major roadway projects to be funded statewide. TDOT project development staff will provide an overview of the projects included for the Knoxville Region in relation to the project rankings that were provided by the TPO late last year. An overview of the Tennessee Modernization Act which identifies \$3.3 Billion in additional funding for transportation projects across the state will also be provided.

Discussion

Christy Brown, TDOT Region 1 Project Development Staff, provided an overview of projects in the Knoxville Region that were included in the FY 2024-2026 TDOT 3-Year Program that was adopted by State Legislature in April. Ms. Brown also presented an overview of the Transportation Modernization Act, also adopted into law in April.

9. **Update on Adjusted Urbanized Area and Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries**

TPO staff will provide an update on the process and timeline to adjust (smooth) the base 2020 Census Urbanized Area, which will lead to determining the overall Metropolitan Planning Area boundary and affects roadway functional classification.

Discussion

Mike Conger provided an update on the process to adjust the base 2020 Census Urbanized Area.

10. **TDOT and FHWA Updates**

TDOT and FHWA staff will provide updates.

Discussion



Randy Busler, TDOT Region 1 Pavement Management Staff, provided an update on the status of pavement projects for FY 2023-2024 in the Knoxville Region. There were no representatives from FHWA present.

11. Other Business

The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

The next Technical Committee Meeting is Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

The deficit reduction (debt ceiling) deal negotiated between Congress and the White House resulted in the potential loss of approximately \$1.2 million CRRSAA funds granted to the TPO during the COVID-19 Pandemic. TDOT, TPO Staff, and KAT were able to flex and transfer funds to prevent loss of these funds before the agreement was signed into law.

Paul Daggs, TDOT, retired from his position on May 31, 2023, after over 30 years of service.

The Knoxville Regional TPO has engaged a national executive search firm to find a new TPO Director to replace retiring Director Jeff Welch. Mr. Welch is retiring at the end of August. A new Director is expected to in place by October or November.

12. Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

Discussion

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

