



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TPO Board Votes to Remove James White Parkway Extension from Plan

At its regular meeting this morning, the TPO's Executive Board voted to remove the James White Parkway Extension from its draft FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) representative present at the meeting, Ralph Comer, said that TDOT would stop all work on the project if it's removed from the TIP. Comer is TDOT's Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning.

The TPO's draft TIP, which covers transportation spending in the region for the 2014-2017 fiscal years, is still in a public comment period and is expected to be adopted by the Executive Board later this year. The TIP is a document mandated by federal regulations to include any transportation projects in the region using federal funds.

The TPO Executive Board voted in January to remove the James White Parkway Extension from the list of regional transportation projects that TDOT asked the TPO to prioritize.

Comer noted at the Executive Board meeting that planning the James White Parkway project began in 1964 at the request of the City of Knoxville.

City of Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero made the motion to remove the extension of the Parkway from the new TIP and spoke in favor of making improvements to existing roads and keeping the City's Urban Wilderness intact. The Board voted unanimously to remove the project from the TIP, with Comer abstaining.

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About the Knoxville Regional TPO: The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization is federally mandated to provide comprehensive transportation planning in the TPO Planning Area, consisting of all of Knox County and the urbanized areas of Blount County, Loudon County, and Sevier County. It is governed by an Executive Board that is made up of elected officials from Alcoa, Blount County, Farragut, Knox County, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Loudon County, Maryville, Sevier County, East Tennessee Development District, and TDOT.