

**TPO Executive Board
9:00 a.m., July 26, 2006
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on July 26 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Eddy Ford, Chair of the Executive Board presided.

*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Blount County Acting Mayor Robert Ramsey
*Wanda Moody	East Tennessee Development District
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Mike Ragsdale	Knox County Mayor
*Jeanne Stevens	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Steve Borden	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Travis Brickey	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Karen Brunelle	Federal Highway Administration
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Andrew Elder	Knoxville News Sentinel
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
John Fairstein	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Civil Rights
Fred Frank	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mark Hairr	Knoxville Area Transit
Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
Joe Hultquist	City Council
Don Jacobs	Knoxville News Sentinel
Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Ted Newsom	UT Knoxville Commuter Pool
Karen Nolt	Knox County Parks and Recreation
James Norris	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Department of Engineering and Public Works
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Shannon Tolliver	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Jim Ulrich	Citizen
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

1. Approval of June 19, 2006 Minutes

Presenter: Eddy Ford, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of June 19, 2006 TPO Executive Board minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – June 19 Minutes.

Jeanne Stevens of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) stated there is a correction to be made in the June 19 minutes. In Item 3, the 4th paragraph, 2nd sentence, it should read, "Commissioner Nicely stated that when Governor Bredesen took over as Governor, the Parkway was already on the project list. TDOT has selected the Orange Route as the preferred alternative for proposed State Route 475. TDOT set up the Context Sensitive Design Solutions process, and meetings and public workshops were held to further evaluate the preferred alternative.

John Fairstein of 11205 Sam Lee Road stated that at the end of Item 3, he understood that Commissioner Nicely or TDOT staff would respond to him after the meeting, not just Jeff Welch, as the minutes stated. He has not heard from Commissioner Nicely. He asked that the minutes reflect that Chair Eddy Ford said Commission Nicely or a member of the TDOT staff would respond to his concerns.

A motion was made by Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Don Mull to approve the minutes with the corrections requested by TDOT. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Certifying that the Transportation Planning Process Addresses all Federal Requirements

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Annually the TPO must prepare and submit to our state and federal partners a UPWP. The UPWP identifies the transportation and air quality-related planning activities anticipated to be undertaken during fiscal year 2007 (October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007). Changes to the May version include the description of model improvements and other consulting services the TPO may enter into this coming year. Section V outlines these studies and costs. The TPO will use approximately \$93,000 from its fund balance to help pay for the consultant work. Tables 1 and 2 present the budget tables for this upcoming year. **Attachment #2 – Resolution, Certification and Work Program. The TPO Technical Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.**

Background: The UPWP must be prepared in cooperation with our state and federal partners. TDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have provided comments to the draft work program. TPO staff has made the changes to the work program to address their concerns. Drafts of the work program were reviewed at public meetings in May and July.

Jeff Welch stated that the UPWP is prepared annually and outlines various ongoing and new studies. It has been reviewed at two public meetings, and comments have been sent to FHWA, FTA and TDOT. Appendix A outlines the project schedule. Appendix B includes funding tables. The Technical Committee has reviewed it, recommends approval and certifies that the transportation planning process is addressing all applicable federal requirements.

A motion was made by Don Mull and seconded by Wanda Moody to approve the resolution adopting the 2007 Unified Planning Work Program and certifying that the transportation planning process addresses all federal requirements. (See Attachment #2) The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the 2005-2030 Knoxville Regional Long Range Transportation Plan and Reaffirming the Air Quality Conformity Determination – Project Description: Add Additional Lane Capacity and Interchange Improvements to I-275 and I-640

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: This amendment consists of adding two projects to the 2005-2030 Knoxville Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as part of the Smartfix 40 project. The projects are: (1) Modification of interchanges and conversion of existing auxiliary lanes and shoulders to one additional through lane in each direction on I-275 between I-40 and I-640 and, (2) Widen I-640 from west of Clinton Highway to east of Bruhin Road to three through lanes in each direction. **Attachment #3a - Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.**

Background: These projects resulted from a traffic impact analysis on the likely routes that will be used as a detour by through traffic once I-40 in downtown Knoxville is closed as part of the Smartfix 40 project in early 2008. These

projects are being constructed in advance of the closure to alleviate potential areas of congestion that may result from the higher traffic volumes. **Attachment #3b – Plan Amendment Summary. Attachment #3c - Conformity Report.**

Mike Conger of the TPO staff stated that these two projects are in the LRTP as part of a group of projects that are being implemented to help reduce congestion when I-40, as part of the SmartFix effort, is shut down for reconstruction. Later it was determined that these two projects should be listed individually and separated from the group. These were nonexempt for air quality, and a conformity analysis had to be prepared separately. The Air quality report has been reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Highway Administration.

I-640 will be widened from west of Clinton Highway to east of Bruhin Road to three lanes in each direction. This will reduce the level of congestion when I-40 is closed. This project will be let September 1 and has to be completed before I-40 is closed in 2008. Jeff Welch complimented Mike for his work in completing this report.

A motion was made by Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Steve King to approve the resolution adopting an amendment to the 2005-2030 Knoxville Regional Long Range Transportation Plan and reaffirming the Air Quality Conformity Determination. (See Attachments 3a-c). The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of a Resolution to fund Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects and to add these projects to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Knoxville TPO FY 2006 CMAQ applications.

Background: The FY 2006 CMAQ call for projects was released on March 16, 2005, and applications were due to the TPO by April 25, 2005. The TPO received 24 CMAQ applications totaling \$5.3 million. The current CMAQ balance is \$2.5 million. The TPO staff ranked the projects according to the evaluation criteria, and funding scenarios were presented at the June Technical Committee Workshop. **Attachment #4a – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution approving 18 projects for CMAQ funding. Attachment #4b – Listing of projects to be funded and not funded. Attachment #4c – CMAQ Project Evaluation Spreadsheet.**

Jeff Welch stated that TPO receives CMAQ funds annually to be used for projects to improve air quality in the nonattainment area. We seek applications from local jurisdictions. The TPO received 24 projects totaling \$5.3 million. Some of the projects recommended for funding include: amendments to the Concord/Northshore Drive roundabout; Middlebrook Pike/Old Cedar Bluff Road; Smart Trips Program, purchase of Knoxville Area Transit vehicles, funding for East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition, traffic signal control equipment upgrade, upgrading of traffic signal timing, bicycle parking program, park-n-ride expansion in Farragut, purchase propane vehicles for CAC, and Blount County service vehicle retrofit for a total of \$2.5 million. Some of the projects not chosen for funding include: IdleAire units at Strawberry Plains, NuRide-online ridesharing trip program, traffic signal upgrade on Northshore Drive and Gay Street, hydrogen fueling station and vehicle demonstration, and turn lane construction on Maryville Pike. The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution to amend the TIP.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Wanda Moody to approve the resolution to fund the CMAQ projects and add them to the 2006-2008 TIP. (See Attachments #4a-c) The motion carried unanimously.

John Lamb asked about service vehicle retrofit figures for Blount County. The resolution should be changed from \$120,000 CMAQ/\$30,000 local to \$52,800 CMAQ/\$13,200 local for Blount County. Jeff Welch said that is correct and the change would be made.

5. Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Attachment #5 – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution to amend the TIP as described below.

a. Item Summary: Add Second Creek Greenway in Knoxville.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the City of Knoxville are requesting that a total of \$407,827 federal/ \$101,956 local be added for the construction phase. **Attachment #5a.**

b. Item Summary: Add Boyd Station, Harvey and McFee Roads underpass.

Background: Knox County has requested that a total of \$293,990 federal/\$73,447 local be added for the preliminary engineering phase. **Attachment #5b.**

c. Item Summary: Transfer funds from Will Skelton Greenway to Ten Mile Creek Greenway.

Background: The City of Knoxville is requesting that \$62,515.81 federal/\$15,629 local funds be transferred from Will Skelton Greenway to the Ten Mile Creek Greenway for the construction phase. The Will Skelton Greenway was previously in the 2004-2006 TIP and will need to be added into the current TIP then the funds can be transferred. **Attachment #5c.**

d. Item Summary: Amend I-40 Papermill/Weisgarber Interchange (Landscaping, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities).

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$320,000 federal/\$80,000 state funds be added to this project for the construction phase. **Attachment #5d.**

e. Item Summary: Amend I-40/75, I-640 Smart Fix interchange improvements.

Background: This project will be separated into three distinct projects for air quality conformity determination. The existing project will include I-640 interchange at Broadway and at Western Avenue and I-75 auxiliary lane from I-640 to Merchants Drive. The funds will be decreased to \$4,995,000 IM/\$555,000 state. **Attachment #5e.**

f. Item Summary: Add SmartFix 40, adding through lanes on I-640.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$4,500,000 Interstate Maintenance/\$500,000 State funds be added for the construction phase. **Attachment #5f.**

g. Item Summary: Add SmartFix 40, I-275 Interchange improvements.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$14,400,000 Interstate Maintenance/\$1,600,000 State funds be added for the construction phase. **Attachment #5g.**

h. Item Summary: Amend I-40, I-275 to Broadway connector at Cherry Street.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$27,057,335 state funds be added for the construction phase. **Attachment #5h.**

i. Item Summary: Add Henley Street Bridge over TN River and SR-158.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$4,000,000 federal/\$1,000,000 state funds be added for the right-of-way phase. **Attachment #5i.**

j. Item Summary: Amend Knoxville Parkway; I-40/75 west in Loudon County to I-75 north in Anderson County.

Background: The Tennessee Department of Transportation has requested that \$2,320,000 federal/\$580,000 state funds be added for the Environmental Study phase. **Attachment #5j.**

Shannon Tolliver of the TPO staff described and explained the changes for each amendment.

Joe Hultquist of 2240 Fisher Place stated there are a lot of concerns regarding No. 5i about what impact the additional right-of-way will have on neighboring areas when the Henley Street Bridge is improved and widened.

A motion was made by Wanda Moody and seconded by Don Mull to approve the resolution to amend the TIP adding the ten projects listed. (See Attachments #5a-j). The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Resolutions Related to Proposed SR-475 (Knoxville Parkway)

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: TDOT has requested that proposed SR-475, Knoxville Regional Parkway, from I-75 to I-40/75, be added to the National Highway System. This link is in the TPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Background: On April 5, 2006, the Knoxville Parkway Design Resource Team developed a recommendation on the alignment and design of the Knoxville Regional Parkway and forwarded it to TDOT. **Attachment #6a – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution. Attachment #6b – Map. Attachment #6c – Correspondence and Request for Modifications to the National Highway System Application (draft)**

Jeff Welch explained the basis of this request was that TDOT wants this project put on the National Highway System to become eligible for a greater percentage of funds. The Technical Committee recommends approval of this resolution.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Wanda Moody to approve the resolution to add the Knoxville Regional Parkway (SR-475) to the National Highway System (See Attachments #6a-b). The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Shaw of 6705 Cate Road stated that he did not understand the urgency for the designation. The parkway should not be designated until the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete because changes could happen.

John Fairstein of 11205 Sam Lee Road agrees with Bob's comments about the urgency. He had questioned Commissioner Nicely at the last meeting on whether TDOT might be considering a more northerly route and that should be answered before approving this designation.

b. Item Summary: Approve resolution to include language expressing the TPO's expectations that TDOT will conduct fair and adequate analysis during the environmental study phase of the Knoxville Regional parkway. **Attachment #6d – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.**

Jeff stated that TDOT should evaluate all four alternatives, including the No Build, in the environmental study phase of the parkway development process.

Bob Shaw suggested using the language "fair and balanced." He read from SAFETEA-LU that the state should say why it needs the road and should consider alternatives. The intent of the original resolution was to make certain a balanced approach was taken. He thinks it is important that TDOT look at all alternatives even if one has been listed as a preferred alternative and give reasons as to why other alternatives have been ruled out.

John Fairstein stated he wanted to add to what Bob said. We now know more about being in the nonattainment area. At the time the draft environmental impact statement came out, these were not known. TDOT should look at all four alternatives for PM 2.5 and ask that the money be divided equally to model all alternatives so the public can see the impact on air quality.

A motion was made by Jeanne Stevens and seconded by Mike Ragsdale to adopt the resolution with amended language that changes the statement concerning preparing an EIS, adding that "TDOT has identified the Orange Route as the preferred alternative for SR-475 and is preparing a Supplemental EIS," deleting "for the proposed SR-475 (Knoxville Regional Parkway)." (See Attachment #6d) The motion as amended by Jeanne Stevens carried unanimously.

c. Item Summary: Approve resolution to express the TPO's support of efforts to seek scenic designation through legislative action for the Knoxville Regional Parkway. **Attachment #6e – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.**

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee recommends approval to designate SR-475 a scenic highway.

John Fairstein stated that he agrees with this, except for the language. He suggests this should be done in sequence of requesting the scenic parkway designation first then request the scenic highway designation.

Jeanne Stevens asked to change the language in the last paragraph from "designate SR-475 as a Tennessee Parkway and/or a State Scenic Highway" to "assist in the designation of SR-475 as a Tennessee Parkway and/or a State Scenic Highway" and delete the portion after the semicolon that states "and also submit a proposal to the Tennessee Legislature to designate SR-475 as a Tennessee Parkway and/or a State Scenic Highway."

Bob Shaw stated that he served on TDOT's Parkway resource team, and one of the recommendations was to ask for scenic parkway and scenic highway designations and Commissioner Nicely accepted this recommendation. He agrees with John's sequential request. He would like to see the language included in the table that lists the three options for Tennessee Parkways and Scenic Highways that is included in the agenda packet.

A motion was made by Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Steve King to approve the resolution, as amended by Jeanne Stevens, expressing TPO's support for (SR-475) Knoxville Regional Parkway to be designated as a scenic highway. (See Attachment #6e) The motion carried with TDOT abstaining.

7. Update on the Knoxville Regional Freight Advisory Committee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: As part of developing a Knoxville Regional Freight Movement Plan, the TPO, in coordination with the Lakeway Area Metropolitan TPO hosted the first meeting of the Knoxville Regional Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) on Tuesday, July 25, 2006. The FAC consists of members from both the public and private sector that are involved in the planning and movement of freight.

Fred Frank of the TPO staff stated that the Freight Advisory Committee held their first meeting yesterday at the National Transportation Research Center. There were a total of 27 participants from various public and private entities that discussed various issues related to freight movement and brainstormed about what the future of freight transportation holds. He said that continued support from the private sector of the freight community is important to the FAC's success.

8. Other Business

Executive Board Meeting, October 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

Technical Committee Meeting, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

Kelley Segars of the TPO staff distributed the Smart Trips Program Quarterly Report for April-June. Some of the events included in the report were I WALK; Knox County Spring Health Fair; EarthFest; Blount County "Try It" Day; Billboard Art Contest; Smart Trips Week; 2006 Spring Commuter Challenge and the Cash for Commuters program.

9. Public Comment

Jim Ulrich of 1003 Luttrell Street stated there was an article in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* about the Knoxville Regional Freight Advisory Committee. One of his problems with the TPO is that they deal with the problem and don't plan much for the solution. TPO has had a narrow focus on how decisions are made, because the only people on board are elected officials and no citizens can vote. This new committee is a step in addressing this issue. He hopes truckers, shippers, citizens and someone from Congressman Duncan's office can be on the Freight Advisory Committee. I-81 and I-3 are issues that need to be looked at. We need to widen our viewpoint about an integrated system of transportation. He would like to see the funding used for education of the issues and would like for the public to know when the Freight Advisory Committee meetings are held.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.