

**TPO Executive Board  
10:00 a.m., June 19, 2006  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on June 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Eddy Ford, Chair of the Executive Board presided.

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| *Eddy Ford       | Mayor, Town of Farragut                               |
| *Chris Hamby     | for Mayor Don Mull, City of Alcoa                     |
| *Bill Haslam     | Mayor, City of Knoxville                              |
| *John Lamb       | for Blount County Acting Mayor Robert Ramsey          |
| *Wanda Moody     | East Tennessee Development District                   |
| *Gerald Nicely   | Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Transportation  |
| *Mike Ragsdale   | Knox County Mayor                                     |
| *Joe Swann       | Mayor, City of Maryville                              |
| Jeff Welch       | Transportation Planning Organization Director         |
| John Benditz     | Tennessee Institute of Transportation                 |
| Steve Borden     | Tennessee Department of Transportation – Region 1     |
| Travis Brickey   | Tennessee Department of Transportation – Region 1     |
| David Burkhalter | Attorney  |
| Doug Burton      | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| Ed Cole          | Tennessee Department of Transportation                |
| Mike Conger      | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| Fred Corum       | Tennessee Department of Transportation – Region 1     |
| Mike Edwards     | Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership                    |
| Karen Estes      | Knox County Community Action Committee                |
| John Fairstein   | Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location              |
| Edgar Faust      | Hardin Valley Community                               |
| 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                                |
| Jerry Hodge      | Airport Motor Mile Auto Dealers                       |
| Don Jacobs       | Knoxville News Sentinel                               |
| Mark Johnson     | City of Alcoa   |
| David Lambert    | Resource Team   |
| David Lindeman   | Palmer Engineering                                    |
| Bill McMaster    | Resource Team   |
| Angie Midgett    | Tennessee Department of Transportation                |
| Chip Miller      | Resource Team   |
| Ted Newsom       | UT Knoxville Commuter Pool                            |
| Karen Nolt       | Knox County Parks and Recreation                      |
| James Norris     | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| Harold Palmer    | Palmer Engineering                                    |
| David Reister    | Resource Team   |
| Mark Richey      | Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location              |
| Mike Russell     | Tennessee Department of Transportation – Region 1     |
| Robert Shaw      | Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location              |
| Jeanne Stevens   | Tennessee Department of Transportation                |
| Wes Stowers      | Resource Team   |
| Darcy Sullivan   | Resource Team   |
| Sharon Todd      | Resource Team   |
| Charlotte West   | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| Jill Wolverton   | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| Donna Young      | Knoxville Parks and Recreation                        |
| Ellen Zavisca    | Transportation Planning Organization Staff            |
| *Voting Member   |   |

## **1. Determination of Quorum**

Jeff Welch called the roll and determined there was a quorum for the TPO Executive Board.

Eddy Ford introduced Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Ed Cole, Jeanne Stevens, Steve Borden, Travis Brickey, Fred Corum and Mike Russell from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT).

## **2. Approval of May 18, 2006 Minutes**

**A motion was made by Bill Haslam and seconded by Joe Swann to approve the May 18, 2006 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **3. Recommendations for the Knoxville Regional Parkway**

**Presenter:** TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely

**Item Summary:** Commissioner Nicely will make an announcement on the future of the Knoxville Regional Parkway.

**Background:** The proposed Knoxville Parkway would connect I-40/I-75 southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee to I-75 north of Knoxville. TDOT elected to employ a modified Context Sensitive Solutions process to use public input in defining an alignment and selecting appropriate design criteria to mesh the Parkway within the context of the 1,000-foot-wide corridor. The Resource Team was formed in early 2004 and gave their final recommendations to TDOT in April 2006. **Attachment #2a – Regional Parkway Design Resource Team Recommendations.**

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT used a Context Sensitive Solutions process for public involvement. The TPO was asked 18 months ago to suggest names for a Resource Team. Mike Russell of TDOT read the names of the team members who are: John Benditz, Edgar Faust, Greg Fay, Steve Fritts, Carolyn Greenwood, Brian Jenks, David Lambert, Bill McMaster, Chip Miller, Karen Nolt, Mack Post, David Resiter, Robert Shaw, Wes Stowers, Darcy Sullivan, Roland Terrell, Sharon Todd and Bruce Wuethrich. He thanked the team members. The team's responsibilities were to study the alignment options, the number of interchanges and the implementation of the proposed State Route 475, Knoxville Parkway.

Eddy Ford stated that in February 2004, TDOT asked the Executive Board to suggest team members, and they were appointed by TDOT. He read a letter he wrote to the team members thanking them for their participation on the Resource Team. He commended them for their dedication and countless hours of work and for their cooperation and ability to build a consensus with team members, despite differing opinions on the Regional Parkway, and to endorse the final recommendation.

Mayor Ford introduced TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. 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 SR 475. TDOT set up the Context Sensitive Design Solutions process, and meetings and public workshops were held to further evaluate the preferred alternative. He summarized recommendations of the Resource Team which are: a 70 mph design speed with posted speed to be determined, alignment as displayed on the map for the 28-mile parkway, a four-lane divided highway with a 52' depressed median, 12' travel lanes with 12' outside shoulders, seeking through the state legislature for "scenic" or Tennessee Parkway designation to prohibit billboards, interchanges at Pellissippi Parkway and Clinton Highway with interchanges that tie into I-75 in Loudon and Anderson Counties. There will also be improvements to the Pellissippi Parkway/ Hardin Valley Road and Pellissippi/Solway Road interchanges. There were four minority reports included in the report. TDOT will accept and adopt the Resource Team's recommendations. Information gathered by the Resource Team is currently being incorporated into the draft environmental study being prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act standards. The project is estimated to cost \$600 million, and TDOT will be considering financing options over the next year. They will also look for ways to accelerate the construction.

Bill Haslam asked about the minority reports. Mike Russell explained that they are a way for all Resource Team members to express their opinions. He added that the alignment, engineering and right-of-way acquisitions would have to be finalized, and construction would probably begin in 3-4 years. Bill Haslam asked what role the Resource Team members would continue to play in the process. Commissioner Nicely said that the Resource Team will remain involved until a design is finalized. Eddy Ford asked Mike Russell what the timeframe is for completion. Mike stated probably 15-20 years to be built in eight sections with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be updated within the next year.

**David Burkhalter** – He stated that everyone should read the minority reports. He represents all the school children in Hardin Valley. The parkway goes through four valleys, and diesel pollution will be trapped in these valleys. Diesel pollution causes many diseases. He listed all the schools in the valley and how many students attend each school. He stated that they are in harm's way and urged that the decision be tabled.

**Robert Shaw** – He thanked Commissioner Nicely for allowing the public to participate. He asked about the reevaluation report that appeared in January. The purpose was to update the Orange route versus, the Blue and Green and no build. He said that TDOT did not give a reason why the Orange route was selected except that it was going to cost less than the other routes. He asked if the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Orange route would be compared with the Blue, Green and no build and will the public be allowed to make input.

**John Fairstein** – He thanked the Executive Board and Resource Team and asked Commissioner Nicely if he feels the Orange route is too close to Knoxville. Is there a more northern alignment being considered? Would it be considered as an alternative? Nicely did not respond, but Jeff Welch stated he will respond to his question after the meeting.

**Mark Richey** – He stated that TDOT is considering new financing and the \$600 million cost of the parkway. TPO has to consider this road against other roads. He asked if a cost benefit analysis been done and how will it be prioritized. He thinks that the TPO needs to have a method to make decisions on priorities and routes.

Eddy Ford stated that the Executive Board is not voting today, and this is just a presentation.

**Attachment #2b – Regional Parkway Design Resource Team Minority Reports.**

**4. Other Business**

**Meeting Announcements:**

**Technical Committee Meeting, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**

**Executive Board Meeting, July 26 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**

**5. Public Comment**

There was no other public comment.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.