

**TPO Executive Board  
10:30 a.m., September 24, 2007  
Main Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on September 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair of the Executive Board, presided.

*Doyle Arp	Loudon County Mayor
*Deborah Fleming	Tennessee Department of Transportation, for Angie Midgett
*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Doug Hancock	for Blount County Mayor Jerry Cunningham
*Bill Haslam	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Dale Hurst	for Lenoir City Mayor Matt Brookshire
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Lee Tramel	for Scott Moore Knox County Commission
*Cindy Pionke	for Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale
*Joe Swann	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Larry Waters	Sevier County Mayor
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Civil Rights
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Ted Newsom	UT-Knoxville Commuter Pool
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Jill Wolverton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*Voting Member

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

### **1. Approval of August 22, 2007, Minutes**

**Presenter:** Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of August 22, 2007, TPO Executive Board minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 - August 22, 2007, Minutes.

**A motion was made by Mayor Joe Swann and seconded by Mayor Eddy Ford to approve the August 22 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **2. Approve a Resolution Adopting the 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Update. To view the entire LRTP go to:**

[www.knoxtrans.org/plans/lrtp2030/2007\\_draft\\_update.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/lrtp2030/2007_draft_update.pdf).

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary: TPO Technical Committee recommends approval.** In response to SAFETEA-LU planning regulations, an MPO's long range transportation plan must be compliant to the planning regulations. Numerous text changes were made to the plan to become in compliance. Some adjustments were made to the highway project schedule in recognition of higher construction costs and slower implementation. Two public meetings were held on this plan update. TDOT has reviewed and approved the plan and currently FHWA/FTA is reviewing it.

**Background:** The entire LRTP Update is not included in the packet as it was distributed earlier by mail. We have attached the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the LRTP Update. The participants in the Air Quality Interagency Consultation process have reviewed and commented on the conformity analysis. **Attachment #2a - Public Comments. Attachment #2b - Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Attachment #2c - Comments from FHWA/FTA and disposition of those comments. Attachment #2d - Resolution.**

Jeff Welch stated that to complete the SAFETEA-LU requirements for the plan update, we have received and responded to comments from TDOT and FHWA. Numerous public meetings were held to discuss the LRTP. It meets Air Quality conformity, and the Technical Committee recommends approval.

**A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by John Lamb to approve the resolution adopting the 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Update. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. Approve a Resolution Adopting the 2008 -2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) To view the entire TIP go to: [www.knoxtrans.org/plans/tip08\\_11/tip08\\_11\\_draft.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/tip08_11/tip08_11_draft.pdf).**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary: TPO Technical Committee recommends approval.** The 2008-2011 TIP documents how federal and state funds will be expended on highway and public transportation projects in the urban area. Also included are projects for the McGhee Tyson Airport. There have been two public meetings to review the draft TIP. Comments that we received at these meetings are included in Attachment #2a. We have made corrections that were requested by both our state and federal partners. Their comments are shown on Attachment #3b. TDOT requested corrections be made to three projects and a new project be added of which the net result is more money added to existing projects; these are highlighted as Attachment #3c. TDOT also asked that project # 2008-047 be corrected to move ROW funds from year 2008 to year 2009.

**Attachment #3a - Summary of the 2008-2011 TIP. Attachment #3b - Comments from FHWA/FTA and disposition of those comments. Attachment #3c - Project changes from TDOT. Attachment #3d - Resolution.**

**Background:** SAFETEA-LU requires a four-year TIP that is financially constrained.

Attachment #3c includes requested changes to the TIP as proposed by TDOT. The changes reflect minor adjustments to the dollars available to the four different projects.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, asked about Agenda Item No. 2. He stated that the Knox County one-hour ozone and PM 2.5 readings dropped considerably and asked for an explanation. Mike Conger, TPO staff, stated there is forecasted reduction in ozone and PM2.5 emissions because federal standards for tailpipe emissions for heavy duty diesel trucks have changed. All the vehicles on the road by 2030 will be under these standards. Mr. Fairstein asked about the status of the new Knoxville Parkway (I-475). Jeff Welch responded that it is not included in the 2008-2011 TIP.

**A motion was made by Doug Hancock and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution adopting the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program with submitted changes. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Knoxville Regional TPO for Managing Amendments and Adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** This MOA formally defines the amendment and adjustment process that will be used to manage the TIP. This process is already defined in the TIP, but a formal MOA must be approved to meet federal requirements. **Attachment #4 - Memorandum of Agreement.**

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT is requesting that all MPOs enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with them. The guidelines show how the TIP will be amended or adjusted. Adjustments can be done administratively by the TPO if there is not a change in scope or funding change by more than 30 percent to a project. If it is changed by more than 30 percent or project scope changes, then it requires a formal amendment by the Board.

**A motion was made by Lee Tramel and seconded by Don Mull to approve the MOA for managing amendments and adjustments to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Approve a Resolution certifying that the TPO transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the area and that the process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** As part of the TIP process, SAFETEA-LU planning regulations require that the TPO certify that our planning process is addressing major issues and meeting all the federal requirements. The attached resolution needs to be approved by the TPO Board and staff recommends approval. **Attachment #5 - Resolution.**

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT representatives will be coming for an all-day session concerning the TPO planning process. The Board will have an opportunity to hear the preliminary finding at the Feb. Board meeting..

**A motion was made by Mayor Eddy Ford and seconded by Mayor Don Mull to approve the resolution certifying the TPO transportation planning process is complying with all applicable requirements. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Approve a Motion Amending the TPO Executive Board Bylaws**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Minor changes are proposed to reflect references to SAFETEA-LU and the new Rural Planning Organizations (RPO). **Attachment #6 - Bylaws.**

**Background:** The current bylaws require that any changes be presented to the Executive Board at least one month before a vote can be taken.

Jeff Welch stated that the bylaws outline ten federal regulations. TPO staff has made changes to show our relationship to the East Tennessee RPOs and how we will be engaged with them in the LRTP and air quality. Staff recommends the bylaws be amended.

**A motion was made by Joe Swann and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve amending the Executive Board Bylaws to reflect references to SAFETEA-LU and the RPO. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. Discussion of High Priority Transportation Issues/Projects**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Annually the TPO sponsors a meeting with our state legislators and TDOT administration to discuss our major transportation issues. Staff will plan for such an event if the TPO Technical Committee and Board feel that the event is beneficial.

**Background:** Attached is the material that was presented at the last meeting. **Attachment #7.**

Jeff Welch stated that annually we have had a meeting with our state legislators and TDOT to discuss major transportation issues and concerns such as limited revenue funds. There was discussion at the Technical Committee to invite the Southern RPO to this annual meeting. We always discuss our high priority list, which typically includes twelve projects. The Technical Committee recommends these items remain the same. The date for the luncheon would be in early December or January.

Mark Brown stated that it is always good to meet with the state legislators.

**A motion was made by Mark Brown and seconded by Lee Tramel to approve the list of priority highway projects and to invite representatives of the Southern RPO to the legislative meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

John Fairstein stated that it is a good idea to meet with the legislators and TDOT.

## **8. Other Business**

- **I-40/I-81 Corridor Public Meeting Tuesday, September 25 - Attachment #8. 5-7 p.m. at TDOT Region One headquarters.**

Jeff Welch stated that he will share the information with the Technical Committee and Executive Board. TDOT will present a corridor analysis from Memphis to New York. Nathan Benditz, TPO staff, attended a conference concerning an I-81 coalition. Jeff will serve on the committee.

- **2008 Enhancement Applications due to TDOT by November 30**

Jeff stated that the process begins now and that previous year's applications will not be considered unless they are resubmitted.

Jeff stated that the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled October 9 at 9 a.m., but it may be cancelled. We may have to have a meeting to address amendments to the TIP.

Jill Wolverton, TPO staff, stated Smart Trips is hosting a Commuter Challenge finale and "Carpoolers" premiere party to celebrate the end of the six-month challenge. The grand prize winners will be announced at the party.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no other public comment.

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.