

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., October 22, 2008
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on October 22 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Doyle Arp	Mayor, Loudon County
*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Bill Haslam	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Mike Ragsdale	Mayor, Knox County
*Tom Strickland	Knox County Commission Chair
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
John Fairstein	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
John Hunter	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Tina Rolen	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of August 27, 2008 Minutes

Presenter: Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of August 27, 2008, TPO Executive Board minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Don Mull and seconded by Mayor Eddy Ford to approve the August 27 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review of Project Priority List for TDOT and State Legislators

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: Attachments #2a and #2b reflect what was approved by the TPO last year and submitted to TDOT.

Jeff Welch stated that three projects were added to the project list at the Technical Committee meeting:
1) Morganton Road from William Blount Drive to Foothills Mall Drive; 2) Cumberland Avenue improvements and
3) the Halls connector in Knox County. The Technical Committee stressed that continued TDOT assistance to move projects along is necessary.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Mayor Don Mull to approve the Project Priority List. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Haslam asked the Executive Board if the legislative luncheon was effective. Angie Midgett, TDOT, stated that Commissioner Nicely thinks it is a very good idea and is effective. Mayor Haslam suggested the luncheon be structured to facilitate discussion regarding local challenges with TDOT. He stated it was a rare opportunity to engage interested parties. He suggested a PowerPoint presentation by staff, a presentation regarding the state of the transportation system at the state level and a 20-minute facilitated discussion. There was consensus to continue the legislative luncheon.

Mayor Haslam noted that Mike Hammond has been reappointed to the TPO Board by the Chair of the ETDD. His term will be from November 18, 2008- November 18, 2010.

3. Complete Streets Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Study teams have been created to assist staff and consultants for the two corridors under study (Broadway in the Fountain City area of Knoxville and Washington Street/South Hall Rd. in Maryville/Alcoa).

Background: Funding for this project is from TDOT. One final product will be a design guidebook that other jurisdictions throughout the state can use.

Ellen Zavisca gave an overview of Complete Streets. She reviewed the background analysis report prepared by the consultants. She noted that a significant number of people living along both corridors being studied had one or no cars. Meetings along the Fountain City corridor started this week. On Monday, October 20 the consultants convened a meeting to gather input to the Complete Streets plan. A draft proposal based on this input will be presented on Thursday, October 23. On November 10 and 13 the consultant team will be holding meetings for the Blount County corridor at Maryville College.

The consultants will produce a set of recommendations for each corridor and general guidelines for other, similar corridors in the region.

Mayor Haslam stated that we need to keep the discussion realistic and actionable. By providing short-term recommendations, it will allow the city to potentially add them to the budget. Ellen agreed and confirmed that the intent was to have the consultants provide short-, medium- and long-term action items.

4. Status of KAT Transit Development Program (TDP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TPO staff is managing a consultant to prepare a 5 to 10-year transit development program. Staff will provide an update of the work to date.

Background: Funding support for this project is from TDOT, KAT and the TPO. This study will include an analysis of future transit development corridors.

Cindy McGinnis, KAT General Manager, discussed the KAT TDP and provided an overview of the plan's focus, noting that the TDP will help KAT reroute buses to serve the new transit center that is expected to open in 2010. The TDP will also analyze and provide recommendations for the trolley service. Ms. McGinnis noted that the consultants for the TDP have provided peer-based recommendations for fare changes. These changes will go into effect on January 20, 2009. Mike Hammond asked what fare changes are being proposed. Ms. McGinnis explained that the regular fare being proposed will go from \$1.25 to \$1.50. The express route fares will increase to \$2.50. New fare boxes will be installed in January. A 30-day pass that does not expire may also go into effect next year.

John Lamb asked if any consideration had been given to connecting Maryville and Alcoa to Knoxville. Ms. McGinnis responded that they were primarily focused on serving the City of Knoxville. Mr. Lamb requested that the TDP look at identifying what it would take to provide transit service from Blount County to Knoxville within the next ten years. Ms. McGinnis agreed they could take a look at what it would take. Ms. McGinnis noted the Tennessee Public Transportation Association (TPTA) was working on a statewide dedicated funding source. Ms. McGinnis stated that TPTA is also exploring ways to create regional transit agencies within the state.

Mayor Haslam noted that he would like to look at a regional system not just for funding purposes but because it made the most sense.

Mayor Ragsdale asked Ms. McGinnis if KAT provided service to Pellissippi State. Ms. McGinnis stated that they did not provide service to the campus. Ms. McGinnis provided information on ridership numbers. KAT's ridership is currently 23 percent higher than it was the previous year and October's ridership is currently 15 percent higher than it was in October 2007. Mayor Haslam noted that providing service to Pellissippi State was a good idea, but they would need to identify a funding source. Mayor Ragsdale suggested that KAT determine what it would cost and perhaps the county could provide funding.

5. Update of Long Range Mobility Plan

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: There have been two rounds of public meetings held as part of the Mobility Plan Update.

3a. Plan Principles and Strategies - Attachment #3a.

3b. Summary of Public Input to Date - Attachment #3b.

3c. Revenue and Expenditure Scenarios - Attachment #3c.

3d. Street and Highway Network.

Background: The Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan is scheduled to be adopted by the TPO Board in April 2009.

Staff reviewed Attachment #3a and discussed how they related to the SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors. Jeff Welch noted that staff will continue engaging the Technical Committee and will present an update again to the Executive Board in February 2009.

Cindy Pionke requested that safety be added to the first principle – “preserve and manage.” Cindy noted that safety is the number one driver in the county. The majority of projects are selected to address safety concerns.

Jeff Welch reviewed 3c: Revenue and Expenditure Scenarios with the Board. In the past a 3 percent increase has been the standard. What is realistic now? Revenues are down and vehicle miles traveled are down. There is a good possibility that revenues may be flat for the first few years. Option 1 presents a shortfall of almost one billion dollars. Option 2 would result in one-half billion dollar shortfall.

Mike Conger, TPO staff, explained to the Executive Board that the existing long range plan highway project list was given to the Technical Committee as a starting point to determine what are committed and future projects. Once it is revised the travel demand model will be updated. Major deficiencies will then be identified based on future population and employment growth.

6. Legislative Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on Federal and State legislation and issues related to the transportation sector.

Jeff Welch provided a legislative update. Congress bailed out the Highway Trust Fund with \$8 billion. Eighty-four percent of Federal gas tax dollars are going to the Highway Trust Fund and 16 percent is currently allocated to mass transit. Federal revenues were down 7 percent from FY 2007. SAFETEA-LU expires in September 2009. There will be a big push at the Federal level over the next year to set the stage for the reauthorization. A new stimulus bill is also being discussed that may provide additional funds for transportation projects roads and bridges.

In state news, Tennessee created a Transportation Funding Special Joint Study Committee. A list of members was distributed to the Board. Tuesday, October 21 was the first meeting of the committee.

7. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, November 18* (Change in date and location) at 9 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Ed Cole, TDOT, has announced his retirement. Mayor Ford requested that once his retirement date is confirmed, we send a letter of appreciation to him. (Ed Cole has since rescinded his retirement notice.)

8. Public Comment

Karen Estes, CAC, informed the Executive Board that CAC is currently providing transit service to Pellissippi State for approximately 10 people a day. CAC leaves the Main Street transfer point at 7:15 a.m. and makes two return trips, one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 5 p.m. CAC utilizes Job Access and Reverse Commute program funds to support this service.

John Fairstein asked what will be the impact if SAFETEA-LU is not approved on schedule and is delayed for 2 years. Jeff Welch replied that the funding does not disappear. Funding typically continues at the last fiscal years level.

Cindy McGinnis announced that KAT will be hosting a TDP workshop at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28 in the Small Assembly Room at the City County Building.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.