

## Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board  
9 a.m., February 25, 2009  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on February 25 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
*Bob Becker	Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Bill Haslam	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Dale Hurst	for Mayor Matt Brookshire, Lenoir City
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Greg Patterson	for Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
*Mike Ragsdale	Mayor, Knox County
*Tank Strickland	Knox County Commission Chair
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 Community Action Committee
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
Joe Hultquist	Knoxville City Council
Steve King	City of Knoxville
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Jim Ullrich	Citizen
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*Voting Member

### Determination of Quorum

Mayor Haslam stated that Bob Becker was elected as Vice Mayor of the City of Knoxville last night. Mr. Becker has become a new voting member of the Executive Board replacing Mark Brown who resigned as Vice Mayor.

## **1. Approval of October 22, 2008 Minutes**

**Presenter:** Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of October 22, 2008, TPO Executive Board minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 – October 22, 2008, Minutes.

**A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by John Lamb to approve the October 22, 2008 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Election of Officers**

**Presenter:** Mayor Bill Haslam, Chair

**Item Summary:** The Bylaws state that the Executive Board shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year, and the term of office shall be for two years. An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

**Background:** Attachment #2 – TPO Chairs and vice Chairs from 1993 to present.

**A motion was made by Mayor Eddy Ford and seconded by Mayor Mike Ragsdale to nominate Mayor Don Mull as Chair. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Ford and seconded by Mayor Ragsdale to nominate Mike Hammond as Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **3. Approval of a Resolution supporting State Enabling Legislation to allow the Creation of Regional Transportation Authorities in the State (TPO Technical Committee Recommends Approval of the Resolution)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** An effort is underway to amend Tennessee Code, Title 64, Chapter 8- Regional Transportation Authorities, to allow the creation of regional transportation authorities by any combination of two or more adjacent local governments with a combined population of 200,000 or more.

**b. Background:** Attachment #3a – Summary of Legislation  
Attachment #3b - Resolution

Jeff Welch explained the resolution to allow local governments to vote to establish a local Regional Transportation Authority. This would allow local governments to address transit from a regional perspective, issue bonds and dedicate regional funding for local transportation.

Jim Ullrich, 1003 Luttrell Street, stated that he supports this resolution to provide support for Regional Transportation Authorities. This could help tie the counties together, and we need more mobility options in this area.

Joe Hultquist, 2240 Fisher Place, stated that he has been working with the new East Tennessee Quality Growth Organization, and we need to pursue this to make this option a reality. He encouraged the Executive Board to pass the resolution and follow up with our state legislators.

**A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Tank Strickland to approve the resolution to support the creation of Regional Transportation Authorities. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **4. Economic Stimulus Update**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** Staff will discuss the latest information on the economic stimulus package passed by the U. S. Congress. The President signed the bill on February 17, 2009. A summary of the bill and other information will be presented. Also to be discussed is how the TPO may allocate STP stimulus funds that we will receive.

**Attachment 4a.** – Draft Summary of Stimulus bill

**Attachment 4b.** – Draft Summary of Reporting Requirements for Stimulus bill

**Attachment 4c.** – STP Eligibility Summary

**Attachment 4d.** – Checklist for Stimulus Eligibility

**Attachment 4e.** – Draft list of TPO Economic Stimulus projects

**b. Background:** The TPO will receive approximately \$12,678,421 of Economic Stimulus funding under the Surface Transportation Program (STP). The TPO has one year to obligate our STP Economic Stimulus funds. The TPO has a WEB page set up for economic stimulus information for our area.

Jeff Welch reviewed a handout that shows the estimated distribution of highway infrastructure investment funds that Tennessee will receive pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Tennessee will get approximately \$572,701,043 of which approximately \$70,000,000 is sub allocated to the large urbanized areas in the state. TDOT has 120 days to obligate 50 percent of their allocation. The large MPOs may have up to a year to obligate their portion of the funds. Mayor Ragsdale stated that the intent is to spend the money as quickly as possible and reiterated that TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely is committed to obligate all of TDOT's funding in 120 days.

TPO Technical Committee has prepared a list of possible shovel ready to be further reviewed by both the Board and Technical Committee. The dollar amount of the draft list is approximately \$52 million. The staff and Technical Committee will continue to review the list and identify other projects that may be eligible for funding.

Mike Hammond asked what the procedure is to move the projects to the implementation phase. Jeff stated that TPO Board will have the final say in what projects will be implemented with funds allocated to the TPO. The Technical Committee will meet on March 10, 2009 to make a recommendation on what projects to support with the economic stimulus money. The Technical Committee has already recommended two projects to receive economic stimulus money, which will be addressed in the next agenda item. The Board will have the ability to modify the list of recommended projects submitted by the Technical Committee. Even after the Board approves the projects for economic stimulus funding there will be many steps that local governments will have to undertake to get the projects ready to be let for construction. TDOT will also insure that the projects submitted to the TPO are eligible and can be implemented in the required time frame.

Mayor Ragsdale stated that the federal stimulus bill had set aside \$1.5 Billion for discretionary transportation grants. He asked that the TPO Staff and Technical Committee report back to the Board on possible projects that this Board could recommend/apply for part of the funding. Mayor Haslam asked if there is time sensitivity before our next board meeting. Jeff stated that further information becomes available there may be a need for a called meeting.

## **5. Approval of a Resolution Amending the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

(TPO Technical Committee Recommends Approval of the Resolution)

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** The proposed amendments to the TIP will be geared to the anticipated Economic Stimulus program. New TIP buckets for TDOT need to be added to the TIP. The Technical Committee has recommended two projects be amended to add economic stimulus funds to them.

**Background:** Specific details on the amount of funds the TPO will officially receive are not available at this time. There has been amounts as high as \$12.7 million to as low as \$7.9 million that the TPO might receive. It could be two to three weeks before a final number is known.

**The following amendments and additions to the 2008-2011 TIP require action:**

### **5. Resolution**

**5a. Amend TIP Project #2008-064 - TDOT ES Bucket - State Route 3R Improvements – add \$500,000 in Federal Economic Stimulus funds for FY2009. Attachment #5a.**

**5b. Amend TIP Project #2008-071 - TDOT ES Bucket - Interstate 3R Improvements – add \$500,000 in Federal Economic Stimulus funds for FY2009. Attachment #5b.**

**5c. Amend TIP Project #2008-099 - TDOT ES Bucket - Bridge repair/Replacement - add \$500,000 in Federal Economic Stimulus funds for FY2009. Attachment #5c.**

**5d. Add new TIP Project #2008-127 - Lovell Road improvements from west of Pellissippi Parkway to Schaeffer Road - \$3,100,000 in Federal Economic Stimulus funds for FY2009. Attachment #5d.**

**5e. Amend TIP Project #2008-012 - Campbell Station Road improvements – to add \$2,355,370 in Federal Economic Stimulus funds in FY2009. Attachment #5e.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Eddy Ford and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution to amend/adjust the TIP to include the projects listed above (5a-5e.) The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Status of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Fund Balance**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** The Knoxville TPO is carrying a fund balance of \$27,409,141. This represents almost four years of STP allocation. In the attached letter and a conference call with TDOT on Feb. 13, 2009, TDOT is asking for a plan of action on how we will spend down this balance. There is no immediate threat of losing any of these federal funds.

**b. Background: Attachment #6 - STP Fund Balance Letter from TDOT**

Jeff Welch indicated that each year the TPO receives about \$7.5 million of federal Surface Transportation Program funds to be matched by local funds. The TPO is currently carrying a fund balance of approximately \$27 million. The TPO has programmed those funds in the TIP but the money has not yet been obligated to those specific projects. Money is not obligated until there is a contract between the local government and TDOT and then a federal commitment is made. The major reason for the fund balance is that it takes several years to get a project through the many phases of development. Angie Midgett indicated that our organization has done a good job of spending our funds but TDOT would like to see a plan of action to draw down those funds. TPO staff and Technical Committee will look at the TIP projects, to see if any can be accelerated, dropped or new projects added. A plan of action to spend this fund balance will be submitted to the Board at their April meeting..

#### **7. Annual Listing of Projects for FY08**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Annually the TPO must prepare a listing of projects that funds were obligated to during the past fiscal year. The listing is attached and has been made available to the public.

**Background: Attachment #7 - Annual listing of obligated projects.**

Jeff Welch stated that we are required to prepare this list that identifies what projects received federal funds in the urban area over the last fiscal year. Approximately \$95 million were obligated this past fiscal year of which 85.5 % went to highway/road projects, 8.0% went to transit related projects and 6% went to other type of projects.

#### **8. Unified Planning Work Program**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff must submit a draft 2010 UPWP to TDOT by the end of February. If there are any planning studies that your jurisdiction is interested in please let us know as soon as possible. There will be additional time to add to the UPWP over the next couple of months.

**Background: Attachment #8 – SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors.**

Jeff Welch stated that TPO staff has started the process of preparing the 2010 planning work program which will be approved by this Board this summer. He asked if there are any planning studies to be added to the work program to please let him know. There also is planning funding available for special studies carried out by a local jurisdiction which requires a 20-percent local match.

#### **9. Long Range Mobility Plan Update (LRMP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** Staff is preparing a draft long range mobility plan for 2009-2034. The draft will be submitted to TDOT for review by the end of February. Public meetings on the draft plan will begin in late March. Staff, in cooperation with the Technical Committee, has prepared a draft list of highway projects to be included in the mobility plan.

**b. Background: Attachment #9a- Dates of upcoming public meetings related to the long range mobility plan  
Attachment #9b- List of proposed highway projects to be included in 2009-2034 Mobility Plan**

Jeff Welch stated that TPO staff is updating LRMP, which is required to be updated every 4 years. Staff will give TDOT the draft today to see if it complies with regulations before it goes to the Federal Highway Administration. A series of public meetings are scheduled in late March and April to review the plan.

Mike Conger reviewed a draft list of major highway projects proposed for the plan. This list of projects was prepared after the early public meetings, review of existing plans and consultation with the technical committee members. There are approximately 200 projects identified in the draft plan and represents an investment of approximately \$3.4 billion. These projects went through the financial constraint process, and staff feels we can fund these projects throughout the life of the plan. In addition air quality conformity analysis will need to be conducted. Staff will work with federal and state agencies to insure the plan meets all regulations. The travel demand model was used, and the list is broken down into different horizon years. Jeff stated that one major project timeframe, the Knoxville Parkway, was pushed beyond 2024 in order to meet financial constraint.

#### **10. Other Business**

- **Technical Committee Meeting, March 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, April 22 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

#### **11. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Mayor Mull thanked Mayor Haslam for serving as Chair for the last 2 years.

#### **12. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.