

Attachment #1

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

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on March 25 at 9 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Don Mull, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Doyle Arp	Mayor, Loudon County
*Deborah Fleming	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Joe Hultquist	for Knoxville Vice Mayor Bob Becker
*Dale Hurst	for Mayor Matt Brookshire, Lenoir City
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County
*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
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Gordon Acuff	East Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
David Craig	Ross/Fowler
Whitney Ray-Dawson	Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
Don Jacobs	Knoxville News Sentinel
Bob Johnson	Citizen
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Kim Ramsey	Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

Jeff Welch recognized the proxies who are representing the Mayor and Vice Mayor for the City of Knoxville, the Mayors of Blount, Lenoir City and Sevier County.

1. Approval of February 25, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: Mayor Don Mull, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of February 25, 2009, TPO Executive Board minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 - February 25, 2009, Minutes

A motion was made by Mayor Eddy Ford and seconded by Mayor Doyle Arp to approve the February 25 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Two Resolutions to Amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to Include Project(s) for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding (ARRA)

The Technical Committee recommends approval of both resolutions.

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: Previously the Executive Board amended the TIP to use \$5,455,370 of the \$12,678,421 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for two projects. There remains approximately \$7,223,051 of economic stimulus funds that needs to be programmed. The Technical Committee has recommended a funding scenario.

Background: Attachment #2a – Letter to Mayor Don Mull from TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely regarding ARRA Funds. Attachment #2b – ARRA eligibility requirements. Attachment #2c – List of projects that may be eligible for economic stimulus funding. Attachment #2d – ARRA funding scenario as recommended by the Technical Committee. Attachment #2e – Resolution amending the TIP.

Jeff Welch discussed a letter written to Mayor Don Mull from TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely regarding the ARRA funds. If these funds are not spent, they will go to other states. The list of candidate projects must be sent to the Local Programs Development Office no later than April 6. TDOT is encouraging shovel-ready projects to be submitted by November 30 to get money obligated. The TPO's allocation of ARRA funds have to be obligated by March 2, 2010. Jeff Welch then presented a list of projects, Attachment 2d, that the Technical Committee has recommended be funded with the remaining \$7,223,051 of ARRA funds.

Joe Hultquist stated that in Attachment #2c, S6, Regional Alternative Transportation Plan (RATP), represents the entire region instead of just one jurisdiction. Most of the projects are capital projects and can be done quickly. He suggested spending some of the money for a regional transit planning study. This would help develop a regional vision for mass transit. He suggested moving \$100,000 from Project S4, City of Knoxville signal upgrades to fund part of the \$200,000 mass transit study. Joe Hultquist further stated that if the additional \$100,000 could not be found to complete the funding for the transit study, then the ARRA money would go back to a different project.

Mayor Mike Ragsdale asked Steve King what he thinks about Mr. Hultquist's suggestion. Steve stated that Mayor Bill Haslam is in agreement with the packet as it is. Steve stated that one of the city's most common complaints is the traffic signal problem.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by John Lamb to approve the resolution to amend the TIP for the nine projects listed for ARRA funding.

Joe Hultquist made a motion to amend the motion and move \$100,000 from project S4, City of Knoxville signal upgrades, and adding this to project S6, Regional Alternative Transit Plan, contingent on getting a match of the entire \$200,000 in 6 months. There was no second, and the motion was withdrawn.

The original motion carried unanimously.

b. Item Summary: Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) is anticipating \$5,811,349 of ARRA formula Section 5307 (Urbanized Transit) funds and has proposed a funding scenario. The funding distribution is shown on the attached resolution amending the FY 2008-2011 TIP. **Background:** Attachment #2f – Resolution.

These are the projects that the Technical Committee recommends to amend the TIP for ARRA funding.

A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Dale Hurst to approve the resolution to amend the TIP adding the three KAT projects for ARRA funding. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Economic Stimulus Discretionary Grant Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: The TPO Executive Board asked the Technical Committee to identify any transportation projects that would meet the criteria for special economic stimulus funding. This program's regulations have not yet been released. Jeff Welch discussed the summary of grant criteria for discretionary grants for surface transportation infrastructure capital improvements.

Background: Attachment #3-Draft Summary of Discretionary Grant Criteria

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee has identified the following three projects that may be eligible for the special economic stimulus funding:-

- US 321 Bridge over Tennessee River (Lenoir City)
- Chickamauga Lock and Dam
- Pellissippi Place Research Park Boulevard (Alcoa)

Mayor Doyle Arp stated that the US 321 Bridge project would be a regional project, and he would like the Executive Board to support this project. He stated that if we work collectively on this project, this will open up money for other projects in the area. Joe Hultquist asked whether the Chickamauga Dam in this region and Jeff said it is not, but it still could possibly be on the project list.

4. Tennessee Counties Recommended For Nonattainment for Ozone

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a list of counties recommended to be designated nonattainment under the revised eight-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard.

b. Background: Attachment #4 – Copy of letter sent to EPA from TDEC

Mike Conger discussed a letter from TDEC. The EPA has tightened the attainment standards. In June 2010 nonattainment areas will be officially designated. States will have to show their plan to be in attainment. Our area is still exceeding the 84 parts per billion. For the Knoxville area the proposed counties include Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Sevier.

Whitney Dawson, 13050 George Lovelace Lane, stated that we need to be looking to the future and decide how to develop mass transit. Children in this area have a high rate of asthma because of the air quality. She suggested that new roads should not be built. Mayor Mull is on the State Clear Air Board and stated that the standards go up every year. Our air is cleaner, but there needs to be more improvement. We also get pollutants from other areas. He stated that he supports public transportation.

5. Other Business

- **Public Meetings for Long Range Mobility Plan - Attachment #5**

Jeff Welch discussed the Draft Regional Mobility Plan and stated that Attachment #5 lists the locations for public review meetings in the area. The meetings will be held in Knox, Blount, Loudon, Sevier and Anderson Counties.

- **Technical Committee Meeting, April 14 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.**

Jeff stated that on April 22 the Executive Board will review the draft mobility plans.

6. Public Comment

Bob Johnson, 2525 Belt Road, stated that he is concerned about what type of transportation our grandchildren will have. The only viable alternative is nuclear power. During Nine Counties One Vision, the proposal that received the second most number of votes was rail transportation. We should be thinking about rail as an alternative.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.