

# Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board  
9 a.m., October 28, 2009  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on October 28 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. 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
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Joe Hultquist	for Vice Mayor Bob Becker, City of Knoxville
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Blount County Mayor
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*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
Ashley Aldridge	Knox County
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mary Martin	Knox County
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jim Ullrich	Citizen
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Belinda Woodiel-Brill	Knoxville Area Transit
Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County

\*Voting Member

## Determination of Quorum

### 1. Approval of August 26, 2009, Minutes

**Presenter:** Don Mull, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of August 26, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Attachment #1 – August 26, 2009, minutes.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Tom Taylor and seconded by Tank Strickland to approve the August 26 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Discussion of the Potential Impact the Rescission Will Have on the TPO Area**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Congress failed to repeal the rescission (required by previous acts of Congress, SAFETEA-LU and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) that resulted in reducing the federal contract authority to states and urban areas by \$8.7 billion. As a result Tennessee had to return approximately \$190 million of transportation funding. The Knoxville area stands to lose approximately \$8.3 million of STP funds, \$5 million of CMAQ funds and \$700,000 of MPO planning funds.

**Attachments #2a - Memo explaining potential impact to state and TPO program areas. Attachments #2b-2c - Tables providing information regarding the rescission.**

Jeff Welch stated that Attachment 2a explains the impact the rescission will have on major transportation programs including STP and CMAQ funds, and then he discussed each table in Attachments 2b-2c. The Federal government is rescinding \$8.7 billion of SAFETEA-LU's programmed funds. This rescission will impact state and urban highway systems, along with transit projects that rely on CMAQ and STP monies. The Federal Transit Administration was not impacted by the rescission. The state will pass on the final rescission figures when they receive them. Staff will work with the Technical Committee to move money around in order to jump start the projects directly impacted by the rescission.

SAFETEA-LU, the Federal transportation bill was recently extended until December 18, 2009. The US House of Representatives and US Senate can not agree on terms for a new multi-year transportation act. Therefore, funding for FY2010 is dependent on continuing resolutions with no long term commitment. There will not be a new transportation act until at least 2010. The Federal transportation act is our major source of funding that TPO has depended on in the past.

Jeff suggested the Executive Board send a letter to our legislative delegation telling them which projects have been stopped, and that the TPO would like them to support transportation money in the future.

Steve King asked about projects that are not under construction and what the delay might be. He also asked about the status of the Cumberland Avenue streetscape project. Jeff responded that with less money available prioritization of projects will need to be considered.

## **3. Report on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO received approximately \$13 million of ARRA funds this past spring. Staff will provide an update on the status of the projects approved by the TPO. Also, the city of Knoxville will ask that their two resurfacing projects be dropped and that instead, a new project, traffic signal management study, be funded.

**Attachment #3 - ARRA Status Report.**

Amy Brooks stated that there are 17 projects that have been approved; three are in the construction phase and eight in the engineering phase. CAC capital projects will receive bids in November. The TPO staff is waiting on contracts for the regional transit and ITS Architecture projects.

Steve King stated that the City of Knoxville has run into a problem in the ARRA resurfacing projects. They found the money would be better used in engineering studies instead of on resurfacing projects. The City is proposing that the allocated money for resurfacing be moved to conduct a signal system management study. How the signal system is managed, communication systems and how signals evaluated will be part of the study. The City may need to remove some signals and change the timing. The study would also include Knox County and the Town of Farragut signal system. Mayor Ragsdale was supportive of the signal management study and its inclusion of Knox County and Farragut. Jeff Welch stated that it is important for these three jurisdictions work together for an improved traffic management system.

Mayor Tom Taylor stated that Maryville and Alcoa turned a similar project over to their engineering departments and thus far the process has been very successful

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

##### **Technical Committee Recommends Approval**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Attachment #4 – Resolution.

**a. Add TIP Project #2008-147 (Knoxville South Waterfront Riverwalk: Shoals Promenade) with \$534,461 in Federal Transportation Enhancement dollars and \$133,615 in a local match. Attachment #4a – Press Release and TIP project sheet.**

**b. Amend TIP Project #2008-133 (ARRA Resurfacing projects) to change total programmed funds from \$1,215,406 to \$784,963. Attachment #4b.**

**c. Add TIP Project #2008-148 (Knoxville-Knox County Traffic Signal Management study) with \$430,443 in TPO-managed ARRA funds. Attachment #4c.**

Jeff Welch discussed each of the TIP projects.

**A motion was made by Mayor Mike Ragsdale and seconded by Joe Hultquist to approve the resolution to amend the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Approval of a Resolution Adopting List of Roadway Functional Classification Changes in Knoxville Urban Area.**

##### **Technical Committee Recommends Approval**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO staff has reviewed the listing of proposed roadway functional classification changes with TDOT. TDOT concurs with the changes.

**Attachment #5 – Resolution and table of reclassification changes.**

Mike Conger stated a roadway must be classified as a collector or above within the urbanized area in order to be eligible to receive some types of federal funding. This functional classification system is maintained by TDOT, and the roadways have to meet certain guidelines in order to be added to the system. The TPO staff worked with representatives from the urban area jurisdictions to identify roadways that should be added and as a result there were around 120 miles of roadways that were recommended for addition to the system. The changes have to be made through an official resolution by the Executive Board in order to be accepted by TDOT.

Joe Hultquist asked how this State functional classification system related to the local jurisdictions' major road plans and if there were roadways classified under the State classification system but not on the local classification systems. Mike responded that the TPO staff used the major road plans as a starting point in determining which roadways to add to the State system and that he was fairly certain that all roads on the State system were included on the various major road plans in the urban area.

**A motion was made by Joe Hultquist and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution requesting TDOT change the functional classification of the roadways listed. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Review of Draft TPO Priority Project List to be Submitted to TDOT and Area State Legislators**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

Jeff Welch stated that annually the TPO sponsors a meeting with our state legislators and TDOT administration to discuss our major transportation issues and projects.

**Background: Attachments #6a and #6b are a preliminary list of projects that the Technical Committee is reviewing and reflect current status in the TIP.**

Jeff Welch stated that we have typically presented a Priority Project list to our legislators at the annual legislative luncheon. TDOT has suggested that this is a good idea, and our agency should continue this exercise. The Technical Committee will address this issue at the next meeting.

## **7. Overview of RTA Legislation adopted by the TN Legislature**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The state legislature passed and the Governor signed into law legislation related to the creation of regional transportation authorities. A summary of the legislation is attached. **Attachment #7.**

Jeff Welch stated that Governor Bredesen signed a bill creating a Regional Transportation Authority for areas with a population of 200,000 or more. The bill allows the local governments an opportunity to address local transit issues. The RTA legislation does not include the establishment of new taxes, nor does it allow for an increase in the existing taxes without consent of the voters or local governing bodies.

## **8. Status of Two Grant Proposals Submitted to the Tennessee Department of Transportation**

**Item Summary:** The TPO Board approved the submittal of two grant proposals to TDOT at their August 26 meeting. The first proposal was for funding for a Regional/Urban Transit Corridor Study. The second proposal was for funding for an East Tennessee Quality Growth (ETQG) Toolbox and Plain Talk on Quality Growth Conference. TDOT has approved the first proposal and has for the time being turned down the second proposal.

**Attachments #8a & #8b - Letters from TDOT.**

Jeff Welch stated that staff submitted two proposals, and the attachments are the responses from Jeanne Stevens, Director of Long Range Planning for TDOT. The grant contract for \$135,049 to conduct an analysis of transit opportunities at the regional and corridor level was approved. It will match the ARRA funds set aside for the transit corridor study. The ETQG Toolbox proposal did not fare as well; TDOT felt the proposal needed more work and the concept of tools for quality growth be vetted more in the region with other interested organizations. TDOT has stated that they are interested in funding products not process.

John Lamb asked if TPO and ETQG has limited ourselves or should we have included the RPOs. Jeff did not believe the RPOs had any money to (the RPO has no funding). ETQG should get the RPOs support but probably would not receive any funding directly from them. The next RPO meetings are November 13.

## **9. Other Business**

- **Letter from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designating this area nonattainment for 24-hour PM2.5 standard. Attachment #9.**

Governor Bredesen received a letter on October 8 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designating counties in the Knoxville area as nonattainment for the daily PM2.5 air quality standard. Mike Conger stated that according to information he had heard from the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation and the Knox County Department of Air Quality Management there were technical issues with the monitoring data that was collected and that in reality we are attaining this standard. He stated that the process would most likely be to repetition the EPA for a redesignation to attainment status once enough good data was collected, but that he did not know the timeframe for that. In the meantime he stated that this designation will require that the TPO prepare a transportation conformity determination within one year of the effective date which will be after the final designation is published in the Federal Register.

Mike Ragsdale stated that our air is cleaner than it has been in the last 30 years. Until Congress goes after the ones causing the pollution, we will continue to have the problem. TVA is making great progress. We need to send a signal back to Congress that we are not contributing to the problem, but it comes from other states and people traveling through here. Vehicle testing is a challenging problem. Mayor Don Mull stated that we all want cleaner air, but the standards keep being raised. Mayor Ralph McGill stated that we seem to ignore the big contributors to pollution.

Mike Conger stated that there have also been changes made to the ozone standard that was last set in 1997. This standard was previously reviewed and lowered from 80 to 75 parts per billion over an 8-hour period. The EPA has put off designations under the new standards to further review the scientific data which had recommended lowering the standard even further to perhaps as low as 60 parts per billion. The new schedule is to announce the level of the ozone standard in December of this year and make nonattainment designations in August 2010.

- **Technical Committee Meeting, November 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**
- **There will need to be a special board meeting in November/December to address priority projects and other issues.**

Mayor Mull would like to direct Jeff Welch to plan a luncheon for the legislative delegation tentatively to be held in Blount County.

#### **10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.