

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., July 28, 2010
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on July 28 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Don Mull, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Doyle Arp	Mayor, Loudon County
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*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
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Tank Strickland	Knox County Commission Chair
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Bruce Wuethrich	for Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Knox County
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Tameka Macon	Federal Highway Administration
Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Barbara Monty	Community Action Committee
Charlie O'Neill	Federal Highway Administration
Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

1. Approval of May 26, 2010, Minutes

Presenter: Don Mull, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of May 26, 2010, TPO Executive Board minutes. **Attachment #1.**

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Tank Strickland to approve the May 26 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2011 and FY 2012

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #2a Resolution and #2b - Final Draft UPWP for FY 2011 and FY 2012.

Background: This is the first time that the TPO has submitted a multi-year work program. The proposed work program covers both FY 2011 and 2012. Both TDOT and FHWA have reviewed and approved the UPWP. The Technical Committee recommends approval of the UPWP.

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee, TDOT and FHWA have reviewed and provided comment on the draft UPWP. Jeff also noted that the draft UPWP had been discussed several time previously at the Executive Board meetings. During the last TPO certification process, FHWA recommended that the TPOs develop a two-year UPWP. Jeff discussed some of the major projects, which include maintaining the travel demand model, examining the impact of the new census data, air quality assessment and impacts, and continuing work with other modes including transit, bicycles, sidewalks and greenways (pedestrian planning). The TPO will also be preparing a new Transportation Improvement Plan and amending the Mobility Plan. Two major work initiatives the TPO hopes to undertake during this work program is an update to the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture study and an urban transit corridor study of the regional area. The budget tables are subject to change depending on funding availability. Amendments can be made to the UPWP as needed.

A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by Mayor Doyle Arp to approve the resolution to approve the UPWP for FY2011 and FY 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

Charlie O'Neill from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) stated that moving to a multi-year UPWP had been recommended during the last TPO review process and was glad that the TPO followed through on the recommendation. He announced the names of the new FHWA division administrator and assistant administrator.

3. Approval of a resolution to amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program allocating \$1,818,187 of local STP funds to Knoxville Central Station Project

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: City of Knoxville through KAT has requested \$1,818,187 of TPO Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to help fill a budget gap for the new Knoxville Central Station transit center. The current estimated TPO STP funding balance is \$35,000,000.

Background: Attachment #3a - Resolution and #3b - Request from City of Knoxville/KAT for STP funds for Knoxville Central Station.

The City of Knoxville and Knoxville Area Transit are in need of additional funding to help fill a budget gap for the new Knoxville Central Station. Jeff Welch stated that STP funds are eligible and available at the local level, and there is a match available for the Knoxville Central Station. The Technical Committee recommends approval of this item to the Executive Board.

A motion was made by Mayor Tom Taylor and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution to amend the TIP for STP funds for the Knoxville Central Station Project. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of a resolution authorizing that any ARRA funds not obligated by TPO members by August 31, 2010 be used by TDOT for a project in the urban area

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff provided an update on the status of ARRA funded projects.

Background: All funds must be obligated by August 31, 2010. Any funds not obligated to local ARRA projects will be turned over to TDOT for expenditures on a project in the TPO planning area. **Attachment #4a - Resolution and #4b - Additional Usage of ARRA Funds by Town of Farragut.**

Jeff Welch stated that this is necessary to pass this resolution allowing TDOT to use economic stimulus dollars that are not obligated. This is a contingency measure that if all of the dollars can not be spent by local jurisdictions, TDOT would have the authority to spend the remaining funding. TDOT will use the funds in our urbanized area. This will prevent any funding being returned to the federal government and being spent elsewhere in the United States. Jeff listed all the money that has been spent on projects. Staff will send all the information to TDOT by this Friday. The Technical Committee recommends approval of this resolution.

Dale Hurst asked about using those funds for cost overruns, and Jeff said they would not be available for that purpose because the deadline for spending ARRA funds is soon and carrying over funds beyond the deadline is prohibited.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the resolution authorizing any ARRA funds not obligated by TPO members by August 31, 2010, be used by TDOT for a project in the urban area.

5. Review of FY 2011-2014 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff continues to address comments from TDOT on the draft TIP. Final comments from TDOT were received on July 7th. A new draft TIP addressing TDOT's comments will now be sent to FHWA for a 30-day review period.

Background: **Attachment #5 - Draft FY 2011-2014 TIP summary sheets.**

Katie Habgood stated that the staff has been developing the new four-year TIP. The TIP will come back to the Executive Board in September for adoption. TDOT has reviewed the entire document, including the air quality section. A summary of all the projects is included. FHWA is reviewing the TIP now. The full TIP will be available online soon with all the summary sheets. Contact Katie if you want a copy of the summary sheets. The TPO still has a projected \$10 million STP balance at the end of the TIP period (2014).

6. Review of CMAQ projects submitted to TDOT for funding this fiscal year

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff completed the emission analysis for the CMAQ projects that local governments submitted for consideration for funding by TDOT. The applications and emissions analysis had to be submitted to TDOT on July 2.

Background: Attachment #6 - List of CMAQ Projects Submitted to TDOT.

Jeff Welch stated that nonattainment areas have access to Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. In the past TDOT allocated the TPO CMAQ funds and the TPO determined which projects to fund. But last year, TDOT has requested that the Metropolitan Planning Organizations statewide submit applications to TDOT and TDOT evaluates all of the projects together. The Technical Committee was made aware of the projects being submitted to TDOT. Jeff, Mike Conger and Katie Habgood made a presentation in Nashville last week about the TPO area CMAQ projects. TDOT is reviewing those projects to decide which ones to fund. Whatever projects are funded by TDOT will be added to the new TIP.

7. Impact that the decision by TDOT to select the No Build Alternative for SR-475/Knoxville Parkway will have on the TPO planning process

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: On June 25, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced that the department has selected the no-build alternative for SR-475/Knoxville Parkway. The TPO and TDOT will now concentrate on identifying other projects and management practices to improve and maintain traffic in the north and western parts of the TPO study areas.

Background: After more than 10 years of discussion and analysis, TDOT has determined that work on the Knoxville Parkway project will end with the preparation of the Supplemental EIS. The Supplemental EIS will recommend a no-build alternative for the Parkway (SR-475).

Jeff stated that the basis for TDOT's decision not to build SR-475/Knoxville Parkway was the cost. The funding is not there. Also, the parkway may not have diverted enough traffic away from I-40/75 to make it worthwhile. The TPO will work with TDOT in identifying programs and projects to mitigate problems that the parkway was meant to solve. The projects would be included in the Long Range Mobility Plan.

8. Other Business/Staff Updates

Lingering Federal budget issues

There was discussion about a supplement to the Appropriations Bill. The House of Representatives yesterday passed funding for education, etc. The Senate and House are still working on the budget. The reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU has not been passed yet. They may do something in January or after the next Presidential election.

August 10, 2010, Technical Committee meeting, Small Assembly Room, City/County Building

CANCEL August 25, 2010, Executive Board meeting

September 22, 2010, Executive Board Meeting to adopt the TIP and LRMP

Ribbon cutting for Knoxville Central Station, August 13 at 11 a.m.

Cindy McGinnis of KAT invited everyone to come to the ribbon cutting for the new Knoxville Central Station.

Neighborhood Bike Ride/Bicycle Ambassador Program

Ellen Zavisca announced that Kelley Segars, bicycle program manager, is planning the 10th annual neighborhood bike ride, which will be October 2. It is about a 10-mile ride, and 200 or more cyclists are expected. Kelley is training Bicycle Ambassadors to help improve the safety behavior of bicyclists. She has trained more than twenty volunteers so far.

Ellen provided an update on the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council, which is advocating and coordinating greenways in the Knoxville region. They received a grant to do marketing materials and have developed a map to show kayakers where to put their boats in and where to get out. There is a plan to link greenways from Knox to Blount and eventually to the Smokies.

Jeff Welch stated that there is a study beginning on a controversial highway project called 3rd Infantry Highway. The route is proposed to link Savannah and Augusta, Georgia to Knoxville.

Mike Conger stated that amendments are being made to the Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan in order to maintain consistency with the projects in the updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mike noted that in September the Executive Board will be asked to approve the updated TIP, the Mobility Plan and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination. He distributed a summary of the amendments. The Mobility Plan was adopted in May 2009. Mike gave reasons why the amendments had to be made. Table 1 shows all projects in nonattainment areas that will need to be pushed back to 2024. Table 2 shows two projects that were moved ahead. They are I-40/SR 66 interchange and Concord Road, Turkey Creek to Northshore Drive. There are four new projects that have been added since the plan was adopted. Finally, some projects are being dropped, like the Knoxville Regional Parkway. Mike briefly discussed the Executive Summary of the Air Quality Conformity Determination, which summarizes the air quality analysis. Our area is nonattainment for ozone and PM2.5 and we were able to demonstrate air quality conformity of the updated plans. Angie Midgett complimented Mike for making the list easy to understand.

Jeff stated that the staff is working with other agencies and jurisdictions in the community on a Sustainability Community Grant through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The application includes the area defined by the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boundary. The grant is due on August 23. If it is successful, portions of the work and findings will be included in the Mobility Plan update. The committee is looking at housing, transportation, land use, and environmental and sustainable practices. The City of Knoxville is the lead applicant.

Jeff announced that Tank Strickland and Doyle Arp are leaving offices in September. There will also be new mayors in Knox and Blount and Loudon Counties. He thanked them for their participation on the Executive Board.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.