

Attachment #1

**TPO Executive Board
9 a.m., September 22, 2010
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on September 22 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.

*Perrin Anderson	for Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
*Tim Burchett	Knox County Mayor
*Mike Hammond	Knox County Commission Chair
*Steve King	for Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Ed Mitchell, Blount County
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Brenda Palmer	for Vice Mayor Bob Becker, City of Knoxville
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Don Brown	East Tennessee Development District
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kathy DeLozier	Blount Chamber
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Tameka Macon	Federal Highway Administration
Barbara Monty	Community Action Committee
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Pat Phillips	Loudon County
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Dean Rice	Knox County Mayor's office
Finbarr Saunders	Bearden Council
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

Mayor Don Mull announced the new TPO Executive Board members:

Mayor Tim Burchett, Knox County

Commissioner Mike Hammond, Chair of Knox County Commission (previous Board member representing the East Tennessee Development District)

Mayor Estelle Herron, Loudon County

Mayor Ed Mitchell, Blount County

Commissioner Ed Shouse, Knox County Commission, representing the East Tennessee Development District (letter received September 14)

1. Approval of July 28, 2010 Minutes

Presenter: Don Mull, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of July 28, 2010, TPO Executive Board minutes. **Attachment #1.**

A motion was made by Brenda Palmer and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to approve a resolution adopting amendments to the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: MPOs shall amend the Long Range Transportation Plan (called the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan) as necessary to meet the community's needs and respond to changing federal legislation. In development of the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for both the Knoxville Regional TPO and the Lakeway Area Metropolitan TPO, it was determined that the overall long range transportation plan would need to be amended to meet the requirement that the projects included in the TIP are a direct subset of the conforming long range transportation plan. The Interagency Consultation Committee consisting of TDOT, FHWA, EPA, and others had no formal comments on these amendments. The amendments to the plan are available on the TPO website (www.knoxtrans.org). **Attachment #2a** - Resolution amending the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan.

Attachment #2b - September 2010 Amendments to the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan.

Background: The amendments to the plan are scheduled for adoption by the Board on September 22, 2010. The amendments are available for public review and comment until then. A public meeting was held September 9, 2010.

Mike Conger stated that the staff is asking for approval of the amendments to the Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. In order to be eligible for federal funding, projects must be included in this Plan, which covers the entire nonattainment area. The Plan was originally adopted in May 2009, and it has to be updated at least every 4 years and more frequently if necessary to include any changes or amendments. Mike discussed the reason for the amendments, which were mainly due to the need for consistency with the projects programmed in the updated TIP Program that is next on the agenda for adoption. Mike noted the five categories of amendments which included

moving projects back to a later horizon year, moving projects ahead to a nearer term horizon year, changing of some project descriptions, adding new projects and dropping some projects. The Knoxville Regional Beltway project was an example of a project that was dropped since TDOT announced that the project was being halted. He pointed out two maps he has displayed which are showing the amended projects and also one showing all projects in the Plan broken out by their horizon year.

A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve the resolution adopting amendments to the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to approve a resolution adopting the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Every two years a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is prepared by the TPO. The new TIP covers the fiscal years of 2011-2014. Comments from TDOT and FHWA have been addressed in the final draft TIP. The three enhancement projects just announced by the Governor are included in the TIP. **Attachment #3a** - Resolution adopting the 2011-2014 TIP. **Attachment #3b** - 2011-2014 TIP background pages. **Attachment #3c** - 2011-2014 TIP project summary pages. The entire TIP can be viewed on the TPO website (www.knoxtrans.org).

Background: The new TIP is scheduled for adoption by the Board on September 22, 2010. The amendments are available for public review and comment until then. A public meeting was held September 9, 2010.

Katie Habgood stated the TIP is a short-range capital plan that is updated every 3 years. If state or federal funds are used in local projects, the projects must be in the TIP and LRTP. The plan has been reviewed by a group called the Interagency Consultation (IAC) group, who are state and federal partners who oversee air quality conformity issues. Some of the 2008 TIP projects were not carried forward; either funding was rescinded or projects were completed and, therefore, those projects were deleted. Public meetings were held and we have received comments. TDOT and FHWA have reviewed the document.

Mayor Tim Burchett asked about the widening of State Route 62, Western Avenue, included in project Nos. 610 and 612 of Attachment #3c. Jeff Welch stated that Brenda Palmer had a public meeting concerning this project. There are right-of-way and drainage issues. Construction should begin in the fall of 2011. They have programmed construction funds for it. Brenda Palmer stated that the storm water issues have been resolved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE HAMMOND AND SECONDED BY BRENDA PALMER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Motion to approve a resolution finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan as amended and the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The conformity determination addresses the planned transportation improvements included in the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan as amended and covers the entire Knoxville Ozone and PM2.5 Nonattainment Areas. In conducting the analysis to determine conformity, the TPO staff used the latest emissions model approved by the EPA, and conformity was demonstrated using the required emissions tests. The 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the regional mobility plan and therefore is part of this conformity determination. **Attachment #4a** - Resolution. **Attachment #4b** - Air Quality Conformity Determination Report.

Background: The preparation of the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report was coordinated with stakeholder and regulatory agencies through the Interagency Consultation process. The report is available on the TPO website (www.knoxtrans.org).

Mike Conger stated that Attachment #4b is the Executive Summary for air quality conformity determination. As a nonattainment area we are required to do transportation conformity to receive federal funds. This is done by using a technical analysis with two different models, a travel demand forecasting model and an emissions factor model from EPA known as MOBILE6. We calculate the amount of emissions that are expected based on implementation of all the projects included in the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and compare that amount against an allowed emissions budget for three different horizon years of 2014, 2024 and 2034. He stated that the analysis performed by the TPO demonstrated that the emissions generated by the transportation sector would be within the allowed amount and that the Plan and TIP are therefore in conformity.

Jeff Welch stated that we have met all the federal requirements to continue to receive federal funding. He noted that since Jefferson County is included in the nonattainment area, the Lakeway Area TPO is also required to demonstrate conformity and they will be approving their plan updates at a meeting later today. The TPO includes the projects from the Lakeway mobility plan in one single analysis for the entire nonattainment area.

Mayor Burchett stated that new EPA requirements are coming out in the next few months and asked if we will have to come back when that changes. Mike Conger responded that the EPA is making the standards tighter. The latest information is that a new standard will come out in October 2010 and areas will probably be officially designated in October 2011. The official designation will start a one year clock for demonstrating conformity, which will be due in October 2012 under the current schedule. Mayor McGill asked what the measures have been put in place to reduce emissions and reach attainment. Mike Conger responded that there are different sources of the emissions that cause the nonattainment such as industries, power plants

and motor vehicles. He stated that the main reason for emission reductions being projected for the future has to do with the tighter emission standards for new vehicles. He noted that so far the area has not been required to have vehicle emission inspections, but that it was still a possibility for the future depending on the level of the new Ozone standard. Mayor Mull stated that it was frustrating that as soon as we attain the standard, EPA raises the bar again. Mike replied that EPA was required to reanalyze the standards periodically and that they set them based on the scientific analysis showing what is needed to protect human health.

A motion was made by Mike Hammond and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the resolution finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan as amended and the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion for approval of a certification that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements

The Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: This self-certification must be done every four years according to the Code of Federal Regulation - 23 CFR 450.334. **Attachment #5** - Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification.

Background: The certification is to be included as part of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Jeff Welch stated this is a requirement that we do a self certification every four years. TDOT and FHWA come to our office at that time to verify we are meeting the requirements.

A motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Mayor Tim Burchett for approval of a certification that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Welch introduced the TPO staff and stated they are helping the TPO to continue receiving federal funds.

6. Discussion of the impact that the recent congressionally mandated \$2.2 billion rescission had on TDOT and the TPO

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Tennessee was required to return \$45.9 million of unobligated transportation funds to the U.S. government. The sub-allocated Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that the TPO receives were not subject to this rescission as well as some safety and rail crossing programs. TDOT returned funds from the following programs: Enhancement (\$21.75 million), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) (\$21.75 million), State Planning & Research (SPR) (\$2 million), and various other funding programs (\$400,000).

Background: TDOT was required to tell FHWA what program areas and the amount that each program area would be impacted by August 24.

Jeff Welch stated that we have had to deal with rescissions taking away \$9 billion nationwide. The state had to turn back \$46 million of unobligated money to the federal government. He read the list of each program that lost money and how much. The largest impact is to the CMAQ program which allows funds for buses, CAC, KAT, sidewalk improvements, etc. Over \$9 million in CMAQ projects was requested and may not get funded.

Ed Shouse asked if this is common to return funds, and Jeff responded it has only happened three times. Congress is looking at projects that are not moving forward as quickly as possible and funds not being obligated. He asked if federal dollars were obligated to the Orange Route (SR475), and Jeff stated that no local dollars were earmarked because TDOT was spending federal dollars.

7. Summary of three applications that local jurisdictions submitted to compete for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or US DOT funding programs **Presenter:** TPO Staff

Item Summary: Three grant applications were submitted by local jurisdictions. Two were for U.S. Housing and Urban Development Community Challenge Grants and one was for a Regional Planning Grant:

- The City of Knoxville submitted a \$500,000 Community Challenge grant request for an I-275 Industrial Corridor Assessment and Planning Study. Funding would be used for planning, zoning changes, and environmental assessments. The City has committed a 20 percent match.
- The City of Oak Ridge submitted a \$750,000 Community Challenge grant request for the development of a multi-phased planning process that will result in a plan that addresses transit, infrastructure, and redevelopment needs and creates a form based code for the City of Oak Ridge. The City and its partners have committed to providing a 28.5 percent match.
- The City of Knoxville and MPC submitted a \$4.3 million grant request for the development of a comprehensive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development for the metropolitan statistical area. Consortium partners have committed to a 57 percent match of in-kind services.

Jeff Welch stated there was nationwide competition for the grant programs, and it may be two to six months before we know if they were funded.

8. 3rd Infantry Division Highway Corridor Study (Savannah to Knoxville)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: On August 10, 2005, the legislation to study this corridor was signed into law as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU does not designate the 3rd Infantry Division Highway as an interstate or future interstate. The legislation does, however, provide funding for a corridor study, "from Savannah, Georgia to Knoxville, Tennessee, by way of Augusta, Georgia." The initial phase of this project includes the study of preliminary corridor alignments and cost/data collection as well as input from the Expert Working Group and the public.

Subsequent phases may include development of project impacts as well as long-term operations and maintenance costs if warranted. The TPO staff is participating on the Working Group. Additional information on this project can be found on the following website (www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/sec1927corridors.htm).

Attachment #6 –Draft Initial Study Area Map of 3rd Infantry Division Highway.

Background: The study will take approximately one year to complete. The study will then be sent to Congress pursuant to the legislative language. Whether or to what extent to use information will be the decision of state, regional, or local agencies.

In 2005 Congress passed SAFETEA-LU and in it stated a study shall be done from Savannah to Augusta to Knoxville. It has cost \$1.3 million for this study. The agencies must report back to Congress for a cost estimate. FHWA has hired consultants. The group met last Thursday to discuss this project. There will be public meetings. One of the roadways they are looking at is I-85 to Knoxville. They will look at four or five alternatives and will use existing corridors. The purpose is to provide more connections to Savannah. Mike Hammond asked if we should take a position on this, and Jeff responded we will later. He will share information as more meetings are held.

9. Other Business

Neighborhood Bike Ride 10th Anniversary Edition, Saturday, October 2. Visit TPO website (www.knoxtrans.org)

Kelley Segars stated that the League of American Bicyclists named Knoxville as a bronze level. She thanked all the city departments who supported us.

She announced that the 10th annual bike ride will be held on October 2. All ages and skill levels are invited. She encouraged members of the Executive Board to participate. She will work with other communities if they want one in their area. The 2009 Regional Bicycle Plan was adopted by Knoxville City Council and Knox County Commission this spring. The bicycle counts will come out on October 14.

Tennessee American Planning Association (TAPA) and the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (TSITE) Conference, September 29-October 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Downtown Knoxville (www.tnapa.org for more information)

Jeff Welch announced the TAPA conference is next week. Cindy Pionke is a co chair along with Monica Austin.

Tennessee Public Transportation Association (TPTA) Annual Conference, October 12-15 at the Knoxville Downtown Hilton Hotel (www.tntransit.org for more information)

Cindy McGinnis and her staff are hosting this conference and will be showcasing the new transit center.

Technical Committee Meeting, October 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Executive Board Meeting, October 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. Jeff Welch stated there is a possibility this meeting will be cancelled.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

John Lamb announced that Jeff Welch has served as the TPO Director for 25 years.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.