

Attachment #1

TPO Executive Board Minutes 9 a.m., April 27, 2011 Small Assembly Room City/County Building Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Mike Hammond, Chair of the Executive Board, presided. It was determined a quorum was present.

*Perrin Anderson	for Mayor Larry Waters, Sevier County
*Chris Hamby	for Mayor Don Mull, City of Alcoa
*Mike Hammond	Knox County Commission
*Estelle Herron	Mayor, Loudon County
*Steve King	for Mayor Daniel Brown, City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Mayor Ed Mitchell, Blount County
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Brenda Palmer	for Vice Mayor Joe Bailey, City of Knoxville
*Cindy Pionke	for Mayor Tim Burchett, Knox County
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Brian Boone	City of Maryville
Tim Burchett	Mayor, Knox County
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Fitzgerald	City of Oak Ridge
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
Dean Rice	Knox County
Jamie Rowe	Citizen
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Mark Watson	City Manager, City of Oak Ridge
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*Voting Member

1. Approval of February 23, 2011, minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: Mike Hammond, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of February 23, 2011, TPO Executive Board minutes.

Attachment #1.

A motion was made by Brenda Palmer and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the February 23 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approval of Resolution to Amendment the FY 2011-12 Unified Planning Work Program
The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of this motion.**

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: A consortium of partners representing the Knoxville MSA was successful in receiving funding from HUD to develop regional plan for livability. Staff for the Knoxville Regional TPO and Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission will lead the planning effort. As a result the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program needs to be amended to reflect this effort over the next several years. TPO staff time working on this effort will be used as leveraged resources to match HUD planning funds. No additional funds are coming to the TPO. **Attachment #2a – Resolution. Attachment #2b. Recommended Text Addition to the Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 Transportation Planning Work Program**

Jeff Welch discussed the Work Program and stated its purpose is for transportation planning studies. It has to be amended to recognize the HUD grant. TPO will be assisting in this planning process over the next three years, which includes the Metropolitan Statistical Area. TPO staff time working on this effort will be used as leveraged resources to match HUD planning funds. No additional funds will be available. Jeff asked that the following language be added to the FY 2011 and FY 2012 Transportation Planning Work Program (Work Program Priorities section (page 4)).

A consortium, including the public and private sector and many participants of the TPO, was successful in receiving a Housing and Urban Development planning grant to fund a comprehensive regional plan for the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area. This effort will allow the region to address critical issues such as air and water quality, economic development, housing, livable communities and mobility access from a broad perspective.

TPO staff will assist in a variety of ways including public participation, scenario planning and technical assistance. TPO staff and other resources will help leverage HUD planning funds. This effort will transect most of the planning work program activities identified in the FY 2011 and FY 2012 transportation planning work program.

The Technical Committee recommends approval.

A motion was made by Brenda Palmer and seconded by Chris Hamby to approve the amendment to the 2011-12 Work Program. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of this motion.

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #3 – Resolution

The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments.

- a. Add TIP Project 2011-324 (CMAQ Cost Overruns). This project is to cover cost overruns on project phases. **Attachment #3a.** This amendment is per TDOT's request.
- b. Amend TIP Project 2011-035 (Chapman Highway Improvements). Add a new phase under FY 2011 in the amount of \$1,149,850 for ROW & CONST. This amendment is per TDOT's request. **Attachment #3b.**

Jeff Welch stated that two projects are being added to the TIP. One is from TDOT to cover cost overruns. The second project is Chapman Highway improvements from Boyds Creek Highway to Macon Lane.

A motion was made by Ed Shouse and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the amendments to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of a motion to direct TPO staff to reassess the Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries for consideration of expansion of those boundaries and further the staff should use as a starting point for this assessment the entire combined Statistical Area (the Knoxville MSA and adjacent counties).

The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of this motion.

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The City of Oak Ridge has sought a state law that would require the TPO to add them on the TPO Executive Board. The TPO has its authority delegated by the U.S. Congress and federal regulations that define minimum responsibilities and requirements. Membership is more specifically defined by the Bylaws for the Executive Board and Technical Committee. **Attachment #4** – Federal Regulations defining metropolitan planning area boundaries. Specifically see section 450.312 (a) and (i).

Jeff gave a history of the TPO boundaries. The Knoxville Urban Area MPO, now known as the TPO, was established in 1977. The urbanized area initially included all of the City of Knoxville and a surrounding portion of Knox County. In 1980 the urban area was expanded to include more of Knox County, including the Town of Farragut and to include portions of Blount County, including Alcoa and Maryville. In 1990 they were expanded more to include the nonattainment areas. This brought in all of Knox County. In 2000 the boundaries were changed to include more of Blount County, parts of Loudon County, including Lenoir City, and the Seymour area of Sevier County. The TPO is required to look at the metropolitan planning area boundaries every ten years. The federal regulations allow for the TPO planning area to include the urban area and that area which the TPO's may become urbanized over the next 20 years. Funding comes from the urbanized area population (as defined by the Census) and if we expand, no additional funding will be available.

Tom Beehan, Mayor City of Oak Ridge, stated that the HUD grant includes Oak Ridge. Eighty percent of Oak Ridge's employees come from other towns, and many are from Knox County. He thanked the TPO for their consideration of this matter.

For the 2010 Census the urban boundary information is schedule to be available in October of 2012. The 2010 Census is supposed to include a change to the definition of how to define an urban boundary that could allow Oak Ridge to be included in the Knoxville Urban Area. However, even if Oak Ridge is not included, the TPO can include them if it is felt they would be part of the urbanized area over the next 20 years. To determine the possible 20 year urban boundary involves a comprehensive study looking at a variety of attributes. A comprehensive and systematic process would be consistent with federal regulations.

Mark Watson, City Manager of Oak Ridge, gave a presentation showing why Oak Ridge should be included in the TPO Planning Area and why it should be represented on the TPO Executive Board. Oak Ridge was a sponsor for the recent East Tennessee Quality Growth conference; they endorsed the HUD grant; they were the host for the TVA Small Modular Reactor Project, and they participated in the planning for alternatives to the beltway. Only 20 percent of the people who work at DOE live in Oak Ridge, and the others live in the surrounding counties. The slides showed how commuters travel into-and-out of the area. Oak Ridge has done traffic counts for the surrounding streets which show them to be very congested during peak hours. Mr. Watson showed pictures of traffic during rush hour. Oak Ridge needs to be a part of a regional transportation system. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Executive Board. Oak Ridge would like to be a part of the TPO to help benefit the region.

Jeff said he has discussed this issue with TDOT and FHWA and they agree the federal process should be followed and that the TPO staff should conduct a comprehensive review of the boundaries to ascertain if other areas should also be included. Jeff noted that after debate at the Technical Committee they have recommended to the Executive Board that a comprehensive analysis of this issue be conducted by the TPO staff and that recommendations be brought back to the Technical Committee and Executive Board. Jeff Welch stated that if this motion is approved, staff will work towards bringing a recommendation to the Technical Committee and Executive Board meeting at their respective August meetings.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Cindy Pionke to request TPO staff to reassess the Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries and staff should use as a starting point for this assessment the entire combined Statistical Area (the Knoxville MSA and adjacent counties). The motion carried unanimously.

5. Federal Funding and Legislation

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief overview of the discussion that is occurring at the federal level regarding federal transportation funding.

Jeff stated that Congress signed an appropriations bill with significant cuts to the programs. High speed rail's budget was frozen at the 2010 level, and earmarks were cut out. The transportation budget is down 20-25 percent.

6. Other business

Technical Committee Meeting, May 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Executive Board Meeting, May 25 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Ed Shouse asked why Sevier County was dropped from the MSA. Jeff Welch stated they are their own Micropolitan Statistical Area.

Terry Gilhula of MPC stated that Sevier County was removed because of the lack of commuting interaction. There has to be more economic exchange between the two areas for them to be included.

Jeff Welch discussed a letter from Paul Degges, Chief Engineer with TDOT, to Mike Hammond. The current balance of STP funds available to our TPO urbanized area for obligation is \$35 million. Jeff stated one of the problems is that it takes 8-12 years for a road construction project to be completed from design through construction. Jeff noted we should be able to obligate \$16 million. The TPO receives about \$7.5 million a year. STP dollars require an 80/20 match. It is important that each TPO jurisdiction determine if they can accelerate projects and get the funding obligated. If funding is left un-obligated it is subject to lapse or Congress can rescind it. One issue is that some of the funding is getting close to lapsing. TDOT tries to protect the lapsing STP funding by using it on other State projects in the Knoxville urban area and then repaying it back with “newer” STP funds. This process helps keep the funding in Tennessee and the Knoxville area without having it revert by to FHWA.

TDOT opened the next round of CMAQ funding. Applications for projects are due to the TPO staff next Friday. TDOT will choose the projects later this summer, and we may get 100 percent funding for any project that addresses air quality. Staff will study how projects help on emissions.

7. Public comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.