

TPO Executive Board Minutes
April 24, 2013
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 24, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, Tennessee. Mayor Ralph McGill chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*Amy Broyles	Knox County Commission, <i>for Tony Norman</i>
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, <i>for Brenda Palmer</i>
*Dale Hurst	Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), Region 1
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of March 27, 2013 Minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: Mayor Ralph McGill, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of March 27, 2013 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

Attachment #1 - March 27, 2013 Minutes

Action: A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the March 27, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TPO staff presented an overview of the Draft 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity on March 27, 2013. TPO released a first draft of the Plan on December 6, 2012. On February 27, 2013, a second draft was released that reflected comments from TDOT. From March 1 to April 1, 2013, the Draft Plan was released for public comment. On April 3, 2013 a final draft was released that reflected comments from the public, FHWA, and FTA. This final draft is available at www.knoxtrans.org/mobilityplan.

Public comments indicate that the first chapter was useful in helping the public to better understand the TPO process, however overall half continue to find the Plan difficult to read. To address this, TPO staff is working on an Executive Summary to assist users to catch the high points of the Plan without being bogged down in some of the dense details. In addition, staff received a comment that the Pellissippi Pkwy extension should not be pursued but that we should prioritize fixing existing roads first.

Federal review only brought seven required changes, including minor map changes, additional citations, minor language changes, and changes in funding allocations – none of which required changes to the project lists. FHWA and FTA also included numerous questions, comments, and suggestions. TPO staff responded to each and worked to make as many changes as feasible, however none of the changes were substantive in nature. Additional changes ranged from additional or clarified language to the addition of maps and numerous links to TPO work online. Technical Committee recommends approval of the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan.

Attachment #2 – 2040 Regional Mobility Plan Resolution

Handout #2a – Mobility Plan Highlights

Discussion: Alan Huff (TPO) reviewed the Draft timeline, comments, and an overview of the federal input. He briefly reviewed the handout outlining Highlights of the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The overview includes a breakdown of the Plan project expenditures projected over the next 27 years. Mr. Huff noted the Plan covers an 8 county area served by multiple transportation planning organizations. The area covered by the Plan encompasses the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), the PlanET Region (based on the 2003 Metropolitan Statistical Area-MSA) and the Air Quality Non-Attainment Area. The Overview includes demonstration of mandated financial constraint of the Plan. The complete Overview is available at the following http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/apr13/mobility_plan_pres.pdf Jeff Welch noted staff is requesting approval of the Resolution to adopt the Plan from the Board.

Public Comment: Prior to action on the Mobility Plan, members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person. Jeff Welch (TPO) asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

Action: A Motion was made by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Jack Qualls (TDOT, Region 1) to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Air quality conformity of new transportation plans is required due to the Knoxville Region's status as an air quality nonattainment area for ozone and PM2.5. The TPO staff has prepared a report that demonstrates that the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements from the EPA Clean Air Act. A regional emissions analysis was conducted which determined that the implementation of projects included in the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan will not cause or contribute to any new violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), increase the frequency or severity of NAAQS violations; or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. Technical Committee recommends approval of the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan.

Attachment #3 – Air Quality Conformity Determination Resolution

Attachment #3a – Conformity Determination Executive Summary

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) referenced the Executive Summary (Attachment #3a) which provides an overview of the conformity process and the tests used to show that both the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan demonstrate air quality conformity.

He further noted throughout the process of developing the Plan and the Conformity Determination, staff has been working closely with their Interagency Consultation Group, which is made up of our regulatory agencies and federal review partners such as EPA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), state partners TDOT and TDEC in addition to our local air quality agency. Mr. Conger stated staff is requesting approval of the Resolution to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Plan from the Board. He noted that if approved, the Plan will be sent to the FHWA and Federal Transit Administration, who coordinating with EPA will make a final conformity finding, the deadline for which is June 1st. Mr. Conger noted Lakeway MPTO is meeting later today to also adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination as their area coincides with the a shared portion of the non-attainment area in Jefferson County.

Mr. Conger clarified that for any air quality standard for which we are in non-attainment, EPA will set a level that needs to be attained based on how far off the standard the monitors indicate that we are. This would include a time frame for that level to be attained. He noted a State Implementation Plan is developed under which emissions are measured. Modeling is done to see whether or not we will attain the standard within the set time frame. If necessary, the Plan will encompass measures to ensure attainment such as industry controls and/or vehicle emissions testing. He noted the only standard we are currently in non-attainment for is the 2008 ozone standard.

Public Comment: Prior to action on the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan, members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person. Mike Conger (TPO) asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

Action: A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

■ Action □ Possible Action □ Discussion

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments. Technical Committee recommends approval.

Attachment #4 – TIP Resolution

Attachment #4a –TIP Amendment 2011-020 (Cumberland Ave (US-70/11 and SR-1) Phase I) and TIP Amendment 2011-088 (Cumberland Ave (US-70/11 and SR-1) Phase II) – Amend the project by splitting it into two phases. The first project phase is 2011-020 and runs from Alcoa Hwy to 22nd Street. The second project phase is new project 2011-088 and runs from 22nd Street to 16th Street. Amend project 2011-020 by moving \$4,200,000 (\$3,360,000 federal and \$840,000 local) in L-STP funds from FY 2011 and 2012 to FY 2013 for utility work (gas, water, sewer, storm water), signal poles, widened sidewalks to University Commons and Tyson Park, and repaving/stripping work where the street will maintain its existing cross section; it may also include a westbound right turn lane at the Alcoa Hwy intersection. Move the remaining \$10,400,000 in L-STP funds from project 2011-020 to FY 2014 in project 2011-088, along with an additional \$2,432,831 in L-STP funds for a total project cost of \$12,832,831 (\$10,266,265 federal and \$2,566,566 local). It is to include the road diet and major streetscape work.

Attachment #4b - Short Conformity Report for April 2013 Knoxville Regional TPO TIP Amendment

Discussion: Bryan Berry (MPC) reviewed the proposed amendments. Jeff Welch (TPO) noted the existing Cumberland Avenue project is being split into 2 phases to accommodate economic development, specifically University Commons.

Anne Wallace (City of Knoxville) noted elements of the streetscape project include reducing the lanes on Cumberland Avenue to increase the sidewalk width to provide a pedestrian buffer zone that also includes street trees, plants, benches, trash cans and recycling to improve the pedestrian experience of the corridor. She noted the work also helps to control the turn movements along the corridor. The project will include a median between 22nd Street and 17th Street in order to direct the left turn movement to produce a reduction in the number of conflicts and also to improve the overall traffic flow and safety along the corridor for both pedestrians and motorists. She further noted the project does include moving the utility lines off of the street. Ms. Wallace then reviewed the timeline for both phases of the project.

Action: A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve the Resolution to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Summary of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects Submitted

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO received a total of 49 project applications for the upcoming FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A list summarizing those preliminary applications will be handed out to the committee for review. Staff will prioritize the projects and make recommendations for funding. TDOT also released their three year program of projects. The years covered are 2014-2016.

Attachment #5a – Summary of TIP Applications, by Funding and Agency

Attachment #5b – Summary of TIP Applications, by Project

Attachment #5c – TDOT Three Year Program of Projects for the Knoxville Area

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted staff is required to develop a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) every 2 years. The TIP is a program of multimodal transportation projects for our region over the next 3 to 5 years. The attached list will be updated with TDOT's 3 Year program list which has just been received by staff. He noted the next step is for staff to review the applications to ensure they are eligible for funding and to look at where they may fit with the priorities in the region. Staff will then present that information to the Technical Committee and then will bring it back to the Executive Board for approval. It is then submitted to TDOT and FHWA for final approval.

6. Summary of Transportation Alternatives Program Projects Submitted

Action Possible Action Discussion

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO put out a call for projects for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, and received seven applications for funding that meet the criteria for the program. Staff will prioritize the projects and make recommendations for funding.

Attachment #6 – Summary of TAP Applications Submitted

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted that the TAP encompasses earlier programs that funded various bicycle and pedestrian projects such as the Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School and other smaller programs. Previously local governments applied to TDOT for that grant funding. Now with TAP, at least within major metropolitan areas, local governments are applying to the TPOs and MPOs for project funding. Ms. Zavisca noted we would be receiving approximately \$750,000 per year for 2 years under the TAP. She noted there was some overlap with the TIP process so a few applications that were submitted were placed under the purview of that program. Of the seven projects identified on the attached list, five are greenway projects: one in Alcoa, two in Farragut, one in Oak Ridge, and one in Knoxville requesting additional funding. Two projects were downtown ped/bike improvement projects: one a connector between two streets in Maryville and one involving some lighting and pedestrian safety improvements in Lenoir City.

7. Other Business

- PlanET is hosting Chuck Marohn from Strong Towns on Tuesday, April 30th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event is scheduled to take place in the Goins Building Auditorium on the Hardin Valley campus of Pellissippi State Community College. This will be the first in a series of speakers hosted by PlanET. He will also be speaking to the PlanET Board of Mayors earlier in the day as well as city managers from the PlanET area. Board members were encouraged to have engineers and financial staff from their jurisdictions attend.

Attachment #7– Curbside Chat Flyer

- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday May 22, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- The Baker Center welcomes former US Secretary of Energy and New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, to the Baker Center. Gov. Richardson, a longtime environmental advocate, will give the Baker Distinguished Lecture on Energy and the Environment on April 24th at 6 p.m. in the Toyota Auditorium. His topic is *Policies America Should Follow to Protect the Environment!*

Additional Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) noted there have been discussions among TPO Board members over the last several months regarding the Federal Transit Administration and transit funding. Areas that used to be eligible for rural transit funding to support services provided by ETHRA and CAC are no longer eligible as they are now included in our urbanized area. There is concern that services in those areas may be compromised as a result of that shift. In discussion with and support from Chair Mayor Magill and other Board members, staff would like to host a workshop for Executive Board and Technical Committee members to provide an overview of staff's understanding of the federal transit funding that comes to our urbanized area and review the impact of the resulting loss of funding to ETHRA and CAC. Staff would seek input from ETHRA, CAC and KAT on how these funds are received and utilized and how we can move forward with minimal impact to the public. He noted we will be inviting the Director of Multimodal Transportation from TDOT who can bring the state perspective of their response to this issue. Mr. Welch noted staff met with several people from the areas that will be impacted back in December and further noted we now have additional information to share regarding these compelling and pressing issues. He also stated that the timeline for these losses of service is urgent as it could be as early as July 1st. Eddie Simpson (Loudon County) expressed extreme concern given the breadth of the potential impact in Loudon County. Mayor Rogero noted she and her staff had also met with TPO staff and was in full support of the workshop. She noted she was personally very interested in having a full understanding of transit funding and its related requirements and now subsequent impacts on these urbanized areas, Mayor Rogero then stated that we want to make sure that regional transportation needs are addressed. Mr. Welch stated staff would be in touch quickly to determine a meeting time and date.

8. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment