

TPO Executive Board Minutes
August 27, 2014
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on August 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, Tennessee. Mayor Ralph McGill chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Tom Beehan	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Larry Gann	City of Clinton, for <i>Mayor Scott Burton</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, for <i>Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, for <i>Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, for <i>Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, for <i>Governor Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	Loudon County, for <i>Mayor Estelle Herron</i>
*Ed Shouse	ETDD
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Jim Wilburn	City of Lenoir City, for <i>Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	

1. Approval of July 23, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of July 23, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Taylor to approve the July 23, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendment to the TIP is listed below.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the proposed Amendments to the TIP. He noted Attachment #2A is regarding an Amendment for an existing project in the TIP, the Tazewell Pike/Emory Road Intersection Improvements. TDOT requested that STP funding be increased from \$2.6 million to \$5 million by adding \$2.4 million. He then noted Attachment #2B is for a project to be added to the TIP for FY 2015, a TDOT Enhancement Grant Award project for the construction of an extension of an existing greenway along North Wright Rd. in Alcoa by 1.6 miles for a total project cost of \$849,978 (\$679,982 federal and \$169,996 local).

A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Transit Grant Programs Update

Item Summary: The TPO is administering three Federal Transit Administration grants that are in various stages of approval. Staff will provide an update on transit grants and related issues.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an update on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants either administered directly by TPO staff or where staff assists the City of Knoxville to administer. He noted that there are 5 different grants administered for our area. He then described each program in some detail reviewing individual funding summaries for them which outline the funds provided for each program through FTA, TDOT and local match. Mr. Burton then touched on a recently arisen issue concerning TDOT's policy of providing half of the local match to FTA grants. For capital grants the match ratio has been 80% FTA, 10% TDOT, and 10% local. For operating grants the ratio has been 50% FTA, 25% TDOT, and 25% local. He noted that the TPO was recently notified by TDOT that they were re-assessing the match policy and would no longer be providing a match to certain grants. The new policy would be retroactive to FY 2013. The TPO staff and the local transit agencies met with Liza Joffrion, the Director of TDOT Multimodal Transportation Resources and TDOT Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishakin in late July. He noted TDOT staff agreed that the policy change was very late and they would look to see if they could find transitional funding to help with FY 2013 and FY 2014. He then noted as of this date, the TPO has received notification that TDOT could help with the grants the TPO administers. TDOT also stated there was funding to match any capital project at the 80/10/10 rate (past and future projects). There has been no word yet on the Section 5307 urban area projects, administered by the City of Knoxville, when the funds are used for operations (TDOT provided a 25% match). Staff has requested that at a minimum, TDOT provide a 10% match to operating projects as TDOT has agreed to do with capital projects. TDOT is considering this request. Mr. Burton stressed that TDOT has put everyone on notice that changes will be occurring with the match policy for funding operations moving forward with FY 2015 and beyond. He noted another concern was that as the City of Knoxville has been distributing Section 5307 funds to KAT, CAC, and ETHRA they have been utilizing extra funds that they had in reserve. The reserves will be exhausted with the FY 2015 distribution leaving a funding shortage. One way to handle the shortage is to decrease the amount awarded to each agency proportionally. The shortage of Section 5307 funding is doubly alarming when you take into account TDOT may reduce or eliminate the matching funds for this grant. Mayor Rogero stressed that if TDOT does not provide the match there are no local dollars to help bridge the lack of funding which will impact all of the providers, but especially CAC and ETHRA.

A Motion was made by Mayor Beehan and seconded by Mayor Taylor to demonstrate the Board's support for TDOT to continue to provide matching funds to the urban area's FTA grants. This match should be continued, both retroactively for already approved grants, but going forward as well. It was further moved by the Board that a letter be written to the appropriate persons at TDOT expressing the Board's position and concern. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Transportation Funding Update

Item Summary: On July 31, Congress passed and sent to the President for his signature a bill that transfers \$10.8 billion into the Highway Trust Fund, allowing the Trust Fund to stay solvent through May 2015, and extends MAP-21 funding authorization and policies for highway, mass transit, and safety programs through May 31, 2015.

Discussion: Jeff Welch reviewed the recently passed extension of MAP-21 through May 31, 2015. Ideally this will allow Congress time to pass a long term bill by that date. He highlighted the attached article by Tom Humphrey in the Knoxville News Sentinel which speculates that next year there may need to be fuel tax increases at the state level to provide and maintain long term transportation services and infrastructure.

5. Overview of the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) proposal submitted to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Grant

Item Summary: On behalf of a regional consortium of partners, the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission and the TPO made application with the Centers for Disease Control for a (PICH) grant for a 6-county region. An overview of the grant application and supporting documentation that outlines the challenges in our region will be presented.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted that, as a result of PlanET, the region is in a competitive position to pursue programs to address some of the chronic issues in our region identified during PlanET. Dr. Terry Gilhula gave a brief background noting the chronic health issues our region faces, many of which are driven by access constraints, and include high rates of childhood and adult obesity, heart disease and diabetes, asthma, and unhealthy food options. During the PlanET program, obstacles to good health were consistently identified as one of the highest priority concerns from the 10,000 individuals who participated in the input process over the 3 year grant period. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a funding opportunity to help communities like ours address pressing health issues. This new 3-year initiative, entitled *Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)*, aims to improve long-term health outcomes and reduce the burden of chronic diseases. Dr. Gilhula stated that PlanET has positioned our region to meet the main grant eligibility criteria: an existing coalition serving the community (comprised of over 30 regional organizations offering broad community representation), strategies to reach large numbers of people, and strategies based on the results of an existing community health needs assessment. He noted that CDC has 3 major expectations for this grant: increase access to healthy, affordable, and local food; increase access to safe places to be physically and socially active; and, increase access to opportunities for chronic disease prevention, risk reduction, and management. A Community Action Plan (CAP) has been developed, the starting point of which was the PlanET Playbook, a 30-year guide with detailed community-owned strategies to help our region achieve and sustain prosperity. Our proposed program, HealthET, would cover the 5 PlanET counties (Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Union) and Sevier County. CDC expects 75% of the region's population to be affected by this grant, with focus on priority populations. The consortium is requesting \$3.1 million over a 3-year period, and our partners have committed almost \$900,000 in matching funds. Dr. Gilhula noted that CDC will announce grant awardees by the end of September. It was clarified that the grant would be administered by the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The complete presentation is located here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/aug14/pich_presentation.pdf

6. Taking Off: McGhee Tyson Airport – Who We Are and What We do

Item Summary: An overview of McGhee Tyson Airport Operations and emerging issues and opportunities.

Discussion: Brian White, Vice President of Engineering and Planning for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MKAA) noted Blake Sartin, who sits on the TPO Technical Committee representing MKAA was also present at the meeting today. He noted he wanted to impart 3 things to today; who they are, their funding and the Airport Modernization Plan. He stated they were a nonprofit entity created in 1978 to run the McGhee Tyson Airport. Mr. White further noted they are governed by a 9 member board appointed by the mayor. He noted they receive funding from 2 sources: federal (Airport Improvement Program), which is funded by user fees and aviation gas tax, and state (Aeronautics Division of TDOT) funded by aviation gas tax. He noted Tennessee is likely in the top 5 for states in the US when it comes to the ability to self-fund general aviation as well as air carriers. He further noted the user fees from the parking garage basically fund the employees. Mr. White then reviewed the McGhee Tyson Airport Airfield Modernization Plan in some detail. The project involves rebuilding/modernizing both the inboard and outboard runways and taxiways. Mr. White noted he was confident that the airport will be able to successfully maintain the same level of service during the length of the project. Although the target completion date is 6 years he noted it could likely take 8 or 10 years and will total approximately \$108,000,000 million. Mr. White clarified the project is 100% grant funded. The complete presentation is located here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/aug14/tys_presentation.pdf

7. Other Business

- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 9, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- TDOT Commissioner Schroer's 2014 Project Tours: October 14-16, Knoxville/Upper East Tennessee

8. Public Comment

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

9. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.