

TPO Executive Board Minutes
August 26, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on August 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Buddy Bradshaw	Mayor, Loudon County
*Dawn Distler	Public Transit Representative
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, <i>for Councilwoman Brenda Palmer</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*voting members	

Mayor Rogero announced that Jim Hagerman would be serving as proxy for Councilwoman Brenda Palmer.

1. Motion to Approve June 24, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of June 24, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Ed Shouse and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the June 24, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Draft FY 2016-2017 Transportation Planning Work Program

Item Summary: TDOT, FHWA and FTA have approved the Work Program for consistencies with state and federal regulations.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch gave an overview of the Draft Work Program noting that it outlines the major tasks and activities that the TPO and its affiliate agencies/planning partners will undertake over the next 2 year period. He then noted staff update the Program annually as appropriate. He touched on the major highlights of the Program including the required 4 year update of the Long Range Mobility Plan 2040, due in 2017, a new Transportation Improvement Program and development of a committee consisting of local and state transportation partners to study how we can better manage and operate our transportation system. Staff and our partners will also be looking at ways to incorporate strategies developed during the PlanET process into our Mobility Plan and other projects. He noted air quality will also remain a focus in our region.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve a Resolution to adopt the Draft FY 2016-2017 Transportation Planning Work Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item Summary: The following are amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly touched on the 4 proposed Amendments, all being Amended by adding them to the TIP. The first Amendment is for resurfacing and safety improvements along a 5.2 mile section of Buttermilk Road in Loudon County. The remaining 3 Amendments were state approved projects granted by TDOT that are being 100% funded with federal CMAQ funds and are as follows; For the Maryville-Alcoa Advanced Traffic Management System Phase II to provide upgrades in signal system communications and equipment along US 411 / US 321 in Maryville and Alcoa, To expand the City of Knoxville's Advanced Traffic Management System along Chapman Highway and lastly, For the City of Loudon to improve traffic flow and includes the replacement of outdated infrastructure at four signalized intersections as well as updating vehicle detection, signal system communication and coordination.

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

4. Motion to Approve an Amendment to the TPO Executive Board By-Laws Which Would Add a Voting Member to the Board to Represent the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association.

Item Summary: Legislation that impacts the membership of the TPO Executive Board has passed the Tennessee Senate and House and has been signed by the Governor. The legislation in part mandates that each metropolitan planning organization's policy board shall ensure that:

One (1) voting member who resides within the metropolitan planning organization's boundaries shall be chosen by the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. This is the second reading of the proposed Amendment.

Discussion: Jeff Welch referenced a copy of the letter distributed to the Board this morning that was received from the Tennessee Highway County Officials Association appointing Harold Pitner, a Sevier County Commissioner, as their representative for the Executive Board. He noted staff will reach out to Mr. Pitner prior to the next Board meeting.

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve an Amendment to the TPO Executive Board By-Laws which would add a voting member to the Board to represent [and be chosen by] the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to Recommend Endorsement of Long Range Mobility Plan 2040 Population Projections

Item Summary: One of the initial steps in developing the 2017 update of the Long Range Mobility Plan is to develop future year projections of population and employment for each county in the TPO Planning Area. Various sources of projections were reviewed by TPO staff and discussed at two recent

Technical Committee meetings. The TPO staff has recommended that the same projections developed for the previous Mobility Plan and utilized in the PlanET effort continue to be used for this update.

Technical Committee Recommends Endorsement.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted that staff updates the Mobility Plan every 4 years as is required under federal regulations. A first step is to review projections of employment and population growth. These projections feed into our regional Travel Demand Model, which forecasts the level of traffic demand in the future and which is a major tool used to evaluate deficiencies of the roadway system. He then briefly described the overall process used to produce the projections. Mr. Conger then noted that these projections cover the 6 counties in the TPO planning area. After briefly touching on the historical population growth he reviewed the projected growth for each county individually as projected by the TPO (for the previous Mobility Plan and utilized for PlanET), U.T. Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) and Woods and Poole Economics, also reviewing the pros and cons of each source. He concluded noting staff and Technical Committee recommends using the TPO Projections for consistency with PlanET, which is providing the backbone for the Plan Update, in addition to the projections being produced specifically for the Knoxville Region. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/aug15/pop_projections.pdf

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Mayor Taylor to endorse the Long Range Mobility Plan 2040 Population Projections. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Air Quality Update

Item Summary: The Knoxville Region was recently officially re-designated to Attainment status for Ozone by EPA. The TPO staff will provide an overview of the impacts of this announcement as well as an update on other current air quality topics.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted that on July 13th the EPA released official approval of our region's request to be re-designated to attainment for the 2008 ozone standard. He noted after the required 30-day waiting period, our region will be "in attainment" on August 12th. Mr. Conger noted this region only has had issues with 2 of the 6 pollutants regulated by the EPA, Ground Level Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM2.5). Mr. Conger stated that the EPA reviews their standards every 5 years as well as clarified that they are the same nationwide. He then noted being in attainment reduces the restrictions on existing and future industry in the region. Mr. Conger then noted this was the first time all of the counties in our planning area have been in attainment for Ozone since June of 2004. Mr. Conger also noted our region was still subject to transportation conformity because it now transitions to a "maintenance area" for up to 20 years out to 2036. He further noted EPA will announce the new Ozone standard October 1st which most believe will be lower than the current 75 ppb and then touched on how that may impact our region. Mr. Conger noted our region was still subject to transportation conformity because it now transitions to a "maintenance area" for up to 20 years out to 2036. He also noted our region is still designated nonattainment for the annual and daily PM2.5 standards however we are on track to meet the standard once we have complete data for 2015. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/aug15/air_quality_update.pdf

7. Federal Funding Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the status of the federal funding short term extension and long term funding. See attached overview from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted Congress has funded The Highway Trust Fund through October 31st and have actually expanded this extension such that it could potentially be funded through December 31st. The US Senate passed a 6 year bill called “DRIVE” however it only contains funding for 3 of those years. It also grows the funding over the 6 year period.

The US House now has to develop a companion bill and they have apparently committed to doing that before the end of October so the House and Senate can try and negotiate a long term transportation bill.

8. Other Business

- Governor Haslam’s Transportation Funding Tour Across Tennessee
 - The Governor will be visiting Knoxville and Lenoir City and we have a tentative date of September 10th. However we do not have final confirmation of the date or actual locations that will be visited. Specific information will be shared as it is received.
- Jeff Welch noted that historically the Executive Board and our state and federal legislators met annually to discuss regional transportation issues. He noted there appears to be a greater need for more regional communication, cooperation and coordination. Staff are working on a *State of Transportation in East Tennessee Report* which could be used as a vehicle for moving forward with again having such a meeting. There was consensus by the Board members to move forward in arranging the meeting. We would target having it before the end of the year.
- TPO staff, City of Alcoa officials and community members will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on September 1st and 2nd to learn more about innovative zoning, a workshop that is part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program and which will provide citizens and planners with tools and techniques to begin to create a vision for Alcoa’s future growth. The first day is open to the public and will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Alcoa Service Center located at 725 Universal St., Alcoa, TN 37701.
- Open Streets Knoxville is an event that will turn a one mile section of Central St. into a pedestrian and bike friendly space with games and local vendors. Kelley Segars noted we have had over 800 people RSVP in Facebook as well as have received over \$9,000.00 in local sponsorships. The event will take place on Sunday, October 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mayor Rogero noted this is being done internationally to promote pedestrian activity. Learn more about the event at www.openstreetsknoxville.com.
- Jeff Welch introduced Gerald Green, the new Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.