

TPO Executive Board Minutes
January 28, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on January 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Ralph McGill chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum. Mayor McGill asked Board members to introduce themselves.

*Brad Anders	Knox County Commission
* Dawn Distler	Public Transit
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Warren Gooch	Mayor, City of Oak Ridge
*John Lamb	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Ed Shouse	East Tennessee Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Jim Wilburn	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration
*voting members	
**non-voting members	

1. Approval of November 19, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of November 19, 2014 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the November 19, 2014 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the proposed amendments. The first amendment is to be added to the TIP and pertains to the TDOT Freeway Service Patrol Program, totals approximately \$945,000 in CMAQ funding spread across FY 2015-2017, and was requested by TDOT. Mr. Berry noted this project was for the acquisition of 3 HELP trucks, 3 operators and route expansion. The second amendment is for an existing TIP project, Lenoir City CBD Pedestrian Improvements, noting here we are removing FY 2014 TAP funds (to be added back to the amount of remaining TAP funds for future distribution to other projects) and adding L-STP funds for preliminary engineering and design for FY 2015 and for construction in 2016. There is no change in the actual project description.

This amendment also increases the total project cost from \$200,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00, returning the project to its original TIP description encompassing the entire downtown area.

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

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution Supporting Retention of the Existing Fort Loudon Dam Bridge

Item Summary: This Resolution was submitted at the request of Lenoir City and Loudon County. Preserving the existing structure would provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a non motorized crossing over the Tennessee River in East Tennessee.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Cindy Pionke to remove consideration of the Resolution from the Agenda. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Election of Officers

Item Summary: The Bylaws state that the Executive Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year and term of office shall be for two years. An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The TPO Director shall serve as permanent Secretary to the Executive Board.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

A Motion was made by Mayor Mull and seconded by Ed Shouse to nominate Mayor Madeline Rogero as Chair and Mayor Tom Taylor as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to Approve the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects

Item Summary: TDOT has asked the TPO to rank a proposed list of transportation improvement projects in the attached project list (Attachment #5A). The Technical Committee recommends the ranking of projects as shown on the Attachment #5A.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted staff was seeking approval on 2 separate project lists today. The first, TDOT's FY 2016-2018 Program Candidate Project for Priority Ranking list is a list of projects sent to staff by TDOT for ranking, the second one is a list of 10 additional projects, which are not on TDOT's list that has been developed and prioritized by staff and member jurisdictions to be sent to TDOT for their consideration. He then reviewed the ranking/scoring process and noted how some individual phases of projects on a single corridor were combined together for purposes of utility. Jeff Welch clarified that "Phase of Work" refers to the phase of the project that TDOT anticipates programming funds for in this 3 - year program. He also noted that due to the current lack of commitment for long term federal funding some of these projects may continue to be pushed back.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Brenda Palmer to approve the TDOT FY 2016 - FY 2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List for Priority Ranking as presented. The Motion carried unanimously.

Further Discussion: Mr. Conger noted the second list, Major Project Needs on State Routes not Included in FY 2016-2018 3-Year Program Candidate Project List, contains projects that for the most part are already included in our Long Range Mobility Plan or have some type of preliminary planning study completed for them.

Discussion ensued on the project identified as Map ID 08 (SR 162/SR 62/Oak Ridge Highway) and the increased safety concerns centering around the approximate 2 mile Solway portion of the project. Mr. Conger noted project Map ID 05 was for interchange modifications at SR 162/SR 62 in Solway. He further noted a Motion was made by the Technical Committee to add the study of potential new alignment through the Solway area due to shared safety concerns. Discussion of immediate safety issues in the Solway community ensued.

A motion was made by Brad Anders and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve the Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in FY 2016-2018 3-Year Program Candidate Project List. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

- The Blount County SMiles Program (Senior SMiles: Neighbors Driving Neighbors) volunteer team has been awarded \$4000.00 from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and the Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center. This stemmed from a national competition that recognizes and supports the work that trained volunteer teams are doing in their communities and their efforts to support older adults with transportation and other needs. Mayor Taylor noted the program continues to grow and has provided approximately 4000 rides to this point. He also noted there are 3 new programs starting this year in Anderson, Loudon and Sevier counties which are based on the SMiles program model. Additionally, Tellico Village also has an established program.
- Knox County CAC Transit and the University of Tennessee Industrial and Systems Engineering Department received Round 3 funding from the U.S. Administration for Community Living. CAC & UT have developed a tablet-based application that facilitates communication between riders and drivers of public transportation. The Round 3 funding will allow for extensive field testing and refinement of the application's functionality. It was noted this program will allow individuals with disabilities to communicate with the vehicle operators.
- The City of Knoxville and the TPO have each been awarded a free technical assistance workshop, 2 of 14 awarded for 2015 by Smart Growth America, a national nonprofit that advocates for better cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Through the program, the City and the TPO will receive hands-on assistance from national experts on how to cultivate investments that will spur quality growth and transit-oriented development. Jeff Welch noted they expect the workshops to begin in late spring or early summer.
- **The March 2015 Executive Board meeting will be held *immediately following the March 10, 2015 Technical Committee meeting and will also be held in the Small Assembly room of the City/County Building and is expected to begin at 10:00 a.m.***
- Jeff Welch noted staff is taking applications for FTA grant funds which are due this Friday, January 30th.
- Mike Conger clarified that the EPA is currently taking comment on a proposed adjustment to the ozone standard, reviewed every 5 years, and currently set at 75 ppb. They are taking comments on both reducing it to between 60 and 70 ppb as well as comments on leaving the standard at 75. Lynne Liddington, Director, Knox County Air Quality Management supports leaving it at 75 as there are several federal measures being taken to address air quality and wants to wait and see if they are effective before further lowering the bar, and she will be submitting that opinion to the EPA on behalf of the Knox County Air Quality Control Board at their request. It was noted the comment period ends February 2nd [LATER CORRECTED TO MARCH 17, 2015]. Concern remains that lowering the standard would negatively impact economic development in our region as it would for a major portion of the south east United States.

7. Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

Councilman Nick Della Volpe, representing the Fourth District, asked to address the Board. He spoke regarding the business district at Exit 8 on I-640 noting this exit serves as an important service and job opportunity area producing over \$3 million in local taxes. The concern is that due to the lay of the land these businesses are not seen by motorists on I-640 until they have passed the exit. He noted City Council did pass a resolution approximately 6 to 8 months ago which was sent to TDOT Commissioner Schroer requesting an Interchange Modification study for this area to explore what may be done to improve the situation. It is his understanding that the study would not be funded unless supported by the Knoxville TPO. He then noted he was here today to request that the TPO support the Interchange Modification Study and to relay that support to TDOT. He further noted they are also working with TDOT to try and get logo signs placed at the interchange.

8. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.