

TPO Executive Board Minutes
April 27, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation Representative
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*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>
*Harold Pitner	Tennessee County Highway Officials Association
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dave Wright	Knox County Commission
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	

***voting members**

1. Motion to Approve March 23, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of March 23, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve the March 23, 2016 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 are proposed Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger briefly reviewed the proposed Amendments for consideration by the Board today. The first 3 involve greenways: for the City of Knoxville, modifying the Project Name, Description, Termini and Map for the First Creek Greenway - Edgewood Park and Environs and for the City of Alcoa, modifying the Project Description, Length and Map for the Pistol Creek Greenway –

Phase IV, for both projects to be more consistent with the actual and proposed, respectively, location of the greenway alignment. An Amendment for the third greenway project involves changing the funding type for all phases of the Everett Rd. / I-40 Greenway from federal L-STP/Local to 100% Local funds for the Town of Farragut. The 4th Amendment utilizes those L-STP funds (along with a local match) to fund PE-NEPA and Design phases for Union Road/N. Hobbs Road Improvements for FY 2017, also for the Town of Farragut. The last Amendment adds FY 2016 funding for all phases through construction (PE-N,PE-D,CN) for the Blair Bend/Williamson Drive Resurfacing project for the City of Loudon.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Councilwoman Palmer to approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on recent events concerning the FTA Section 5307 urban area funding and any possible impacts to the area's transit providers.

Discussion: Doug Burton noted there are recent concerns regarding the eligibility of ETHRA and Knox County CAC Transit's (CAC) use of the FTA Section 5307 funding for operations. Under MAP-21, there was a new provision that allowed urban areas to use a set percentage of Section 5307 funds for operations. FTA contacted the TPO, ETHRA, and CAC in late 2015 stating they were unsure whether ETHRA and CAC were actually eligible to use the funding for operations. However, the FAST Act, enacted on October 1, 2015, is supposed to correct this eligibility issue. TPO staff, CAC, and ETHRA have been working with FTA and Congressman Duncan's office to be sure this issue is resolved. So far, CAC has been told verbally by FTA that they are eligible. However, ETHRA has not yet had that same communication. Mr. Burton announced the current year's FTA funding is ready for distribution. For Section 5307 funding, staff has an application process and works with the City of Knoxville to review the projects. As the City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of the funds, Mayor Rogero will make a final recommendation to the Executive Board. He then noted he hoped to have the 5307 applications out in just a few weeks. For the TPO's Section 5310 program that fund non-profits' projects that serve the elderly and persons with disabilities, the application process will occur later in 2016. Lastly he noted that TDOT is looking at its matching funding policies. Traditionally, TDOT provides half of the local match to FTA grants. TDOT informed the TPO they are looking at a policy that focuses more on matching capital projects. If this is so, CAC and ETHRA's match for their operating projects would be reduced significantly. Further, this would impact the TPO's program that funds projects such as CAC's Volunteer Assisted Transportation program and SMiles in Blount County. CAC wrote a letter to TDOT requesting they reconsider this policy. CAC has received correspondence back from Deputy Commissioner Omashakin that he will look into the matter. Mr. Burton noted the staff will stay on top of both the FTA and TDOT funding issues and report back to the Executive Board with any changes.

4. Work Program Update/Request for Planning Studies

Item Summary: Staff is preparing the update to the 2016/2017 Transportation Planning Work Program.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the TPO prepares a 2 year report that outlines the studies, projects and analysis done by TPO staff, and which is updated annually. Staff are in the process of updating the Program and there a request before the members of the Technical Committee and our other transportation planning partners to submit any planning studies they would like to be included in the Work Program. He then noted the TPO can provide up to an 80% match. Mr. Welch touched on the types of studies that have been included in the Program in the past and noted staff are interested in seeking opportunities to fund creative projects such as PlaceMaking, town centers, activity centers and transportation corridors,

transit oriented development as well as multimodal connectivity. The TPO is looking to guide the development of resources in response to the changing demographics in our region.

5. State of Transportation In East Tennessee

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief overview of the Agency's first Annual Report completed for 2015.

Discussion: Amy Brooks briefly reviewed the 2015 report, a first edition inspired by Nashville MPO's approach to their annual report and noted its release was planned to coincide with the Long Range Mobility Plan Update currently underway. The report was developed as a resource to inform the public about what the TPO does and to provide a starting point to engage in conversation. She touched on the contents of the report and invited feedback from the Board. The report is also available on the TPO's website.

6. Transportation Legislation Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on current state legislation that may impact planning and implementation of transportation projects.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the legislators were now in summer recess. Several bills introduced to enhance transportation revenue for our region and state did not progress. He noted Harold Pitner was now serving on our Board per legislation signed into law last year and represents the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. There was also legislation introduced to eliminate weighted voting, particularly targeting the Nashville MPO who was slow to comply but who has now amended their by-laws to eliminate it. A bill restricting funding on bicycle facilities has at this juncture, died. He very briefly touched on a few other bills affecting our region. Mr. Welch suggested the TPO and the Board reach out to our area legislators over the summer and early fall, working proactively to have some dialogue regarding transportation and land use issues.

7. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Scott Allen, Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division will present the results of the 2016 Knoxville TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Review at both the May Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings. The Federal review, done every 4 years, was conducted last December.
- The next Open Streets is happening, again on Central Street on May 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information visit <http://openstreetsknoxville.com/>
- Jeff Welch noted the FHWA, TN Division has nominated the Maryville-Alcoa Greenway as a national best practice example of a connected bicycle-pedestrian network.
- Mayor Rogero recognized Amber Scott as the new City Administrator for Lenoir City. Ms. Scott will serve on this Board as proxy for Mayor Tony Aikens.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.