

TPO Executive Board Minutes
April 26, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Tom Taylor chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Buddy Bradshaw	Mayor, Loudon County
*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jeff Headrick	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Stephanie Myers	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Councilman, City of Knoxville
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*James Temple	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*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 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the March 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Councilman Saunders to approve the March 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve a Resolution Adopting the Long Range Mobility Plan 2040 - Connecting People and Places and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

Item Summary: The Mobility Plan 2040 sets the overall vision and identifies specific investments for the region's transportation system over the next 20+ years. An air quality conformity determination was prepared to demonstrate that the implementation of the proposed projects included in the Plan will conform to requirements from the Clean Air Act. The full text of both the Mobility Plan 2040 and Air Quality Conformity Determination can be found here: www.knoxmobility.org/recent/mobility-plan. Hard copies of these documents are available upon request.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted today's Agenda reflects a culmination of an 18 month effort by staff and touched on the many programs and projects affected, further noting this effort involved significant input from the TPO Technical Committee. Amy Brooks then gave a brief overview of the multimodal Mobility Plan which guides the allocation of our region's transportation funding and provides the foundation for all of the work done at the TPO. She touched on the issues and opportunities identified throughout the update process which is reflective of significant community input. Ms. Brooks also reviewed the Plan's vision and priorities as well as touching on a summary of planned investments, noting that our needs exceed available funding. She then touched on our next steps as we work through those challenges and opportunities with our planning partners. Mike Conger then gave an overview of the air quality conformity background and process as well as the results of the determination as it relates to the Mobility Plan update. He noted the EPA reviews their standards approximately every 5 years and they typically become more stringent. Mr. Conger noted the Knoxville Region is now meeting all current EPA Air Quality Standards, seeing vast improvements in both our Ozone and PM2.5 levels. The Mobility Plan 2040 does meet the conformity test. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/mobility plan 2040.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/mobility%20plan%202040.pdf)

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.

This is the second public meeting this month under the 30 day comment period for the Mobility Plan 2040. There was no public comment.

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve a Resolution adopting the Long Range Mobility Plan 2040 - Connecting People and Places and Air Quality Conformity Determination. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution Amending the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The purpose of the TIP amendment is to ensure planning consistency with the Mobility Plan 2040 and its air quality conformity determination. This amendment includes 40 changes which include adding new projects, adding funding to current TIP projects, removing projects that are on hold, updating the text of the TIP document, and adding the TIP Programming policies. The full text of the TIP amendment can be found here: www.knoxtrans.org/tip. Hard copies of these documents are available upon request.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins gave an overview of the proposed amendment noting this multimodal Program reflects \$548.8 million in total investments across 75 projects and with a new strategy going forward with this TIP, across 9 groupings or "buckets" of funding which will provide for administrative flexibility. Ms. Watkins touched on the updated TIP language and reviewed the 3 new TIP policies incorporated into the TIP with this Amendment addressing delayed projects, cost overruns and new projects. She closed reviewing the timeline for approval for the Mobility Plan and TIP Amendment and subsequent availability of funding for obligation. Jeff Welch noted that beginning this fall, staff will be monitoring the projects and sharing quarterly reports on their status to bring before the Technical Committee and Executive Board. It was suggested that the Board vote on the proposed TIP Policies independent of the actual TIP. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/TIP presentation.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/TIP%20presentation.pdf)

A Motion was made by Mark Watson and seconded by Jeff Headrick to adopt the 3 Transportation Improvement Program Policies for the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Councilman Saunders to approve a Resolution amending the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to Approve the Distribution of FTA Section 5307/5339 - Urbanized Area Formula Program Grant Funds.

Item Summary: The City of Knoxville is the FTA's Designated Recipient of the Section 5307/5339 Urban Area funding and is charged with determining how the dollars should be distributed. Section 5307 funding can be used for Capital and Operating transit projects. Section 5339 funding can be used for capital projects related to buses and bus facilities. The TPO staff provides assistance in this decision-making by supplying transit data, budgets, and revenue forecasts. The attached memorandum shows the FY 2017 recommended awards for KAT, CAC, and ETHRA.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave a brief overview of the history of the funding. He reviewed the attached memo from Mayor Rogero with the City's recommendation for the distribution of both of these grant programs for FY 2017. He touched on the factors that have made distributing the Section 5307 funds in a timely fashion challenging, resulting in the development of an agreement between the City of Knoxville, CAC and ETHRA to set the distribution percentages for Section 5307 funding for the next 3-5 years. This will allow each grant recipient to project the amount of this funding they will receive much earlier in the fiscal year subsequently allowing them to better plan for service allocation. Pursuant to that agreement, all of the Section 5339 funds for our area will go to KAT for the same period of time with ETHRA and CAC procuring vehicles from other grant programs such as Section 5310 and L-STBG. Mayor Rogero thanked Jeff Welch, Doug Burton, Dawn Distler, CAC and ETHRA for their collaborative efforts in developing this agreement.

A Motion was made by Mayor Frank and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve the Distribution of FTA Section 5307/5339 - Urbanized Area Formula Program Grant Funds. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to Approve the Awarding of FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities Grant Funds

Item Summary: The TPO is the designated recipient of the FTA Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 funds can be used for both operating and capital funding. Often non-profits utilize this funding to buy vans to provide transportation for their clients. The TPO held an open and publicly advertised Call-for-Projects process. A sub-committee of the Technical Committee reviewed the applications and developed a slate of draft projects for funding consideration. The attached memorandum and table shows the projects recommended for funding. Project submittals can be viewed at this link:

<http://knoxtrans.org/downloads/fta/5310/projects.pdf>

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton reviewed the awards as recommended by the sub-committee noting they reflect 2 years, FY 2016 and FY 2017, of Section 5310 grant funds. A Call-for-Projects, launched in early March and advertised regionally, resulted in the receipt of 2 operating and 7 capital (vehicle purchases) requests. He stated that 55% of the available 5310 funds must be used for capital expenditures with no more than 45% being used for operating expenditures with up to 10% of that for administration. Mr. Burton recognized several applicants in attendance. He closed noting the next phase of these awards is to work with FTA to submit for the funds and to develop contracts with the individual sub-recipients.

A Motion was made by Jerome Joiner and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve the awarding of FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities Grant Funds. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Legislative Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief summary of State and Federal legislation that may impact transportation and general planning.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the IMPROVE Act had passed in the legislature and is with the Governor for his signature, likely this week. Depending on the final budget that is passed that includes TDOT there may be projects coming back before the Technical Committee and Executive Board for amending into the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Welch briefly reviewed the changes we will see with this legislation as it involves transportation funding noting the Act does include the option for a referendum asking residents of the 12 most populous counties if they would approve tax increases (sales, business, car rental, hotel/motel, residential development and wheel) for local transportation projects including mass transit. Blount and Knox Counties are included in that option. He briefly touched on several planning related bills that appear to be tabled or put on hold. He noted the federal government is set to vote on the remainder of their budget April 28th however we may see another continuing resolution.

7. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Upcoming Walkability Speaker Series events: Ellen Zavisca noted on May 9th and 10th there will be a speaker series event on Mixed-Use Neighborhoods featuring Emiko Atherton with Smart Growth America who will speak on creating great walkable neighborhoods where people can live, work and play. Register at: goo.gl/Vc62rn. There will also be another speaker series event June 6th and 7th featuring a speaker from the Atlanta Beltline Partnership, an entity that has worked with the Atlanta Beltline to do outreach with neighborhoods focusing on public health and community cohesion.
- There will be an event at the O'Connor Senior Center on Thursday, May 11th starting at 2:30 pm where seniors and senior advocates can participate in a Seniors' Needs Assessment. Input from this process will contribute to the development of future programs and services in Knox County.
- Jeff Welch noted May is Bike Month, a national initiative that encourages individuals to bike to work and generally increase overall usage of bicycles.
- The 4th Open Streets event for the City of Knoxville is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st and will be held on Magnolia Ave. between Randolph St. and North Chestnut St. The event is from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.